Overview

From the academic year 2006/7 on, the Department of Health and Social Care, within Royal Holloway, University of London offers 12 months per year of studying for postgraduate students of the Institute of Sociology at the University of Vienna.

Either one person for 12 months or two each for 6 months are invited to a research time in London within their master or PhD thesis. A scholarships will be provided by the European Union’s student exchange programme Socrates/Erasmus, but travel and accommodation have to be arranged by students themselves.

Department Profile

The Department of Health and Social Care, within Royal Holloway, University of London is set in 120 acres of parkland and a mere 19 miles (35 minutes) from central London and is served by excellent road and rail routes as well as close proximity to London Heathrow airport.

The Department is a new and growing centre for the study of criminology, sociology, social work, health, health care provision, and social policy – and these areas often overlap, with staff and students engaging in interdisciplinary research. The Department has taught Programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and post qualification levels, and works in partnership with local authorities and voluntary agencies to provide professional courses across health and social care settings.

The Department of Health and Social Care has offices in Bedford Square in the heart of central London’s famous Bloomsbury district. This area offers a wealth of research resources, from the nearby Public Records Office and the British Museum to the University of London and its renowned Senate House library, to which all Royal Holloway University of London students have full access. The Bedford Square base is also a pleasant reminder of our roots in Bedford College - the first women’s college in England, founded in 1849 and first located in Bedford Square. The two colleges merged in 1984, with The Lifespan Research Group retaining its central London base.

The department has developed close partnerships with 28 London social service agencies and departments, and research links with primary care trusts and hospital National Health Service trusts. These can provide exciting research opportunities for staff and students alike, such as field placements and other ways to collect primary data.

> http://www.rhul.ac.uk/

MSc in Medical Sociology

Royal Holloway’s graduate program in Medical Sociology houses an internationally known team of scholars devoted to cutting-edge research and intensive, personalized teaching and supervision. From its beginnings in 1969 as the United Kingdom’s first research and training program in medical sociology, and a template for other university programs, Royal Holloway’s MSc in Medical Sociology has trained some of the finest medical sociologists currently working within academia and health services delivery and research. From the
experience of illness to the structure of health inequalities, the scholarship – and scholars – produced here have shaped medical sociology the world over.

A dynamic research environment

Ranked in the top ten research-led universities in the United Kingdom, Royal Holloway University of London is a research university with an international reputation for high quality scholarship, strong teaching, and interdisciplinary work. From the Violence Research Programme which was housed in the old Department of Social and Political Science, to the School of Management’s Public Services Management Group, to the Social and Cultural Geography Group and the Department of Health and Social Care’s own Lifespan Research Group in Bedford Square, central London, scholars from diverse disciplines, both at the university and in collaboration with scholars at universities and research centres all across the world, produce path-breaking work on significant sociological and social policy questions.

The British Sociological Association’s London Medical Sociology Group meets in central London once every month for a presentation by a leading medical sociologist and discussion following the lecture. Scholars from the many medical schools and universities in the London area come to these seminars – indeed, many of our graduates attend and present their cutting-edge research - and students are always welcome.

Royal Holloway is enjoying an increasingly international feel, encouraged by our location close to Heathrow Airport and London, with one out of every five of its students coming from 120 countries outside the UK. With an Educational and International Liaison Office, an active International Society (and a number of societies representing particular nationalities - for example, the Japanese, Chinese, Korea, Thai, Taiwanese and Middle Eastern Societies), Student Support Services staff trained to handle issues unique to international students, a Students’ Union International Students’ Representative, and a Language Centre offering classes in study skills and techniques for those new to studying in an English language environment, the university is well organized to welcome its international students and make their transition and stay an enjoyable one. Indeed, Royal Holloway has made special provision for students who do not speak English as a first language, with the Royal Holloway Language Centre offering both pre-sessional and in-sessional English language programmes.

Academic Requirements/Application process

Minimum requirements for applicants are:
- being a graduate and studying in Vienna for a Masters or PhD,
- provision of documentary evidence of language assessment (minimum ILTS requirement is 6.0),
- provision of written confirmation of a supervisor at RHUL (see following list of potential supervisors) who will support the participant in writing her/his thesis (including a short description of the thesis project, e.g., working title, research aims, expected benefits of researching in London)

Besides this the application process is the same as for all other programmes > http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/outgoing/.

Further Information

English Language Competence
It is a requirement that all non-native speakers of English take an assessment test upon arrival at Royal Holloway.

Academic Year
The academic year begins in late September and continues until early June. The year is divided into two semesters, the Autumn Semester of 12 weeks duration and the Spring Semester 11 weeks. Depending upon the subject, these consist of lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical work etc. The third term is mainly an exam period.

**Accommodation**

Incoming Socrates students who intend to spend a full academic year at Royal Holloway are usually allocated accommodation in a College hall of residence. Please see [http://www.rhul.ac.uk/prospective-students/socrates.html](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/prospective-students/socrates.html) for further information.

However, students planning to study here for less than the full academic year are not normally eligible for College accommodation. The [College Accommodation Office](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/prospective-students/socrates.html) can provide a list of local private-sector accommodation though on request prior to the start of term.

**Making an Application at RHUL**

The application form is in two parts. Part 1 must be completed by the student applying to Royal Holloway for admission to study via the Socrates Programme.

You can download the application form and the accompanying notes, which are both in Adobe PDF format. [http://www.rhul.ac.uk/prospective-students/socrates.html](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/prospective-students/socrates.html)

**Contact Persons in Vienna**

- For academic advice: Rudolf.Forster@univie.ac.at
- For administrative advice (Socrates Co-ordinator): Eva.Flicker@univie.ac.at

**Contact Persons in London**

- For academic advice: Professor Jonathan Gabe, email: j.gabe@rhul.ac.uk
- For administrative advice (Socrates Co-ordinator): Norlene Conway; email: N.Conway@rhul.ac.uk
Potential Supervisors

**Sociology of Health and Medicine**

**RH Prof. Jonathan Gabe**

**Current Position:** Professor of Sociology  
**Contact Information:** j.gabe@rhul.ac.uk

**Areas of Interest:** Health care organisation, Chronic illness, Mental health, Violence against healthcare workers

**Areas of teaching:** Health care organisation, Sociology of Health and Illness

**Recent Publications:**

RH Prof. Ray Lee
Current Position: Professor of Social Research methods
Contact Information: r.m.lee@rhul.ac.uk
Areas of Interest: Methodological issues in medical sociology, Researching sensitive topics, New technologies in the research process, History of research
Recent Publications:

RH Prof. Paula Nicolson
Current Position: Head of Department
Contact Information: paula.nicolson@rhul.ac.uk
Areas of Interest: Gender, Sexuality, Reproductive Health
Recent Publications:

Oral History of Health and Medicine

RH Dr Graham Smith
Current Position: Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences
Contact Information: graham.smith@rhul.ac.uk

Areas of Interest: My current research interests include oral history of medicine and health, and in particular (a) the recent history of professional-patient relationships; (b) food and family in lay narratives; and (c) individual, transactive and collective memory more generally.

Areas of teaching: Research methods; recent history of medicine and healthcare.

Recent Publications:
Smith, G. and Nicolson, M. (2007) Re-expressing the division of British medicine under the NHS: the importance of locality in general practitioners’ oral histories, Social Science and Medicine, Vol. 68, 938-948.

For more details see http://personal.rhul.ac.uk/usjd/135/

Sociology of Migration/Sociology of the Family

RH Prof. Ravinder Barn
Current Position: Professor of Social Policy
Contact Information: r.barn@rhul.ac.uk

Areas of Interest: Race, ethnicity, and child welfare – more specifically Children in the public care system, Fostering and adoption, Care leavers, Child and adolescent mental health, Ethnicity, gender and health and social care, Parenting in diverse communities, Indian Diaspora in the West

Areas of teaching: Research Methods, Child and Family Welfare, Social Structure

Recent Publications:

Sociology of Crime and Deviance

RH Prof. David Denney
Current Position: Professor of Social and Public Policy, Deputy Head of Department
Contact Information: D.Denney@rhul.ac.uk

Areas of Interest: risk and fear, `race' and ethnicity, criminal justice,

Areas of teaching: criminology/ criminal justice, social and public policy.

Recent Publications: