



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

Health, Cultures and Societies

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The MA in Health, Cultures and Societies provides an exciting opportunity to explore issues around health, illness, wellbeing, and medicine. The MA provides advanced training in associated methods within a critical practice-oriented framework distinctive to the University and the city of Liverpool.

Introduction

Matters of health are simultaneously matters of society and culture. This cross-disciplinary MA focuses on Environmental Humanities, Arts and Mental Health and Critical Medical Humanities. The programme is closely linked to the [Centre for Health, Medical and Environmental Humanities](#).

If you enrol for the programme you will benefit from research-connected teaching in a wide range of disciplines, including Archaeology, Anthropology, Classics, English, Geography, History, Law, Literature, Music, Medicine, Psychology, Public Health, and Sociology. The MA in Health, Cultures and Societies prepares you for innovative research within, between and beyond these disciplines.

As a graduate of this MA programme you will have the opportunity to enhance your future employment opportunities by engaging closely with the Centre's external partners in the Liverpool and Merseyside region through collaborative research, student placements and internships.

The programme aims at offering a flexible and responsive curriculum, which integrates teaching and research. The MA is dedicated to developing confident, well-

rounded, and intellectually open students. Its core modules ensure digital fluency, and its outward-facing, international scope helps to develop confident global citizens and future research leaders.

Who is this course for?

This MA is designed for graduates in arts and humanities, medicine or social sciences, who wish to expand their knowledge in the field of medical and health humanities. The programme is also suitable for intercalating medical students with an interest in this area.

What you'll learn

This is the right course for you if you are interested in:

- Advancing your knowledge and understanding of the field of medical and health humanities
- Cultivating an appreciation of the disciplines, subject areas and knowledge domains within and beyond the field of medical and health humanities
- Developing an up-to-date, critical awareness of theoretical approaches, methodologies and debates and practices at the forefront of current research
- Learning to think independently, critically and creatively with complex material and developing an interdisciplinary outlook
- Advancing skills and professional insights which are relevant to employment and further academic (eg doctoral) study
- Enhancing your understanding of the value of study of medical and health humanities and of its place and significance in the wider (professional, political and socio-cultural) world
- Becoming a co-producer of knowledge relevant to the medical humanities field through engagement with external partners' activity, culture and ethos.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RESEARCHING HEALTH, CULTURES AND SOCIETIES (HLAC700)</u>	40
<u>CRITICAL MEDICAL HUMANITIES (HLAC701)</u>	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>ARTS, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING (HLAC703)</u>	20
<u>HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES (HLAC702)</u>	20

Optional modules	Credits
<u>ETHNOMETHODOLOGY AND CONVERSATION ANALYSIS (SOCI536)</u>	10

Optional modules	Credits
<u>PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (SOCI528)</u>	10
<u>AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (SOCI531)</u>	10
<u>AN INTRODUCTION TO DATA VISUALIZATION USING R (SOCI523)</u>	10

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Summer period

Students then complete the Capstone Project (dissertation) over the summer period.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>CAPSTONE PROJECT (HLAC705)</u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is delivered through 2-hour seminars/workshops that take place weekly on campus. Seminars involve small and whole group critical discussions of issues arising from designated reading material. Seminars also involve collaborative analysis of academic, professional or creative texts (e.g. medical case reports, images of the body in art/medicine).

External partners in the fields of health, policy, arts and culture deliver various seminars and workshops within the programme, enabling students to make

connections with relevant organisations in the Liverpool and Merseyside region. The average number of students in seminars varies depending on the module but between 6 and 12 students is the average.

The majority of students' learning time is in self-directed study and independent research. This will include reading widely in the fields relevant to this subject area, researching appropriate resources in this field, acquainting yourself with relevant theoretical and methodological approaches to health and medicine, and developing individual research ideas.

Seminars/workshops are supported by a Virtual Learning Environment where students are encouraged to explore topics arising from sessions and connections between them and to make use of a bank of online resources.

How you're assessed

The assessments in this programme are designed to test knowledge and understanding of the field of medical and health humanities, foster interdisciplinarity and creative reflection, and encourage the translation of academic material for a range of audiences. Module assessments typically include, digital presentations (narrated PowerPoint, blogpost, podcast, wiki, academic journal entry or video-project) and/or a piece of extended writing (practice report, article for academic journal or magazine, philosophical dialogue or visual-literary creative piece). Assessments seek to help students communicate their ideas in an accessible and creative way to both general and academic audiences while honing their digital skills.

During the summer period, students build upon this work to produce a 15,000–20,000 word study – the capstone project – which may take the form of a dissertation, placement report/portfolio or creative project, and students will be encouraged to draw on the rich resources of the Liverpool City Region where appropriate.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency

- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The programme provides academic training appropriate if you are seeking a career in the Higher Education sector. It also enhances graduate employability by engaging with [The Centre for Health, Medical and Environmental Humanities](#)' external partners in the Liverpool and Merseyside region. The MA's external health and arts partners provide (where feasible) student placements and opportunities for co-delivery of projects.

Graduates will have enhanced skills suitable to a wide range of employment and professional fields, especially where communication, collaborative endeavour, critical thinking and research are key components of the role. The required modules emphasise public-facing thinking and activity (regionally, nationally and internationally) as well as encouraging co-production. They are designed to enhance digital fluency and foster skills such as organisation, teamwork, time management, personal initiative and responsibility which will be transferrable to future work environments within a global context.

In addition to a career in Higher Education, the MA forms a background for careers elsewhere in education as well as in:

- The cultural sector
- Health care
- Therapeutic care
- Politics
- Third sector industries.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies.**

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in a relevant field of study, such as Arts and Humanities, Medicine or Social Sciences. Intercalating medical students may also apply.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [**University of Liverpool International College**](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no	40 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
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component below 4.0

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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