

V100 History

Our single honours History programme offers expertise in the ancient, medieval and modern periods, in global history, particularly that of Asia, Africa, China and North America and in cultural, diplomatic, economic, military, political, religious and social history. This programme gives you the chance to examine familiar and unfamiliar issues and themes from the Middle Ages to the present day and to question some of the prevailing myths, preconceptions and prejudices which surround the writing of History.

Programme

All our programmes have compulsory core modules which give them their cohesion and distinctiveness. Much of your first year will consist of the foundational study of core subjects. However, choice is always present; in your first year, for example, you are free to choose modules from across many subject areas for your Themes and Areas module (Module Outside the Main Discipline). Choice increases as your studies progress and we encourage you to tailor your studies to suit your own historical interests. For 2015-16 no fewer than forty subjects were available as second year options (ranging from England in the tenth and eleventh centuries to Globalisation and social movements since 1945) and twenty-five were available as third year special subjects (these ranged from The Viking Age in Late Medieval Iceland to the British Army on the Western Front 1914-1918). You are also free to choose a subject for your dissertation in consultation with a member of our teaching staff.

How many contact hours will I have per week? This will vary significantly from year to year and from module to module. All our programmes are designed to enable a student to progress from being a dependent to an independent learner. Hence, first year students can expect to have more contact time than third year students. Furthermore, each of our modules has its own learning outcomes and these can involve very different teaching methods. For example, as a first year student on a module such as 'The Making of the

Contemporary World: Modern History 1800-2000' you will spend a good deal of time in small seminar and large lecture groups; however, as a second and third year dissertation student you will spend several hours in individual supervisions with your personal dissertation tutor. We retain our traditional emphasis on small group teaching and we believe quality of contact, in a small group, is as important as quantity of contact.

How will my work be assessed?

In addition to in-depth knowledge of the subject, we seek to develop a wide, balanced range of graduate skills and our module assessments are varied. Our assessments include formal three hour examinations, assessed essays, take home examinations, source commentaries and group presentations. We believe in a variety of assessments to ensure all our students perform to the best of their ability.

Year Abroad

This four year route offers you the additional educational benefit of a year of study in an approved University in Europe or in English speaking countries. Students with grades of 2.1 or above in their first year will be invited to apply for a Year Abroad in the first term of their second year and if successful, will go abroad in their third year. In addition to the tutor support given from the host University, students who choose to take a Year Abroad will be allocated a member of staff from the History Department who will monitor their progress while overseas through regular email and/or skype contact.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning in the School is built around **critical enquiry, debate and self-motivation**, summed up by the term Enquiry-based Learning. Enquiry-based learning describes an environment in which learning is driven by the shared enquiry of students and tutors. Depending upon the level and the discipline, it can encompass problem-based learning, evidence-based learning, small scale investigations, field work, projects and research. Enquiry-based learning places you at the centre of your own learning process so that you learn through involvement and ownership and not simply by being a passive recipient of information thrown at you. You will spend time developing comprehension and note-taking skills. History is a subtle and complex subject and the literature you need to master can be demanding and complex. Reading, thinking and analysing for yourself are the most important parts of your degree.

Careers

Our students graduate with a deep understanding of the past and highly developed skills in analysis, research, reasoning, time management and oral and written communication. Our graduates have gone on to wide variety of careers, including law, accountancy, the civil service, marketing, teaching and the media. It also equips them for postgraduate study in History and related disciplines. 92% of History students are in work and/or study six months after finishing the course.

First Year/Level C	Second Year/Level I	Third Year/Level H
<p>Practising History (A): Skills in History (Autumn) (10 credits) <i>Plagiarism quiz and 2,500 word assessed essay</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Practising History (B): Approaches to History (Spring) (10 credits) <i>2,500 word assessed essay</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>	<p>Group Research (Autumn) (20 credits)</p> <p><i>25 minute group presentation and individual 2,500 word assessed essay</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>	<p>Advanced Option A (Autumn) (20 credits) <i>2 x 2,500 assessed essays</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>
	<p>Research Methods (Dissertation Preparation) (Spring) (20 credits)</p> <p><i>Individual class presentation and 3,000 word assessed essay</i> (mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>	<p>Advanced Option B (Spring) (20 credits) <i>three-hour summer exam</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>
<p>Discovering the Middle Ages (Autumn) (20 credits)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Reformation, Rebellion and Revolution: The Making of the Modern World 1500-1800 (Autumn) (20 credits)</p> <p><i>Each of these modules are assessed by a 2,500 word assessed essay and 2 hour summer exam</i> (mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>	<p>History in Theory and Practice (Autumn and Spring) (20 credits)</p> <p><i>2,500 word assessed essay and 2 hour summer exam</i></p> <p>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>	<p>Special Subject (Autumn and Spring) (20 + 20 credits)</p> <p><i>1 x takeaway exam paper and 1 x three-hour summer exam</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>
<p>Choose two modules out of these three:-</p> <p>Living in the Middle Ages (Spring) (20 credits)</p> <p>The Making of the Contemporary World: Modern History 1800-2000 (Spring) (20 credits)</p> <p>War and Society (Spring) (20 credits)</p> <p><i>Each of these modules are assessed by a 2,500 word assessed essay and 2 hour summer exam</i> (mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>	<p>Choose either:-</p> <p>History in Public (Autumn and Spring) (20 credits) <i>A portfolio consisting of 2 x 500 word blogs, 1 x 1500-word assignment, 1 x group output published on the History in Public website and equivalent to 1500 words per student; 1 x 1000 word individual self-reflexive assignment</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Language module at an appropriate level (Autumn and Spring) (20 credits) Assessment variable</p> <p>There may also be opportunities to take a substitute placement module:</p> <p>Professional Skills Module* (Autumn and Spring) (20 credits) <i>2,000 word reflective essay, assessed individual 10 minute presentation, and an end-of-placement appraisal from the placement mentor or line manager</i> (placement)</p> <p><small>*Please note places are limited</small></p>	<p>Dissertation (Autumn and Spring) (40 credits)</p> <p><i>12,000 word dissertation</i> (individual one to one teaching)</p>
<p>Themes and Areas (Module Outside the Main Discipline) (20 credits)</p> <p><i>Assessment variable</i></p>	<p>Option A (Autumn) (20 credits) <i>2 x 2,500 word assessed essays</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>	
	<p>Option B (Spring) (20 credits) <i>three-hour summer exam</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>	

We are happy to answer any questions about single honours History at Birmingham. Please address your enquiries to: Heather Cullen, School of History and Cultures, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom, Tel: 0121 414 5752, Email: historycultures-ug@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Full details of the programme with a year by year breakdown can be found at www.birmingham.ac.uk/history-ug.