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# V300 Economic and Social History

Why are wealth and income unequally distributed? What makes economies grow? Are market economies or controlled economies more successful? What is the relationship between education, health and prosperity? How have ordinary people's lives been affected by changes in family size? Is it possible to maintain economic progress without a manufacturing sector? If you are interested in exploring questions like these, this single honours programme in Economic and Social History may well be for you.

## Programme

All our programmes have their compulsory core modules which give them their cohesion and distinctiveness. Also, 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 have choice in your core History modules and you are also free to choose from literally hundreds of modules from across many subject areas for your Themes and Areas module. Choice increases as your studies progress and we encourage you to tailor your studies to suit your interests. For 2013-14 more than twenty subjects were available to Economic and Social History students as second year options (ranging from Medieval Monasticism to British Imperialism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries) and sixteen were available as third year Special Subjects (these ranged from Law and Society in Medieval England to Race and Immigration in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Britain). 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 quickly 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 Making of the Contemporary World: Modern History 1815-2000 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.

## How will my work be assessed?

In addition to in-depth subject knowledge we seek to develop a wide and balanced range of graduate skills and our module assessments are therefore varied. Our assessments include extended essays, source commentaries, examinations, and group presentations (see overleaf).

## 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 asked to apply for the 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 Department of History who will monitor their progress while overseas through regular email and/or skype contact.

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## Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning in the School is **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. To 'get' it, you need plenty of thinking time. Reading, thinking and analysing for yourself are the most important parts of your degree experience.

## Careers

Our programmes produce high quality graduates with a deep understanding of the past and highly developed skills in analysis, research, reasoning, time management and oral and written communication. This makes them highly eligible for careers in law, the armed forces, the civil service, teaching, management and the media. It also equips them for postgraduate study in History and related disciplines. Our students are also able to benefit from a dedicated College of Arts and Law careers service.

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| First Year/Level C  | Second Year/Level I   | Third Year/Level H   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Practising History (A): Skills in History</b> (Autumn)<br/>(10 credits)<br/><i>Plagiarism quiz and<br/>2,500 word assessed essay</i><br/>(Small Group Teaching) <b>and</b><br/><b>Practising History (B): Approaches to History</b> (Spring)<br/>(10 credits)<br/><i>2,500 word assessed essay</i><br/>(Small Group Teaching)</p>   | <p><b>Foundation of Modern Britain</b><br/>(Autumn)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>1 x 1,250 word and 1 x 3,000 words<br/>assessed essays</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching<br/>and lectures)</p>   | <p><b>Advanced Option A</b><br/>(Autumn)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>2 x 2,500 assessed essays</i><br/><br/>(Small Group Teaching)</p>   |
| <p><b>Social History of Modern Britain</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>2,000 word assessed essay and 2 hour summer exam</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>  | <p><b>Research Methods (Dissertation<br/>Preparation)</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><br/><i>Individual class presentation and<br/>3,000 word assessed essay</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching<br/>and lectures)</p> |  |
| <p><b>The British Economy since 1850:<br/>Theory, Policy and the Global Challenge</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>2 hour exam, one 40/50 minute class test and one<br/>1500 word assessed essay</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>  | <p><i>Individual class presentation and<br/>3,000 word assessed essay</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching<br/>and lectures)</p>  | <p><b>Advanced Option B</b><br/>(Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>three-hour summer exam</i><br/><br/>(Small Group Teaching)</p>  |
| <p><b>Either:</b><br/><b>Discovering the Middle Ages</b><br/>(Autumn) (20 credits)<br/><i>2,500 word assessed essay and<br/>2 hour summer exam</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)<br/><b>and</b><br/><b>Living in the Middle Ages</b><br/>(Spring) (20 credits)<br/><i>2,500 word assessed essay and<br/>2 hour summer exam</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p>  | <p><b>History in Theory and Practice</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>2,500 word assessed essay and<br/>2 hour summer exam</i><br/><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching<br/>and lectures)</p>                             |  |
| <p><b>OR</b><br/><b>Making of the Modern World 1500-1815</b> (Autumn) (20<br/>credits)<br/><i>2,500 word assessed essay and<br/>2 hour summer exam</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)<br/><b>and</b><br/><b>Making of the Contemporary World:<br/>Modern History 1815-2000</b><br/>(Spring) (20 credits)<br/><i>2,500 word assessed essay and<br/>2 hour summer exam</i><br/>(mixture of Small Group Teaching and lectures)</p> | <p><b>Group Research</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><br/><i>25 minute group presentation and<br/>individual 2,500 word assessed<br/>essay</i><br/>(Small Group Teaching)</p>  | <p><b>Economic and Social<br/>History Special Subject</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(20 + 20 credits)<br/><i>2 x three-hour summer<br/>exams</i><br/><br/>(Small Group Teaching)</p>     |
| <p><b>Themes and Areas 1</b><br/>(Module Outside the Main Discipline)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>Assessment variable</i></p>   | <p><b>Option</b><br/>(Spring)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>three-hour summer exam</i><br/>(Small Group Teaching)</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Themes and Areas 2</b><br/>(Module Outside the Main<br/>Discipline)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>Assessment variable</i></p>   | <p><b>Themes and Areas 2</b><br/>(Module Outside the Main<br/>Discipline)<br/>(20 credits)<br/><i>Assessment variable</i></p>   | <p><b>Economic and Social<br/>History Dissertation</b><br/>(Autumn and Spring)<br/>(40 credits)<br/><br/><i>12,000 word dissertation</i><br/><br/>(individual one to one<br/>teaching)</p> |

We are happy to answer any questions about Economic and Social History at Birmingham. Please address your enquiries to:

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