

## An introduction to the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music

Dr Berny Sebe introduces the postgraduate opportunities available in the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music.

Duration: 3:52 mins

Undertaking postgraduate study in the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music at the University of Birmingham is a life-changing experience. Not only will it enhance your professional prospects, but it also offers you a unique opportunity to enjoy the added value of a multi-disciplinary approach in the humanities, which few institutions are able to offer.

The School benefits from the expertise of a wide range of literary, historical and political scholars in the fields of Francophone, German, Hispanic and Italian Studies, and of a distinguished academic team in Music and Art History. This unique combination of scholarly resources enables us to offer seven varied and popular Master's programmes.

The School also boasts a long-established tradition of excellence in doctoral training, drawing upon the various fields of expertise of its members, who work on topics as diverse as the nature of art historical writing in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the music of Monteverdi or Elgar (the latter was the first Professor of Music of the University of Birmingham), French nineteenth-century literature, twentieth-century European cinema, the Holocaust, Media and Politics in Italy, Latin American cultures, Spanish regionalism, or the history of European Empires and their Decolonization, to name just a few. Because virtually no place of the world has remained immune from European influence, European Studies, and the various European languages and cultures in which the School has expertise, can offer you a broad and deep understanding of the rest of the world. Be it from the perspective of musical composition, art production, historical analysis or literary criticism, your experience as a postgraduate here will be uniquely cosmopolitan and allow you to reflect on today's world in an insightful way.

Postgraduates always praise the level of support they are given in our School. Through the increasingly common practice of co-supervision, you can make the most of two expert perspectives on their topic. This will enrich your research experience, as you can witness first hand the fertility of intellectual exchange and how methodological approaches can complement each other. They also make the most of a vibrant research life articulated around Research Seminar series in each Department of the School, which regularly attract leading contributors in their field. A variety of Staff-Student Research Networks allow postgraduates and staff to discuss the latest developments in a variety of growing fields of research, such as 'Collective Memory', 'the notion of Europe' or 'Text & Image'. There is an ample provision of skills training, including speed-reading, professional organisation, public presentations and advice on academic publication. Each department offers postgraduate teaching opportunities from the second year onwards, which allow you to gain valuable work experience before applying for jobs. Because it is housed in an art gallery, the famous Barber Institute of Art, the history of art department works closely with this institute and also offers postgraduate students the chance to devise and curate an annual public exhibition.

The university offers a wide range of awards at Master's and PhD level which attract the best candidates from all over the world. They contribute to maintaining the diversity of the School's membership, whilst ensuring that excellence remains the defining criterion of access to postgraduate study. This rigorous selection process guarantees the international reputation of the University of Birmingham as a leading provider of the highest quality postgraduate education.

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