

Why undertake postgraduate study at the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies?

Staff and students talk about the opportunities available for postgraduate study in [CREMS \(/research/activity/crems/index.aspx\)](#).

Duration: 3:40

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Elaine Fulton: There are lots of reasons why the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies is an excellent place to masters or doctoral level research in this field.

Title: Expertise

Elaine Fulton: We have staff who have expertise on all manner of fields and areas, from late medieval England right up to civil war England. We have two people who specialise in Europe, and we even have someone whose lectureship title is Europe and the wider world. So she looks at Europe's relations with the developing world and the new world discoveries of the time.

Susan Orlik: I was very impressed by the width of expertise in the department. I was very impressed by the fact that nothing was too much trouble – most of the teachers I had were prepared to go the second mile.

Peter Hewitt: There's lots of connections between the History department and other departments, say like the VISTA centre of the textual analysis centre that we have here. So really there's lots of opportunities to engage with other academics and let that inform your work.

Title: Resources

Elaine Fulton: As you can see perhaps from the material behind me, we have an excellent special collections set. The earliest book we have in the Cadbury Research Library dates back from 1471.

Peter Hewitt: We have various seminars where lots of different scholars from different disciplines are thrown together - and that's a really interesting way of seeing how different methodologies can inform your own work.

Elaine Fulton: we also offer training in palaeography and languages which is obviously particularly important for early modern studies. The degrees themselves are tailored to suit your needs.

Title: programmes

Tara Hamling: Within CREMS we have two taught programmes, two MAs by research and we have the expertise to supervise a range of PhD topics.

Stephanie Appleton: I chose the Shakespeare and History MA mostly because of its inter-disciplinary nature. I studied English literature at undergraduate level – obviously studies Shakespeare – and knew I wanted to continue in that direction, but realised I didn't really have much of the historical context, so knowing that the MA offers the chance to study Shakespeare and his works, but also get the context of the life and times in which he was working, was a real pull for me.

Tara Hamling: So as well as being collaborative involving two departments, this MA also has contributions from the staff at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. So another really unusual aspect of this programme is that we have, as part of the research skills training, we have training in palaeography.

Stephanie Appleton: The palaeography was a particular highlight for me and is something I'm still continuing to work on now into my PhD.

Title: Field trips

Tara Hamling: every year we go on an annual field-trip. In the past we've been to Rome, to Paris, we've been to historic houses in this country – Hardwick Hall, Bolsover, Hampton Court – so every year we try to think of something a little different that would benefit the students the most.

Title: Would you recommend it?

Susan Orlik: It pushed me intellectually a great deal, and it was very rigorous, and it changed my life.

Stephanie Appleton: For anyone who has an interest in Shakespeare and his works, also the early modern period broader social issues, I think it's a fantastic course to do and you would just love every second of it.