University of Birmingham

Modern History PhD/MA by Research (On-Campus or by Distance Learning)

Modern History is a large and developing field and here at Birmingham, we have over 20 staff working at the forefront of current research, covering a wide range of British and European history from around 1500 to the present. Areas of expertise include religion, war studies, the history of the West Midlands, the history of sexuality and emotion and of the environment. We're also expanding expertise in the history of race and global histories and welcome enquiries concerning possible research topics.

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Distance learning, doctoral research

Study Options: Full time, part time

Duration: PhD – 3 years full-time, 6 years part-time; MA by Research – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Start date: January, September

Contact

Research degrees are best planned by individual discussion, so if you have a particular subject area in mind, please contact a staff member working in your area of interest in the first instance. See '**Research interests (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/research/history/modern-history.aspx#ResearchInterestsTab)**' for more information.

Departments - School of History and Cultures (/schools/historycultures/departments/index.aspx)

Department of History (/schools/historycultures/departments/history/index.aspx)

Details

The MA by Research programme requires you to prepare a dissertation of up to 40,000 words on a topic of your choice, for which an academic staff member will provide expert supervision.

The PhD – the most advanced research degree – leads to a dissertation of up to 80,000 words on a subject of your choice and under the expert supervision of an academic member of staff.

You can study an MA by Research or PhD programme on campus or **by Distance Learning (/students/courses/postgraduate/research/arts-law-inter/distance-learning.aspx)**.

Current research topics range from questions such as how England became a Protestant nation in the 16th century to why smoking played such an important role in 20th century life. Whatever your interest, whether it is cultural or social history, military or political history, economic or religious history, there is someone available to supervise your research.

(/schools/historycultures/departments/history/research/postgraduateresearch/profiles/index.aspx)

At Birmingham you also have the option of **studying languages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/calgs/personal-development/languages.aspx)**, free of charge. Almost no other UK University offers you the opportunity to learn the intense graduate academic language skills which you may need to pursue your research.

Why study this course

Sam Humphries "I chose the Masters Research programme as it gave me the chance to pursue my own research project within a lively, resourceful and respected academic department. It combined the necessary taught elements and group discussion to hone and develop my academic research skills alongside working independently to make my project happen.

The course however offered lots more than I hoped for. It taught me crucial methodological understandings about how historians work and how to deploy and engage with them in my own research. These modules, alongside the fellow students and staff in the Centre, changed my work and approach to the subject for the better in ways I could not have conceived beforehand, changing my project fundamentally. The environment with passionate individuals each able to help you with your work has been immensely rewarding.

The course also helps develop the ability to work autonomously and critically assess your own standards and approaches to the subject. It is tough yet immensely rewarding as it offers up opportunities that would never have materialised otherwise. The Masters Research programme helped me pursue my interest in history further alongside helping me to think creatively and to apply these ideas to my work and life."

Fees and funding

We charge an annual tuition fee. Fees for 2015/16 are currently as follows:

- Home / EU £4,090 full-time; £2,045 part-time
- Overseas: £13,195 full-time; £6,597.50 part-time

For part-time students, the above fee quoted is for year one only and tuition fees will also be payable in subsequent years of your programme.

Tuition fees can either be paid in full or by instalments.

Eligibility for Home/EU or Overseas fees can be verified with Admissions. Learn more about **fees for international students (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx)** .

Learn more about **postgraduate tuituion fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/index.aspx)** .

Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships to cover fees and/or maintenance costs may be available. To be eligible for these awards, candidates must hold either an offer of a place to study or have submitted an application to study at the University. To discover whether you are eligible for any award across the University, and to start your funding application, please visit the University's **Postgraduate Funding Database (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx)** .

International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

Entry requirements

Learn more about **entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx)**

International students

Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications; our **country pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx)** show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an **English language qualification (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx)** to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our **English courses for international students (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx)**

How to apply

Before you make your application

You may wish to **register your interest with us (https://bham.hobsons.co.uk/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=postgraduate)** to receive regular news and updates on postgraduate life within this Department and the wider University.

Making your application

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the **How to apply pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)**

Apply now (https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CAL123.htm)

Related news and events

World War 1: Aviation Comes of Age MOOC (/schools/historycultures/departments/history/news/2013/mooc.aspx)

Birmingham teams up with BBC to offer online WW1 course (/research/activity/warstudies/news/2014/bbc-mooc.aspx)

Research interests of staff

- **British and German Armies**
  Contact: Dr Jonathan Boff
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5512
  Email: j.f.boff@bham.ac.uk (mailto:j.f.boff@bham.ac.uk)
- **British 20th-century political history**
  Contact: Professor Nicholas Crowson
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5485
  Email: n.j.crowson@bham.ac.uk (mailto:n.j.crowson@bham.ac.uk)
- **Society and politics of 17th-century England**
  Contact: Professor Richard Cust
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5764
  Email: r.p.cust@bham.ac.uk (mailto:r.p.cust@bham.ac.uk)
- **History of the West Midlands since 1700**
  Contact: Dr Malcolm Dick
  Tel: +44 (0)121 4158253
  Email: m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk (mailto:m.m.dick@bham.ac.uk)
- **Counter-Reformation belief and politics**
  Contact: Dr Elaine Fulton
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 6632
  Email: e.k.fulton@bham.ac.uk (mailto:e.k.fulton@bham.ac.uk)
- **History of Nineteenth Century Britain**
  Contact: Dr David Gange
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5665
  Email: d.j.gange@bham.ac.uk (mailto:d.j.gange@bham.ac.uk)
- **Air power: history, theory and practice**
  Contact: Air Cdre (Ret'd)
  Dr Peter Gray Tel: +44 (0)121 414 8423
  Email: w.gray@bham.ac.uk (mailto:p.w.gray@bham.ac.uk)
- **The British economy in the 20th century**
  Contact: Dr Julian Greaves
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5760
  Email: j.l.greaves@bham.ac.uk (mailto:j.l.greaves@bham.ac.uk)
- **German history since 1870**
  Contact: Dr Armin Grünbacher
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5759
  Email: a.gruenbacher@bham.ac.uk (mailto:a.gruenbacher@bham.ac.uk)
- **Art and material culture of early modern Britain**
  Contact: Dr Tara Hamling
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 9510
  Email: t.j.hamling@bham.ac.uk (mailto:t.j.hambling@bham.ac.uk)
- **Modern British social history**
  Contact: Professor Matthew Hilton
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 7697
  Email: m.j.hilton@bham.ac.uk (mailto:m.j.hilton@bham.ac.uk)
- **British–German relations since 1945**
  Contact: Dr Sabine Lee
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5736
  Email: s.lee@bham.ac.uk (mailto:s.lee@bham.ac.uk)
- **19th–20th century European history; environmental history**
  Contact: Professor Corey Ross
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- **Race and Immigration**
  Contact: Professor Gavin Schaffer
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 6629
  Email: g.schaffer@bham.ac.uk (mailto:g.schaffer@bham.ac.uk)
- **Early Modern European exploration, expansion and colonisation**
  Contact: Dr Margaret Small
  Tel: +44 (0)121 4145501
  Email: m.small@bham.ac.uk (mailto:m.small@bham.ac.uk)
- **History of religion in the British Army**
  Contact: Dr Mike Snape
  Tel: +44 (0)121 414 3405
  Email: m.f.snape@bham.ac.uk (mailto:m.f.snape@bham.ac.uk)
- **Economic History**
  Contact: Dr Jelle van Lottum
  Email: j.vanlottum@bham.ac.uk (mailto:j.vanlottum@bham.ac.uk)

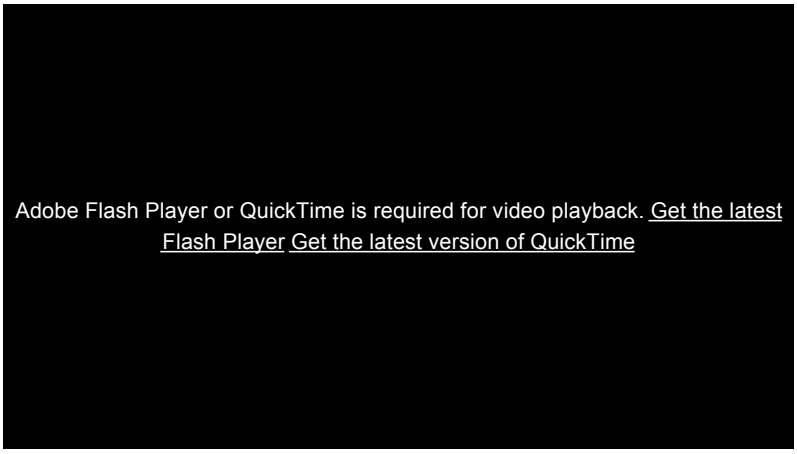
Related research

- **Centre for War Studies (/research/activity/warstudies/index.aspx)**

Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world for post-qualification employability in the latest global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Your degree will provide excellent preparation for employment and this will be further enhanced by the employability skills training offered through the College of Arts and Law Graduate School.



Birmingham's History graduates develop a broad range of transferable skills that are highly valued by a range of employers. These skills include: familiarity with research methods; the ability to manage large quantities of information from diverse sources; the ability to organise information in a logical and coherent manner; the expertise to write clearly and concisely and to tight deadlines; critical and analytical ability; the capacity for argument, debate and speculation; and the ability to base conclusions on statistical research.

Over the past five years, over 92% of History postgraduates were in work and/or further study six months after graduation. Some of our History postgraduates go on to use their studies directly, for example in heritage, museum or archivist work. Others use their transferable skills in a range of occupations from finance to civil service to fundraising. Employers that graduates have gone on to work for include: Alcester Heritage Network; HSBC; KPMG; Ministry of Defence; and the National Trust.

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