

Programme Specification

MA History (full-time)

PFTZHISTXXHM

MA History (part-time)

PPTZHISTXXHM

For students entering in 2023/24

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MA History (full-time) - 12 months MA History (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The MA in History allows students to explore historical periods from the medieval world to the present day. It is aimed at providing a stimulating and challenging programme for anybody looking to fulfil their intellectual curiosity and to follow their research interests. Through a combination of core and optional modules the MA in History programme is designed to support students planning to pursue a career in education, to work in museums, collections and archives, or to proceed to doctoral research. The MA offers pathways through the degree which tailor the programme to meet student interests. These aims are achieved by:

- providing guidance on planning, researching and writing a dissertation;
- strengthening writing and oral presentation skills, including writing for academic and non-academic audiences
- helping students become familiar with fundamental research skills, including digital skills and skills in using archives and collections and the materials held in them
- providing for such specific needs (e.g. training in palaeography, a language or computing) as may arise from a particular research project;
- providing an understanding of the nature of historical enquiry, evidence and argument;
- providing a forum which brings together postgraduates and staff for discussion of common historical problems;
- promoting an awareness of the University's resources, research culture and environment.

Students who are successful in obtaining the award of an MA will demonstrate an ability to locate and interpret a variety of source material, handle complex theoretical and methodological issues and communicate their ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral form, including for non-academic audiences. They will show evidence of critical awareness and originality in the application of relevant historical techniques and knowledge. They will be capable of prioritising their work, working as part of a team, being

independent and active learners, tackling and solving problems and, with further training, would be expected to remain at the forefront of their chosen areas of specialism.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
HSMDN3	Dissertation	90	M
HSMWHC	Working with Historical Collections: Sources and Audiences	30	M

Students must select one of the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
HSMBHT	Becoming a Historian: Theory and Themes	20	M
or			
HSMBHM	Becoming a Historian: Theory and Themes in Medieval History	20	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Humanities. Up to 20 credits may be replaced with modules from across the University, subject to the permission of the Programme Director.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be taken part-time over two years or in flexible modular form over 3, 4 or 5 years. Part time and modular students take the same modules as full-time students, and normally in the same order. Modular students are expected to take at least one module per year apart from the final year of dissertation submission.

Additional costs of the programme

There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, electronic resources and computer facilities, are available through the library and through the Department of History.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Optional modules

<p>The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.</p>

Placement opportunities

<p>The intensive nature of the full-time course means that it is not tailored to any period of study abroad. Those taking the course part-time or on a modular basis over 3-5 years may have the opportunity to study abroad as part of the Socrates scheme. This is arranged on an ad hominem basis.</p>

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

<p>You will be taught through lectures, seminars, workshops and individual supervision. Assessment takes a variety of formats, such as essays, blogs, v-logs and presentations. There are no examinations. At the end of the year, students will submit a 20,000 word dissertation.</p>

<p>Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 6 hours per week. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.</p>

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

Assessment is by means of coursework and one presentation

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:
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Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and

- ii. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MA History (full-time) for students entering in session 2023/24
27 March 2023

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