

Programme Specification

MA by Research Legal History (full-time)

PFTZLEGALHHS

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 by Research Legal History (full-time) - 12 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The MA by Research Legal History is an interdisciplinary programme that equips graduates with a sophisticated understanding of legal and historical approaches to social, cultural and political phenomena, advanced skills in archival research, and the ability to undertake high level analysis of law and legal issues. Its aim is to provide students with the research skills needed to undertake postgraduate research in the field of legal history.

The MA by Research Legal History seeks to enable students to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of legal and historical approaches to the study of social, cultural and political issues;
- Develop advanced skills in archival research and a sound understanding of the associated methodological issues;
- Develop and enhance their knowledge and understanding of their chosen area of legal history and their ability to engage in higher level analysis of law and legal issues;

Prepare for doctoral research in legal history or to undertake a professional career while contributing to academic research in legal history.

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
LWMHAA	Accessing and Interrogating Archives	20	M
LWMHDI	Research Dissertation (Legal History)	90	M
LWMHDP	Dissertation Plan	20	M
LWMHRS	Research Seminar Presentation	10	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be undertaken over two years on a part-time basis. Selection of modules between the two years will be agreed at the commencement of the programme. It is expected that students will normally complete at least 60 credits in year one, and that this will include the module Accessing and Interrogating Archives. It is also expected that students will normally commence their dissertation in year one. Modules will be assessed in the year in which they are taken.

Additional costs of the programme

The programme includes 5 days of research training at the Institute of Historical Research in London. The costs of the training are paid by the law school but students will be responsible for travel and subsistence costs during the course.

Optional modules

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.

Placement opportunities

From time to time opportunities for internship and similar placements arise and the School facilitates a number of such opportunities. MA by Research students would be actively encouraged to apply for such opportunities, and assisted in pursuing these and other relevant opportunities.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is delivered on a one to one basis by means of tutorials with the appropriate members of the legal history team. Students will be expected to undertake substantial amounts of independent reading for discussion throughout the programme.

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 150 hours. 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

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme is structured around the core requirement that students should undertake detailed research in some aspect of legal history. Teaching and assessment will primarily take the form of individually supervised guided research and writing, with each candidate's programme tailored to best reflect their needs, interests and goals.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

A part-time candidate may only proceed into their second year if they have achieved 2 marks of at least 50% in their first year. Thereafter, the progression requirements of full-time students outlined above will apply. A part-time candidate who chooses not to proceed to the second year may be considered for the award of Certificate in Law if they satisfy the requirements for a Certificate in Law.

Classification

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

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. students must not have any mark below 40.

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. students must not have any mark below 40.

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. must not have any mark below 40.

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 by Research Legal History (full-time) for students entering in session 2023/24
20 June 2022

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