



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

birmingham.ac.uk/history

History at Birmingham

The Department of History covers a wide range of British, European and world history from the early medieval period to the present. Whatever your interest, whether cultural, social, political or economic history – there is someone with related expertise in the department.

We have an excellent research environment and host major research projects relating to both contemporary and earlier periods.

We are home to a number of specialist research centres, including:

- Birmingham Centre for Modern and Contemporary History
- Birmingham Eighteenth Century Centre
- Centre for Modern British Studies
- Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies
- Centre for the Study of the Middle Ages (CeSMA)
- Centre for War Studies
- Centre for West Midlands History

Each of these Centres offer dedicated expertise for teaching and research across the relevant historical period, or topic, and plays host to a range of conferences and events which postgraduates are encouraged to engage with.

The University has been ranked as one of the world's top 100 institutions to study History in the 2019 QS World Rankings. Times Higher Education also ranked the Department of History first in the country for its performance in the latest Research Excellence Framework exercise, with 87% of our research judged to be 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

Programmes

- Contemporary History MA
- Early Modern History MA
- Global History MA
- History MA by Distance Learning
- History of Warfare MA
- Holocaust and Genocide MA/Diploma/Certificate
- Medieval Studies MA
- Military History MA by Distance Learning
- Modern British Studies MA
- West Midlands History MA
- Early Modern History MRes
- Medieval History MRes
- Twentieth Century British History MRes
- History PhD/MA by Research (On-Campus or by Distance Learning)



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*REF 2014



STUDENT PROFILE

'I did both my MA and BA at the University of Birmingham. I joke with colleagues that the University hasn't yet shaken me off yet! Ultimately, I chose Birmingham for two reasons: it has the research specialisms that suited my research questions and it has the research environment that I was looking for.

'For me, historical study is inseparable from the way I view the world. There's something profound to be learnt from the alterity of history; I've never felt more comfortable navigating the modern world than when I'm engrossed in the medieval one. History has given me a window into perspectives wholly different from my own and I cannot think of anything more intellectually enriching.

'Before I started my PhD I was constantly warned that it would be a lonely experience and that I should prepare for that. Truthfully, I haven't found that to be the case at all. The vibrant research community at Birmingham has meant that I have never felt alone in the School of History and Cultures (SHaC); there's always something to get involved in or someone to share your experiences with.'

LIAM MCLEOD, PhD History



Your career prospects

Our History postgraduates 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.

Scholarships

History students will also be eligible to apply for: AHRC funding, through the Midlands4Cities DTP; ESRC funding, through the Midlands Graduate School DTP; and a range of University awards for postgraduates at taught and research level. For more information, please visit birmingham.ac.uk/calffunding

Your learning

Postgraduate History students have access to a wide variety of resources from the University's central Library, to the Hilton and Styles Libraries in the Arts Building itself. The Cadbury Research Library is home to the University of Birmingham's historic collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographs and associated artefacts.

The collections which have been built up over a period of 120 years consist of over 200,000 rare printed books including significant incunabula, as well as over 4 million unique archive and manuscript collections.

The University also provides students with access to cutting-edge electronic resources and microfilm resources which include a large collection of early Reformation 'flugschriften'.

Students also have use of the Shakespeare Institute's excellent research library in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust library and Record Office, and the on-campus resources of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (October 2019).