

Programme Specification

MA History

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	History, American and War Studies
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2021-22
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate History Postgraduate Diploma History
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Our MA in History will offer you an exciting and challenging curriculum that speaks to the world in which we live: the social transformations that have informed our past and present societies, and the questions that will shape our digital future.

With a key focus on political, social and cultural history, from the early modern period through to contemporary society, our programme will encourage you to pursue your research interests through the use of project work and case studies based on staff expertise. The integrated programme will offer you a selection of modules which will provide a distinctive and flexible opportunity to develop specialisms in the areas of history which interest you. It will be led by our team of internationally recognised scholars, who combine research excellence with cutting-edge teaching practice. You will be taught in small groups and in a stimulating environment. You will be joining a subject area with an established record of high levels of student satisfaction.

Our MA in History will enable you to become an independent, confident and digitally literate learner, thus improving your employability. The acquisition of an MA in History demonstrates high levels of specialism; you will gain postgraduate-level proficiencies through the development of a range of transferable skills including the application of digital humanities methods, such as creating digital portfolios, engaging in website development and creating and analysing historical databases. The transferable skills that you will gain will enable you to progress to doctoral research or employment in a wide variety of sectors, including

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

for example the heritage industry, communication services and teaching. There will also be opportunities for you to contribute your own work to various forums, including our History programme seminar series.

Special features:

- An exciting and challenging curriculum.
- A student-led, research-informed teaching environment with opportunities for stimulating discussions within small groups.
- A subject area with an established record of high levels of student satisfaction.
- A range of transferable skills including digital humanities methods as well as other key skills of problem-solving and project planning and management in order to enhance employability. This would widen students' career prospects, in the professional sector including in publishing, web-development, marketing, communication, and data management.
- Further opportunities for students to engage with digital training through courses offered at YSJU such as coding and programming training.
- Varied and innovative forms of assessment including a digital portfolio assessment which would feed into a digital exhibition.
- Opportunities to collaborate with staff, students and external partners such as the archives at York Explore, the Yorkshire Film Archive, the National Railway Museum, the Borthwick Institute, Minster Library, the British Library at Boston Spa, and other local Record Offices.
- Access to a wide range of visiting speakers.
- The opportunity for students to take part in the annual School of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy MA Symposium, when students have the opportunity to work with other postgraduates from across the School (in English Literature, American Studies and Creative Writing) to organise and deliver a one-day conference on a topic of their choice.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- UK/EU Students: Applicants will normally require a first degree at 2:1 or above. Candidates who do not have a first degree in History will be required to have an interview.
- International Students: International students will need to demonstrate that they have equivalent experience /qualifications as home students (ie the same entry criteria as above). If their first language is not English they must show evidence of English Language competence at IELTS level 6.0 (with no skill below 5.5) or equivalent.
- Where applicants do not meet the stated entry requirements above, it may be possible to take into account evidence of APEL as an alternative method of meeting the programme's entry requirements. In such a case, appropriate references and records of employment might be presented to support the applicant's case for admission.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

Our MA in History will provide you with the opportunity to bridge the gap between undergraduate learning and doctoral research by undertaking modules with a political, social and cultural historical approach from the early modern period to contemporary society. In addition it will enable you to develop a greater understanding of the methods and approaches available as part of an MA in History. You will also enhance your opportunities for academic, professional and personal fulfilment, including employability, by gaining awareness and practical experience of digital humanities methods and tools. We also provide a supportive learning environment which meets the needs of a diverse set of learners, where you will be invited to

contribute to a vibrant postgraduate community, as well as make a significant contribution to the development of a strong research culture within the University.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 An in-depth specialist knowledge and mastery of historical methodologies, approaches and professional practice.
- 7.2 A systematic understanding of history as a discipline which will involve synthesising and evaluating new knowledge and scholarship.
- 7.3 Critical engagement with historiography, digital humanities and an extensive range of primary sources relevant to history.
- 7.4 The ability to undertake advanced critical analysis rooted in empirical historical evidence apprehended from a variety of perspectives.
- 7.5 The capacity to communicate with specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 7.6 The ability to execute an extended piece of original research and critical writing.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
HIS7006M	7	1	Research Methods	30	C	X
HIS7007M	7	1	People and Power	30	C	X
HIS7008M	7	2	Digital Humanities for Historians	30	C	X
HIS7009M	7	2	Social Transformation	30	O	X
HIS7004M	7	2	Peril and Progress: Security in the Post-1945 World	30	O	X
HIS7010M	7	3	Research Dissertation	60	C	NC

Learning, teaching and assessment

The History MA Programme has a literary evidence-based approach which requires wide, critical reading and intelligent synthesis of ideas and information. It requires you to construct arguments in writing across a number of formats. All students on the MA programme will receive critical and constructive comments on their progress as an integral part of teaching and learning, through individual meetings with tutors, feedback on written work or specific coursework tutorials. Formative support and feedback will be provided throughout the programme's delivery, which will produce a dialogue between you and your tutors, in order to shape the development of your ideas and goal-orientated educational experience. We also place importance on presentations so, as a transferable skill, you will present seminar papers extensively throughout the course of your modules, on which you will receive formative feedback and peer review. These will be used as a basis for feedback and will then feed into your written work. These exercises, amongst others, will develop your critical abilities as well as widen your familiarity with, and confidence in handling, a range of sources, preparing you for the modules' summative assessment stage, and the final dissertation.

This programme places a strong emphasis on the development of independent research and writing. The programme's assessment strategies are designed to develop independent research skills; the ability to structure and write a sophisticated critical essay and longer academic monographs, and the opportunity to pursue your own intellectual interests within each module's thematic scope.

The learning and teaching philosophy of the History MA programme concurs with the view that 'time taken talking at students should be minimised while the time for students to be involved actively in the development of their understanding and skills should be maximised and extended beyond the formally scheduled class time into personal and group study' (Hunt, Chalmers & Macdonald, 2013, 22). Learning and teaching on the programme is rooted in critical analysis in which you will be expected to develop your own knowledge, skills and critical faculties in partnership with your tutors and your peers. To achieve this, the programme will predominately be taught in small seminar discussion groups, where you will have plenty of opportunity to interact with your peers through reflective dialogue. The tutors will establish the body of sources to be examined and will assign seminar papers to individuals or groups, but beyond these seminar papers you will be able to set the agenda on the basis of the material examined.

Structure

You will study for the MA in History through a combination of four taught 30 credit modules, a 60 credit research dissertation module. Formative and summative assessment on taught modules will include portfolios, presentations, independent study, writing and research. Throughout the programme you will have the opportunity to emphasise your particular interests in social or political history through your choice of seminar and coursework assignments, and through the selection and development of an extended piece of independent research and critical writing on a topic of your choice. This will enable you to demonstrate the full range of attributes required of the professional historian short of the PhD. While the writing-up of this project will take place at the end of your programme, you will begin the process of topic selection and preparation much earlier, and you will be supported through the research for the dissertation in tandem with your other modules

Key transferable skills are embedded throughout the curriculum, including a core focus on higher-level digital training and on the use of digitisation in the Humanities. Students are expected to take two digital training courses per semester (in semesters one and two) offered by the University which can serve as the basis for critical reflections as part of the *Digital Humanities* module. The MA culminates in a 15,000-word original research project, allowing you to pursue and develop your own specialist interests. While at York St John University, you will have access to the facilities of the University and to a range of important local and national collections, including the Yorkshire Film Archive, the Minster Library, the National Railway Museum, and the York City Archives. You will also have access to a varied programme of visiting speakers and research events hosted by the University.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's general [regulations](#) for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 15/06/2018

Programme originally approved: 15/06/2018