History
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GET IN TOUCH
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The Department of History at Lancaster is a friendly place, home to around 400 undergraduate students across three years of study. Our members of staff have a wide range of teaching and research interests which means we can offer modules ranging in period from ancient history to the present day. Many of our modules focus on the history of individual countries or regions, from Britain and the rest of Europe through to Asia and the Americas. Other modules examine particular topics such as the Vietnam War. Students at Lancaster develop their understanding of a wide variety of approaches to the study of history, from social and political history to cultural and intellectual history.

All our teaching is informed by path-breaking scholarship. Staff members have written dozens of books on subjects ranging from religious belief in Ancient Greece to the relations between Britain and Russia in the twentieth century. They also contribute to TV and radio programmes and provide advice to museums and galleries across Britain. We hope you will find this booklet useful and want to come to Lancaster to see us.

Please do contact us if you have any questions.

Professor Michael Hughes
Head of History
WHY

STUDY HISTORY AT LANCASTER?

SPECIALISATION
Our range of specialised courses allows you to concentrate on specific areas in ancient, medieval, early modern or modern and contemporary history. You can research topics in depth with our dissertation module and special subjects.

FLEXIBILITY
You can combine History with other subjects: English Literature, Politics, Philosophy, International Relations, Religious Studies, French, German or Spanish. You can also include a year spent abroad or study part-time.

REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE
We have strong links to the local community. Our Regional Heritage Centre promotes and celebrates the rich social and cultural heritage of the North West.

STUDY ABROAD
Every year, some of our students choose to study abroad in North America, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, or in Europe through the Erasmus programme. There are also options for you to work or volunteer overseas.

97%
overall satisfaction and 98% agree staff are good at explaining things
(National Student Survey 2016)

82%
of our research has been ranked world-leading or internationally excellent; our research environment is ranked 100% world-leading or internationally excellent
(Research Excellence Framework 2014)

#5
in the UK for History
(Guardian University Guide 2018)

10,000
rare historical books in our archive
TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

- Most of our teaching takes place in small group seminars or workshops, backed up by lectures.
- Lectures introduce key historical questions, discussing historians’ different approaches to these questions, and the ways in which they have used evidence to support their arguments.
- Seminars and workshops are more interactive. They give you the opportunity to think and talk through an issue, and to explore your own and others’ arguments.
- 17% of time is spent in lectures, seminars or similar, 83% is undertaking private study.
- Every course has a dedicated Moodle website as part of the University’s Virtual Learning Environment. This is used for posting resources and communicating with other students in the group.
- Most modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination, with coursework making up 53% of assessment overall.

<table>
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<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Degree length</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>RV41</td>
<td>AAA-AAB</td>
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HERITAGE PLACEMENTS

In your second year, you can opt to take a credit-bearing work placement module, coordinated through the department’s Regional Heritage Centre. These range from prominent multi-site organisations such as the National Trust to small independent museums, county archives, and heritage consultants. Our placement providers include Lakeland Arts (Kendal and Windermere); the Keswick Museum & Art Gallery; the National Trust (Gawthorpe Hall and Sizergh Castle); the Greater Manchester Museums Group; and the Norton Priory Trust (Runcorn). Students on work placements might find themselves analysing data on visitor experiences, improving the description of collections, writing text for exhibitions or researching world-class collections. The module aims to foster awareness of, and reflection on, career opportunities in the heritage sector and elsewhere.

Here are some examples of recent placements undertaken:

Some of our placement providers include:

Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre
Enhancing the Local Studies Photograph Collection
This placement involved repackaging individual items using suitable preservation materials; numbering each item with a unique reference; listing each item on CALM cataloguing software; scanning each item and creating a digital copy (jpeg); converting each jpeg into a thumbnail and adding the thumbnail image to the catalogue description on CALM.

The Fusilier Museum, Bury
Collection and Learning Resources Development
This placement provided opportunities to research and develop material for museum handling boxes, museum trails and other new learning initiatives; work on expanding access to the museum’s digitised collections and learning pages on the museum website; and assist with the development and delivery of Easter holiday family activities.

Keswick Museum & Art Gallery
Picture:Thail Curating two Interactive Digital Albums of Historical Keswick Images
The placement involved researching the museum’s collection of photographs, slides and postcards to create content for two interactive screens in the social history gallery. This included selecting and sequencing images, writing introductory text and accompanying captions. The aim was to better engage audiences, both young and old by diversifying how the collections were presented, as well as to encourage visitors to get involved by volunteering or contributing to the collection.

I would recommend undertaking a heritage work placement, particularly to students who want to get experience of research with primary source materials.
Student feedback, Cumbria Archives Service Placement

This placement has been particularly good for skills development.
Student feedback, Blackpool Museum project placement

This placement was a really good experience, and I recommend both Tullie House as a placement provider and the work placement scheme in general. It is a pity that you can’t take the module twice!
Student feedback, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery placement

Please note – we cannot guarantee that all students will be offered a placement. Non-credit-bearing placements are also available, these are advertised by the University’s Careers Service to students at all stages of their studies, and include a wide range of opportunities across a variety of employment sectors.
YOUR DEGREE

BA HONS HISTORY
BA HONS MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

YEAR 1

From Ancient to Modern: History and Historians

Optional History Modules

Or

Minor subject

Optional History Modules

Choose two of the following module options: The Fall of Rome, Reform, Rebellion and Reason: Britain, 1500–1800, Histories of Violence: How Imperialism Made the Modern World and From Great War to Total War.

Minor subject

At Lancaster, in your first year of study, you are given the opportunity to broaden your studies to include another subject. We encourage you to take modules from other disciplines to explore the links between history and other subjects, such as languages, literature, politics, philosophy or religion.

Examples of the kind of subjects you can choose from are:

- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French Studies
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- Geography
- German Studies
- Media and Cultural Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish Studies
- Theatre Studies

Combined major students take one subject in their other department.

From Ancient to Modern: History and Historians

This module extends and deepens your knowledge of the past and introduces you to core historical themes from the early Middle Ages to the present day. You will engage with a wide range of primary sources used by historians and gain insights into how historians conduct research and interpret the past.

Optional History Modules

Writing History: Questions, Methods, Conclusions

This module prepares you for your dissertation. You will develop a detailed research proposal, conduct a reflexive ‘feasibility study’ for your project, present your preliminary findings, and respond to feedback from experts in your prospective field of research.

Optional History modules

You can select History modules according to your interests. See page 14 for an indicative list of modules available.

You can apply to conduct a heritage work placement as credit-bearing module ‘From Education to Employment’. See page 10 for more information.

YEAR 2

Combined major students take ‘The Nature and Practice of History’ in their second year and a combination of modules in History and their other department, usually in a 50:50 ratio.

The Nature and Practice of History

This module focuses on major historiographical case studies, offering an introduction to the theory and practice of the discipline of history: its good and bad practices, its methodologies and different genres, its relation to both past and present and its uses of primary and secondary sources.

Writing History: Questions, Methods, Conclusions

This module prepares you for your dissertation. You will develop a detailed research proposal, conduct a reflexive ‘feasibility study’ for your project, present your preliminary findings, and respond to feedback from experts in your prospective field of research.

Optional History modules

You can select History modules according to your interests. See page 14 for an indicative list of modules available.

You can apply to conduct a heritage work placement as credit-bearing module ‘From Education to Employment’. See page 10 for more information.

YEAR 3

Combined majors can choose to take either a Special Subject or a dissertation (The 2nd year module ‘Writing History: Questions, Methods, Conclusions’ is a pre-requisite of taking the dissertation).

Dissertation

Your dissertation gives you the opportunity to work in-depth, gaining the satisfaction of working independently and of developing a topic of your own. Working closely with your dissertation supervisor, you will research and write an 8,000-10,000-word study on a historical topic that fascinates you.

Minor subject

At Lancaster, in your first year of study, you are given the opportunity to broaden your studies to include another subject. We encourage you to take modules from other disciplines to explore the links between history and other subjects, such as languages, literature, politics, philosophy or religion.

Examples of the kind of subjects you can choose from are:

- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French Studies
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- Geography
- German Studies
- Media and Cultural Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish Studies
- Theatre Studies
OPTIONAL HISTORY MODULES
(YEARS 2 AND 3)

Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern
- The Making of Germany, 843–1122
- The Origins and Rise of Islam, 600–1250 AD
- Byzantine and Muslim Sicily, 535–1072
- The Greek World, c. 800–404 B.C.
- The Greek World c. 403–31 B.C.
- Mapping Terra Incognita: Travel & Exploration of the Americas and Pacific 1492–1642
- Culture and Society in England, 1500–1750
- Nature and Culture 1500–1700: Themes from the Renaissance
- The English Civil War 1640–1660
- Virginia, 1585–1685: Adventure, War and Tobacco in the First American Colony
- Norman England, 1066–1154: Conquest, Colonisation and Conflict
- The Crusades

Modern History and Historical Methods
- Partisans and Collaborators: World War II in Occupied Europe
- Between Two Worlds: Russian History 1825–1914
- A History of Paris, c. 1730 to the Present
- The United States and the Vietnam War
- After Vietnam: Remembering, Representing and Refighting the ‘Bad War’
- The Making and Unmaking of Heroes in German History: from Warriors and a People’s Queen to Film Stars and a Football Team
- The History of the United States, 1789-1865
- The History of the United States, 1865–1899
- Three Colours, One Flag, One Empire: the French Colonial World, 1791–1962
- In Search of the Underclass: Politics and Poverty in Britain, 1880–1970
- In Search of the Underclass: Politics and Poverty in Britain Since 1970
- Gandhi and the End of Empire in India, 1885–1948
- The Victorians and Before: Britain, 1783–1901
- The History of the English Lake District – Terror, Ecstasy and Environmental Change
- Slavery and Freedom: North America, 1650–1800
- The Cold War in Europe
- Inventing Human Rights 1776–2001

MODULE PROFILE YEAR 2
The Victorians and Before: Britain, 1783-1901.
Who were the Victorians? Sometimes they are credited with inventing modern Britain, with the industrial revolution, urbanisation, democratisation, the transport network, and the law and order system listed among their achievements. Yet at the same time, they exhibited attitudes to gender, sexuality, race, politics, and poverty which would be considered shocking and disgraceful by modern standards.
This module introduces you to a fascinating and contradictory period in British history. You will discover nineteenth-century Britain by exploring its most important and contentious spaces, such as the factory, the workhouse, the prison, the city, the railway carriage, and the home. You will find out what life was really like in the long nineteenth century by studying a range of primary sources, including novels, press reports, paintings, cartoons, and autobiographies.

Dr James Taylor
Senior Lecturer, History

SPECIAL SUBJECTS
(YEAR 3 ONLY)
- Bede and His World, c.660-c.740
- The Normans in Italy, 1050–1194
- Science and Society in England, 1640–1698
- Advertising and Consumerism in Britain, 1853-1960
- Private Lives and Public Policy: Evacuation, Memory and the Second World War
- Gender Identities in the People’s War: Experiences, Representations and Memories
- Stalinism: From its Origins to its Shadows
- La Nouvelle Histoire: Twentieth-Century Historiography in France and Beyond
- Anarchy and Society in the English Caribbean, c.1620-c.1700
- The Shock of the New- Modernity and Modernism in American Culture, 1877-1919
- The Politics of Memory: The Contested Past in Museums, Monuments and Minds
- Europe’s Age of Extremes 1914-45: Film and Memory
- The Third Reich and Film
- Vikings and Sea-Kings: Power and Plunder in the Irish Sea Region, 794–1079
- Classical Greece: Greek Culture, Religion and Society
- ‘These Beastly Obscenities’: Monuments, Images, and Antiquities in Imperial India
- Poverty in England, c. 1580 - 1780
- A Global History of the Cold War

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered may therefore differ from that presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, following consultation with students and institutional approval, and in response to curricular developments and the emerging needs of the student body. Please check our website for the latest information.
Lancaster University Society of History (LUSH)

The Lancaster University Society of History (LUSH) is run by students and is open to all students. LUSH membership is a great accessory to studying History at Lancaster and provides a strong academic and social support base. Weekly meetings include informal study and revision sessions, socials, meals, bar crawls, visits to museums and guest lectures. The executive committee is elected annually and all positions are open to members. Helping to run the society demonstrates enthusiasm and passion for the subject and the kind of organisational and people skills that are highly valued by employers. Keep an eye out for us at open days and the Freshers’ Fair!

@LUSocofHistory
Lancaster University Society of History
luhistsoc@gmail.com

LIFE ON THE COURSE

My research is focused on modern South Asian, principally Indian, history; spanning environmental, political and cultural history from the early-nineteenth century to the 1950s. I love archival research and have conducted research in many Indian archives from Chennai to Delhi and Mumbai to Bhubaneswar. My latest project is writing a book about the Hindu Temple; each chapter explores the different ways in which the temple was imagined and understood during the colonial period. Medieval temples, for example, were fenced in and protected as ancient monuments in India whilst in British literature they provided spaces of erotic and violent fantasy. I teach three modules in the Department that tie in closely with my research interests including a first-year module which explores the British colonial world from the nineteenth century through to decolonisation following the Second World War.

Dr Deborah Sutton
Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment

The Department of History is fantastic: the lecturers are all friendly and welcoming, happy to answer any questions you might have, and there is an extensive range of modules on offer. In my second year I took modules on the United States and the Vietnam War, Politics and Poverty in Britain, and Mass Violence and Genocide. The flexibility of the degree is one of its best features, it allows you to study the history you want to.

Kate Bailey, PhD student

Studying a special subject in ‘Gender Identities in the Second World War’ in my third year was the highlight of my History undergraduate studies. As a 23 week module, it really allowed me to explore the period thoroughly and I enjoyed working with a variety of source materials, including film, music and art. The support from my tutor was excellent and there was a fantastic sense of community and friendship within our class.

Sarah White, MA student
Careers

Our graduates go on to a wide variety of successful careers, including:

- Teaching
- Law
- Retail Management
- Human Resource Management
- Museums and Heritage
- The Armed Forces
- Banking
- Insurance
- Hospitality
- University Administration
- Local Government

Recent graduates include:

- Heritage and Audience Development Consultant
- BBC Producer
- Assistant Curator at The Royal Mint
- Investigator at the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
- Business Development Executive at Kellogg’s
- Deputy Librarian at Manchester University Library
- Social Media Executive at Run2
- NHS Manager
- History
- Law
- Education
- Journalism
- Nursing
- E-business
- Innovation

My time at Lancaster gave me the three things I could have wished for at university: flexibility, community and preparation for the future. Lancaster’s three-part first year system was why I chose to come here: it meant I was able to try out three subjects at university level before I really had to make up my mind. The college system means you always have a great group around you, and the colleges work hard to provide social events and a welfare system. At Lancaster, you’re taught by researchers, so you know you’re getting the latest knowledge on your subject – and they’re always willing to hear your point of view too. Finally, thanks to the placement schemes offered by the History department at Lancaster, I’ll be leaving with skills, knowledge and contacts I couldn’t have gotten elsewhere – it definitely makes going out into the big wide world less scary!

Nina Kingham, MA student

Everyone in the Department has been helpful and personable. My lecturers and tutors were always willing to help when I asked, and I feel like I have done better than I otherwise would have because of the Department’s supportive atmosphere. I’m very glad I chose Lancaster. The Department has been so brilliant over the four years I’ve been here; so good I’m staying for three more.

Lewis Hughes, PhD student (ESRC funded)