History Degrees 2020

The place for the **Historian**

lancaster.ac.uk/history
Our highly rated and vibrant History department offers a wide variety of modules, ranging from ancient to modern, and the histories of Europe, Asia and the Americas. All our teaching is informed by internationally recognised research, embracing socio-economic, environmental, cultural, political, religious and intellectual history. We also have a reputation for being a world-leading centre of excellence in Digital Humanities.

Studying with us, you will have flexibility to select modules that fascinate you and tailor your degree to your own individual interests. We support you in developing strong research skills throughout your degree, preparing you for final year projects involving intensive primary research, such as the Special Subject module and dissertation.

We will equip you with transferable skills that will help you stand out in an increasingly competitive job market. The latest Guardian University Guide (2020) placed the Department 1st in the UK for graduate careers. Our department’s Regional Heritage Centre supports a programme of heritage placements that provides you with opportunities to gain valuable work experience with organisations such as The National Trust and local archives and museums.

We pride ourselves on the strong sense of community in our friendly Department. Our students reported 95% satisfaction in the 2018 National Student Survey, and our active student society organises a fun and exciting variety of course related and social activities throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy learning more about History at Lancaster. Please do contact us if you have any questions, we’d love to hear from you.
Everything you want from your History degree

**Become a specialist**
Follow your interests with our wide range of specialised courses on areas in ancient, medieval, early modern, or modern and contemporary history. Delve deeper into your research in the final-year Special Subject module and dissertation.

**Gain experience**
Gain valuable work experience in the heritage sector with our placement programme. Through our Regional Heritage Centre, you can apply to work with museums and archives in your second year. You can also undertake a year-long placement with our four-year Placement Year degree.

**Unique to you**
Make your degree your own; study History as a joint degree with English Literature, French, German, International Relations, Philosophy, Politics, Religious Studies, or Spanish. You can also broaden the scope of your studies by selecting a flexible subject option in Year 1.

**Explore the world**
You can apply to study abroad as part of your degree. Potential destinations include Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA. Shorter study trips can be made in vacation time; recent destinations include China, India, Malaysia and the USA.

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#1 for History graduate prospects
(Guardian University Guide 2020)

#5 in the UK for History
(Guardian University Guide 2020)

#1
Joint 1st for library quality and opening hours
(Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018)

95% overall satisfaction and 98% agree staff are good at explaining things
(National Student Survey 2018)
Degrees and entry requirements

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Placement year degrees

You can take a placement year with most of our degree programmes. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. On our joint degrees with French, German or Spanish Studies, you will spend your third year studying or working abroad on an international placement year. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Study abroad degrees

You can apply for a study abroad year when you arrive at Lancaster. On our 3-year study abroad degrees you spend Year 2 studying at one of our international partner universities. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

Teaching and assessment

- Our teaching takes place in lectures, small group seminars and workshops.
- Lectures introduce key historical questions and provide an overview of the key materials and themes on each module.
- Seminars and workshops are interactive. They give you the opportunity to discuss specific questions and debates.
- You will divide your time between timetabled teaching, individual consultations with academic staff and independent study, resulting in a full study schedule.

- Every module 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 approximately 50% of assessment overall.

Have your say

The first year module offers a broad overview, which is a great way to start studying History at university, because it allows you to cover everything from Ancient Greece to twentieth-century America. It has allowed me to discover new areas of history that I have never had the chance to study before. My favourite part of first year was undertaking the role of History Representative because it allowed me to communicate student opinion about the course and university life to staff. This process ensures that we have a say about how we are taught at Lancaster which I feel makes the course more engaging and enjoyable. The University is a great place to live and work. The campus feels safe and the facilities, such as the 24-hour library, are fantastic for research.

Emerson Doore,
BA (Hons) History, Year 2
Heritage placements

At Lancaster, we integrate work experience opportunities into your academic studies. In your second year, you can opt to take a credit bearing, heritage work placement module entitled ‘From Education to Employment’, which is coordinated through the department’s Regional Heritage Centre. The employers range from prominent multi-site organisations such as the National Trust to small independent museums, county archives, and heritage consultants. On a work placement, you might find yourself analysing data on visitor experiences, writing text for exhibitions or researching world-class collections. This opportunity will make you aware of the different careers that exist in the heritage sector and the type of work that such roles involve.

Placement providers include:

+ National Trust
+ Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library, Preston
+ Keswick Museum
+ Lancashire Archives, Preston
+ Cumbria Archives Service at Barrow, Carlisle and Whitehaven
+ Wigan Archives Service
+ Lancaster City Museum
+ Lancashire Infantry Museum, Preston

The placements may involve any of the following activities:

+ Curating virtual exhibitions
+ Repurposing, cataloguing, and contextualising existing resources
+ Creating and running public workshops, including for schools or families
+ Producing informative literature
+ Checking historic inventories
+ Working with oral history resources including transcription
+ Setting up activity trails
+ Rebuilding the online profile of the organisation

Please note that while we cannot guarantee all students will be offered a heritage placement, there are other opportunities available. Our careers service offer competitive internships you can apply for in all years of study and across a range of employment sectors. You can also choose a placement year degree which includes a year-long, professional placement. Find out more on page 22.

My placement at Lancaster City Museum was a really great experience, and I got to have a really interesting look at the inner workings of local heritage. I really enjoyed working with the art collection and gaining experience with a collections database, which is potentially a very valuable skill to have gained. I was designing an art guide so it was also brilliant to gain experience with writing for a public audience and work with programmes like Adobe Photoshop and InDesign to create it. I had a lot of fun with the extra opportunities we were offered through this placement as well, it was great to be able to help out with setting up the new exhibition at the Maritime Museum.

Tom Huntington, BA (Hons) English Literature and History, Year 2

Valuable skills for Tom

lancaster.ac.uk/history
Your global experience

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and 144 partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your Students’ Union.

You’ll be able to access horizon expanding opportunities around the world, with exciting possibilities ranging from short vacation travel to longer study abroad options.

Vacation travel
During the 2019 Easter break a number of history undergraduates joined students and academics from across Lancaster University in a fortnight-long trip to the United States. This trip focused on the historic North-East of the country spending a week in Boston, the birthplace of the American Revolution, before travelling south to the city that never sleeps, New York. During this trip, history students visited a number of historic landmarks and museums including the Freedom Trail, the historic town of Concord, the Tea Party Museum in Boston and the 9/11 Memorial, the United Nations and Ellis Island in New York amongst many others.

Alongside taking in the sights and sounds of two busy US cities, history students were given the opportunity to critically reflect on how the past is ‘remembered’ and ‘created’, drawing on practical examples to put their studies into context.

Jamie’s once in a lifetime experience

I travelled to India with Lancaster University for three weeks having been inspired by a history module I completed in my second year on colonial India. I was extremely interested in exploring a new, and completely different culture and further exploring the history of India. During my visit, I spent time in Manipal, Goa and Jaipur, primarily staying in the campus accommodation of Indian universities which had partnered with Lancaster University.

During these unforgettable three weeks I participated in various cultural activities including Indian folk dancing and traditional Indian theatre workshops. I also participated in educational sessions with Indian university students and visited local non-governmental organisations. The experience enabled me to stay in traditional Indian villages, visit ancient Hindu temples, and I even got to see the Taj Mahal! Overall, I learnt a lot about the culture, history and politics of India, and having the opportunity to forge relationships with the people there was invaluable. I also developed significantly on a personal level, broadening my horizons and experiencing something completely new to me. The trip provided a variety of once-in-a-lifetime experiences and truly made my university experience global.

Jamie Maddison, BA (Hons) History, graduated 2018.

Study abroad
In your second year, for either a term, or a full year, you can gain valuable international experience living and working in another country, with all the diverse cultural opportunities this brings. You will be able to forge friendships with students at leading universities in Europe and beyond.

In Europe we currently partner with the Free University of Amsterdam, Free University of Berlin, Ruhr-University Bochum, KU Leuven, University of Copenhagen, and the University of Vienna. You will be taught in English, while still being able to benefit from language-learning opportunities. Further afield, we currently partner with universities in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience
Your degree
BA (Hons) History

At Lancaster you can study History or Medieval and Early Modern Studies as a single honours degree. You can also study History as a joint degree combined with English Literature, French Studies, German Studies, International Relations, Philosophy, Politics, Religious Studies or Spanish Studies. We also offer a combined degree in History, Philosophy and Politics.

You can take a placement year with many of our degrees, extending your degree to four years and including a year-long paid placement in your third year. We support you in finding a placement with specialist advice and credit-bearing modules.

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.

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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
• Mapping Terra Incognita: Travel and Exploration in the Atlantic and Pacific Worlds 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 Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1500-1865
• Crusade and Jihad: Holy War in the Middle East, 1095-1254
• Sex, Babies and the Reproduction of the Nation, 1880 to the Present
• Britain in the Twentieth Century
• New World Order 1919-1939
• Restless Nation: Germany in the 20th Century
• The Wartime Gender Contract & the Combat Taboo in 20th-Century Britain

Modern History and Historical Methods
• Partisans and Collaborators: World War II in Occupied Europe
• A History of Paris, c. 1730 to the Present
• From Truman to Reagan: US Foreign Policy and the Presidency, 1945-1989
• Sex, Satire and British Society, 1660–1901
• 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
• Slavery & Freedom: North America, 1620-1800
• The History of the United States, 1789-1865
• The History of the United States, 1865-1989
• The Making and Unmaking of Heroes in German History: from Warriors and a People’s Queen to Film Stars and a Football Team
• 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
• From Mining to Mountaineering: Industry and Culture in the Lake District, 1500–Today
• The Cold War in Europe
• Inventing Human Rights 1776-2001

Special Subjects
(Year 3)
• Bede and His World, c. 660 - 740
• The Normans in Italy, 1050 - 1194
• Science and Society in England, 1640 - 1688
• 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
• La Nouvelle Histoire: Twentieth Century Historiography in France and Beyond
• Anarchy and Society in the Caribbean, c.1620 - c.1720
• The Shock of the New: Modernity and the Modernisms of American Culture, 1877 - 1919
• The Politics of Memory: The Contested Past in Museums, Monuments and Minds
• The Third Reich and Film
• Vikings and Sea Kings: Power and Plunder in the Irish Sea Region, 794 - 1079
• These Beastly Obscenities: Monuments, Images, and Antiquities in imperial India
• A Global History of the Cold War
• The East India Company: Merchant State, 1600 - 1857
• From Balfour to Brexit: Britain as a Great Power since 1914
• Dangerous Thoughts: Soviet Dissent, Human Rights, and the Cold War
• Paradise Lost: Colonisation and the Jamaican Environment, 1655 - 1838

Placement and Employability Modules
• From Education to Employment (Heritage Placement)
• Work Based Learning Preparation (for Placement Year students)
• Work Based Learning Placement (for Placement Year students)
• Work Based Learning Reflection (for Placement Year students)
BA (Hons) Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Our Medieval and Early Modern Studies degree allows you to study the political, cultural, social history and languages of the period between 300 and 1700. Medieval and Early Modern Studies draws on expertise from across the University and you will be taught by academics from the departments of History, English Literature, Languages and Cultures, and Politics, Philosophy and Religion.

Year 1
Core
+ From Ancient to Modern: History and Historians
+ Placement Preparation (for Placement Year students, non-credit bearing)

Options
+ Reform, Rebellion and Reason: Britain, 1500-1800
+ The Fall of Rome
+ Flexible subject option

Year 2
Core
+ Making History: Contexts, Sources and Publics
+ Writing History: Questions, Methods, Conclusions
+ Work Based Learning Preparation (for Placement Year students)

Options
+ Byzantine and Muslim Sicily, 535-1072
+ Culture and Society in England, 1500-1750
+ History of Philosophy
+ Mapping Terra Incognita: Travel and Exploration in the Atlantic and Pacific Worlds 1492-1642
+ Nature and Culture 1500-1700: Themes from the Renaissance
+ Norman England, 1066-1154: Conquest, Colonisation and Conflict
+ Renaissance to Restoration, English Literature, 1580-1688
+ The English Civil War, 1640-1660
+ The Making of Germany, 843-1122
+ The Origins and Rise of Islam, 600-1250 AD
+ The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1500-1885
+ Virginia, 1585-1685: Adventure, War and Tobacco in the First American Colony

Final year
Core
+ Dissertation
+ Special Subject

Options
+ Anarchy and Society in the Caribbean, c.1620-c.1720
+ Bede and His World, c. 660-740
+ Early Modern Outlaws
+ Performing Death, Desire and Gender
+ Poverty in England c.1580-1780
+ Premodern Gothic
+ Public and Private Performances of Self in Medieval Literature and Drama
+ Science and Society in England, 1640-1688
+ Shakespeare
+ The Normans in Italy, 1050-1194
+ The Prosecution of ‘Otherness’ in Europe: Witchcraft, Heresy and Inquisition
+ Vikings and Sea-Kings: Power and Plunder in the Irish Sea Region, 794-1079

Placement year students
Placement year students spend Year 3 on work placement and return to Lancaster in Year 4 to complete a 10-credit, Work Based Learning Reflection module, alongside the core and optional modules listed above for final year.

Room to flourish

Being a member of the History Department at Lancaster has given me so much room to flourish. The staff are friendly and welcoming, and always happy to have a chat if needed.

The huge number of modules available has given me a chance to really study what I want to study, and helped me grow as a historian and an academic.

Dan Meldon,
BA (Hons) History, Year 3

lancaster.ac.uk/history
As historians, we do spend a great deal of time in libraries and archives. However, there are numerous opportunities to get out and about. The first-year module, ‘Histories of Violence: How Imperialism Made the Modern World’, for example, requires students to carry out intensive research of a fragment of the British empire in Lancashire. Recent field trips include visits to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the British Museum in London, the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, and, closer to home, Lancaster Maritime Museum to learn about Lancaster’s history as a slaving port and to Heysham to see the early medieval archaeological remains like St Peter’s church and the famous Heysham hogback stone.

Lancaster University Society of History (LUSH)

Lancaster University Society of History (LUSH) is exactly what it sounds like, a chance to bring together anyone with a passion for history, regardless of whether you are a history student or not. Working closely with the Department, we are a fun way for you and your friends to engage with history outside the lecture hall or library. With regular socials, such as trips to Manchester, our Christmas meal, ice skating, movie nights... we really do have something for everyone! What’s not to love? You’ll have a LUSH time! #LUSHLife

Kim Newell
History Society President

@LUSocofHistory

Lancaster University Society of History

history.society@lancaster.ac.uk

The Lancaster Award

We actively encourage students to participate in the Lancaster Award, which rewards you for taking part in extra-curricular activities. This certificate enhances your future employment prospects by encouraging you to engage in college activities, careers workshops, work experience and volunteering. The new skills and experiences developed through these endeavours is recognised and valued by employers.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award

lancaster.ac.uk/history

lancaster.ac.uk/history

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My research focuses on Atlantic history, particularly the trans-Atlantic slave trade and plantation slavery in North America and the Caribbean. My current project studies slave trading merchants in Britain, Africa, and the Americas, and explores how their profit-motivated decisions shaped the lives of the people whom they bought as captives and sold as slaves. I have performed archival research for the project in both the United States and the United Kingdom, where I’ve examined a plethora of papers belonging to slave traders. I also draw extensively on digital resources, principally Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database and a 3D model of a slave ship that I’m developing in collaboration with an international team of scholars. These digital and textual sources underpin my undergraduate modules at Lancaster, one of which examines the trans-Atlantic slave trade’s long history, and another that examines the intertwined histories of slavery and freedom in colonial America.

My main area of research is English history from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. I am particularly interested in social relations, and in the ways in which they were imagined and understood in the past, which is also what I teach in my undergraduate modules: what concepts of family and friendship did people have? In what terms were social hierarchies imagined and justified: between servant and master, rulers and ruled, rich and poor, women and men?

I have worked a great deal on archival materials, both in the north of England and in the south, but much of my work is centred on the language of social description, and on the relationships between languages and historical realities. Alongside archival sources, I study religious and literary texts, and the law. I am currently finishing a book on poverty, migration, and state administration in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
Your future career

A Lancaster University History degree is a gateway to an exciting and rewarding career. History graduates are able to think critically, analyse evidence, structure an argument, and communicate effectively. A degree in History offers you the combination of specialised knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of the world in which we live.

Placement and internship opportunities

Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. A wide range of opportunities is available, and some (such as placement modules) provide credit towards your degree. Places are not usually guaranteed and we will help you prepare for the competitive application process. Voluntary activities are another excellent way to build work experience and make a positive impact on the world around you.

Lancaster University Careers Service

The University Careers Service has connections with some of the world’s top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across every sector, and organises careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year. You can be matched with an employer or a previous graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in a range of workshops such as writing a brilliant CV, developing a LinkedIn profile or succeeding at psychometric testing. We have a vast range of online resources as well as an exclusive job search portal. With this array of options it can be confusing to know where to start, but our team of friendly, experienced careers professionals are always on hand to help and advise.

Find out more:
lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Heritage placements

These credit-bearing work placements can be undertaken in Year 2 as part of the optional module ‘From Education to Employment’. Find out more on page 8 of this booklet.

Faculty internships

These are typically 4-6 week internships that are available in the summer vacation or on a part-time basis during term time. They provide work experience in small and medium sized businesses as well as third sector and not-for-profit organisations. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects.

School volunteering placements

Through Lancaster University Students’ Union you can volunteer for roles in local schools, such as a classroom assistant or reading buddy. There are also roles on campus such as organising activity days for school groups.

Placement year degrees

These entail adding a year of paid, professional work experience between your second and final year of study. Lancaster University students have worked with companies as diverse as Johnson + Johnson, Warner Bros, Microsoft, Marks & Spencer, and Walt Disney. Typically placements are for between 9-12 months. Find out more at:
lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

#1

for History graduate careers

Guardian University Guide 2020

After you graduate

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

• Museums and Heritage
• Teaching
• Local Government
• Law
• Retail Management
• Human Resource Management

Postgraduate study

Many of our graduates choose to continue their studies with postgraduate qualifications, including:

• MA History, Modern History, or Medieval History
• MA Museum Studies
• MSc Information Management and Preservation
• PGCE in Primary or Secondary Education

I look back on my time at Lancaster with fondness and appreciation, three golden years of precious knowledge, changing perspectives, new experiences and new people. From lecture to lecture, I journeyed from revolutionary Haiti, to partition India, from post-war America to the icy terrains of Siberia (to name but a few!). My History BA gifted me a toolkit of opportunities and skills. The research and analysis skills fundamental to the degree are essential in my work as a teacher. The ‘cultural capital’ I gained through my degree plays an active role in enriching my students’ general world view and, on a more specialist level, in applying an historicist approach to literature. Furthermore, the presentation, social and leadership skills I developed throughout my time at Lancaster have enabled me to be an effective classroom practitioner, an effective member of the school community, and also an effective member of a wider educational network. Most importantly, my degree taught me the invaluable skill of critical thinking. It is my ardent goal to share this with my students and encourage them to question everything.

Hayley Mars,
Teacher, graduated 2016

A career for Hayley

Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)
• MA Journalism
• MA Corporate Communications, Marketing and Public Relations
• MA Social Work

The University makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing (June 2019). Please see lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice for further information.