Welcome

Our vibrant and highly rated History Department offers a wide variety of modules, ranging from ancient to modern history, encompassing the histories of Britain, Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. Our teaching is informed by internationally recognised research, embracing social, political, military, religious, cultural, intellectual and environmental history. We are also renowned for being a world-leading centre of excellence in the history of War and Diplomacy and in the increasingly important field of Digital Humanities.

Studying with us, you will have the flexibility to select modules that fascinate you and tailor your degree to your own individual interests. We will support you in developing strong, transferable research skills throughout your degree, preparing you for final year projects involving intensive primary research. The skills with which we will equip you will help you stand out in an increasingly competitive job market.

We are ranked in the top 20 History Departments in the UK both overall and for graduate prospects in the Guardian University Guide 2022, and the value of our research for local communities and for the heritage sector, both nationally and internationally, has been rated especially highly in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.

Our achievements in these areas complement our wider commitment to yielding real-world benefits both through our research and through the professional development opportunities we provide our students. Our Department’s Regional Heritage Centre supports a programme of professional placements that provides you with opportunities to gain valuable work experience with organisations such as The National Trust as well as with regional archives and museums.

We pride ourselves on the strong sense of community in our friendly department. Our active student society organises a fun and exciting variety of social and course-related activities throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy learning more about History at Lancaster.
History at Lancaster

Choose your own adventure

Our programmes combine core and optional modules that give you the skills and knowledge you need to develop your persona as a historian while also allowing you to be guided by your own passions and interest – whether that means specialising in a specific historical period or topic or diversifying your studies across a range of different periods or topics.

Just the right size

Our department is a closely knit and supportive community, where you get to know your lecturers and tutors, whose expertise spans from the history of the ancient world to the history of the near present.

Exciting modules

We offer a wide range of modules that explore British, European, African, American, Asian and Middle Eastern history, from the ancient world to the twenty-first century. This includes innovative transhistorical modules such as 'Inventing Human Rights, 1776–2001' and 'A Global History of the Mind, 1000–2020'.

History on your doorstep

From Lancaster Castle to the Lake District, our department is based in a region that's full of sites of historical interest and importance, and our connections with regional museums and heritage institutions provide you with opportunities to explore careers in history and heritage while completing your degree.

Top 20
in the UK for History
Complete University Guide 2023

Top 10
in the UK for Student Satisfaction with Teaching
Guardian University Guide 2022

When I reflect upon why I chose to study History at Lancaster, numerous reasons come to mind.

The highly regarded Department, as well as Lancaster being enriched with its own compelling history, drew me towards studying here. Attending a History Summer School during my time at Sixth Form further confirmed that Lancaster was the place I wanted to be.

The endless amount of support you receive at Lancaster, from your college, the caring and dedicated members of the History Department, and various institutions such as the student support service ASK, ensures that you immediately feel a valued member of the University community.

Anna Drury
BA (Hons) History, Year 3

100% of students said our course is intellectually stimulating.
National Student Survey 2021
Degrees and entry requirements

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<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Degree length</th>
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Teaching and assessment

- Our teaching takes place in lectures, group seminars and workshops.
- Lectures introduce important 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. Coursework includes essays and primary source analyses, as well as innovative assessments, such as creating podcasts and multimedia presentations.

Daisy’s first year

One of my favourite aspects of the core, first year module was being able to explore areas of history that I had not been taught during school. In particular, one of my favourite lectures was about the fall of the Aztec Empire. I also chose to take a module called ‘Witches, Warriors and Slavers: Exploring the History of Lancaster’ in my first term, and a module called ‘Reform, Rebellion and Reason: Britain, 1500-1800’ in my second term.

I found both of these modules really interesting, and I particularly enjoyed going on a trip to the castle in Lancaster as part of the first module, as it was great to be able to see some of the things we had been looking at in our lectures.

Daisy Lodge
BA (Hons) History, Year 3
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 sponsors 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 provide insight into the different careers that exist in the heritage sector and the type of work that such roles involve.

Placement providers include:

+ The National Trust
+ Lancaster City Museum
+ Greater Manchester Police Museum
+ Harris Museum, Art Gallery & Library, Preston
+ Keswick Museum
+ Lancashire Archives, Preston
+ Cumbria Archives Service
+ Lancashire Infantry Museum, Preston
+ Judges’ Lodgings Museum, Lancaster
+ Tullie House Museum, Carlisle

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 the above placement providers are given as a guide only as our partnerships can vary each year. Whilst 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 in which you apply to undertake a year-long, professional placement. Find out more on page 22.

I completed my heritage work placement at the Whitehaven Archives and Local Studies Centre over the Easter holidays. It was an amazing experience to have during my time at university.

It’s great that the History Department offers a short term work placement module for those who would like to gain experience whilst doing their studies, but don’t want to take a complete year out on a placement year degree.

Not only was it useful for my CV, as previous volunteering in the field is expected, it also allowed me to begin making connections within the sector, and gain more confidence in handling and cataloguing artefacts and documents. I would highly recommend any history students coming to Lancaster to look out for the History placement module in their second year.

Ana Garin
BA (Hons) History, Year 3
Freie University offered a varied course with a lot of opportunity to choose modules from outside of History - this was definitely my favourite part of the experience. I studied a wide variety of content, from the presentation of Medieval History on screen, to German Politics from the country’s origin to the present date. Getting to travel around Berlin was also fantastic; the University’s ID card doubled as a free travel card, so I was able to spend days that I wasn’t in class experiencing all that Berlin had to offer.

The most valuable thing that study abroad contributed to my degree was a broadening of my horizons. Studying in an entirely different academic setting allowed me to experience new ways to write about history. It was certainly challenging in places, but I think it equipped me for the difficulties of third year... as well as giving me friendships and experiences that I wouldn’t have had otherwise!

Harvey Soteriou
BA (Hons) History (Study Abroad), Final year
You can choose additional optional History modules from the list to the left.

OR

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in History. We will provide a list of minor module options prior to starting your studies at Lancaster along with information on how to register for your preferred choice.

Year 2

CORE
- Making History: Contexts, Sources and Publics
- Writing History: Questions, Methods, Conclusions

OPTIONAL MODULES

You can tailor your degree to your interests by selecting from the wide range of optional modules available (see page 14 for an indicative list). You may wish to choose the credit-bearing heritage placement module. Read more about this on page 8.

OR

MINOR MODULE

Year 3

CORE
- Dissertation
- Special Subject

OPTIONAL MODULES

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- to 10,000-word study on a historical topic that fascinates you.

You will select one Special Subject and undertake intensive, primary-source based research. During small-group seminars throughout the year, you will work under the guidance of an expert historian to hone your skills by investigating primary sources and exploring the topic and its debates. See page 15 for indicative options.

You may choose to continue the minor subject you studied in Year 1.

Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information. www.lancaster.ac.uk
Optional **modules**  
(Years 2 and 3)

**Ancient and Medieval History**
- Byzantine and Muslim Sicily, 535-1072
- Crusade and Jihad: Holy War in the Middle East, 1095-1264
- The Making of Germany, 1066-1154: Conquest, Colonisation and Conflict
- On the Edge of Empire: Being Roman in Britain
- The Origins and Rise of Islam, 600-1250
- The Roman Empire: Society and Culture in the Mediterranean and Beyond
- Slavery & Freedom: North America, 1620-1800

**Early Modern History**
- Culture and Society in England, 1500–1750
- The English Civil War, 1640–1660
- Europe and the World, 1450–1650: Bodies, Cultures and Environments
- Making Modern Britain, c. 1660-1720
- Slavery & Freedom: North America, 1620-1800
- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1500–1865
- Virginia, 1585–1685: Adventure, War and Tobacco in the First American Colony

**Modern History and Historical Methods**
- A Global History of the Mind 1000–2020
- Between Two Worlds: Russian History 1825–1914
- Britain in the Twentieth Century
- The Cold War in Europe
- Contested Grounds: Colonialism, Heritage and the History of Protected Landscapes
- From Truman to Reagan: US Foreign Policy and the Presidency, 1945-1989
- Gandhi and the End of Empire in India, 1885–1948
- The History of the United States, 1789–1865
- The History of the United States, 1865–1989
- Inventing Human Rights, 1776–2001
- Partisans and Collaborators: World War II in Occupied Europe
- The Quagmire: The Vietnam War in US History and Culture, 1964–1975
- Restless Nation: Germany in the 20th Century
- Sex, Satire and British Society, 1660–1901
- The Normans in Italy, 1050-1194
- Paradise Lost: Colonisation and the Jamaican Environment, 1655–1838
- Poverty in England, c.1580–1780
- The Quagmire: The Vietnam War in US History and Culture, 1964–1975
- Restless Nation: Germany in the 20th Century
- Sex, Satire and British Society, 1660–1901
- The Normans in Italy, 1050-1194
- Paradise Lost: Colonisation and the Jamaican Environment, 1655–1838
- Poverty in England, c.1580–1780
- The Wartime Gender Contract & the Combat Taboo in 20th-century Britain

**Placement and Employability**
- From Education to Employment: History Work Placement Module

**Special subjects**  
(Year 3)

- Advertising and Consumerism in Britain, 1853–1960
- American Carnage: The United States in the Age of Polarisation, 1960–Present
- Anarchy and Society in the Caribbean, c.1620-c.1720
- ‘A World Full of Gods’: Lived Religion in the Roman Empire
- Battles of World War Two: Resistance and the Holocaust
- ‘Dangerous Thoughts’: Soviet Dissent, Human Rights and the Cold War
- The East India Company: Merchant State, 1600-1857
- Fake News or Fact? Ballads and News Culture in Early Modern England
- Fascism, Revolution and War in Spain: The Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939
- From Balfour to Brexit: Britain as a Great Power since 1914
- From Rebellion to Revolution: The War for the Throne, 1199-1265
- Gender Identities in the People’s War: Experiences, Representations and Memories
- The Normans in Italy, 1050-1194
- Paradise Lost: Colonisation and the Jamaican Environment, 1655–1838
- Poverty in England, c.1580–1780
- Vikings and Sea-Kings: Power and Plunder in the Irish Sea Region, 794-1079

- Analysing historical manuscript sources in the University Library’s Special Collections.
BA (Hons) Medieval
and Early Modern Studies

Our Medieval and Early Modern Studies degree allows you to study the political, cultural, military, religious, social and scientific history and literature of the period. This draws upon the expertise of leading History and English Literature academics, who will teach you throughout your degree.

**Year 1**

**Core**
- From Ancient to Modern: History and Historians

**Options**
- Reform, Rebellion and Reason: Britain, 1500-1800
- The Fall of Rome
- ‘Witches’, Warriors and Slavers: Exploring the History of Lancaster

**Minor module**
Options may include languages, English literature, philosophy or politics, subject to timetabling and other restrictions.

**Year 2**

**Core**
- Making History: Contexts, Sources and Publics
- Writing History: Questions, Methods, Conclusions

**Options**
- Byzantine and Muslim Sicily, 535-1072
- Crusade and Jihad: Holy War in the Middle East, 1095-1254
- Europe and the World, 1450-1650: Bodies, Cultures and Environments
- Late Medieval to Early Modern Literature
- Making Modern Britain, c. 1660 – 1720
- Norman England, 1066-1154: Conquest, Colonisation and Conflict
- On the Edge of Empire: Being Roman in Britain
- Sex, Satire and British Society, 1660–1901
- Slavery & Freedom: North America, 1620–1800
- The Making of Germany, 843-1122
- The Origins and Rise of Islam, 600–1250 AD
- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1500–1865
- Virginia, 1585–1685: Adventure, War and Tobacco in the First American Colony

**Year 3**

**Core**
- Dissertation
- Special Subject

**Options**
- Anarchy and Society in the Caribbean, c.1620–c.1720
- ‘A World Full of Gods’: Lived Religion in the Roman Empire
- The East India Company: Merchant State, 1600-1857
- From Rebellion to Revolution: The War for the Thrones, 1199-1266
- The Normans in Italy, 1050-1194
- Paradise Lost: Colonisation and the Jamaican Environment, 1655–1838
- Poverty in England, c. 1580–1780
- Premoder Gothic
- Public and Private Performances of Self in Medieval Literature and Drama
- Shakespeare

If you wish to take more than 30 credits in English Literature modules in Years 2 and 3, it is compulsory to choose English Literature as a minor module in Year 1. English Literature as a minor module in Year 1 requires B at A level (or equivalent) in English Literature or English Language and Literature.

As a student who came to university with a passion for all periods of history, the broad range of modules at Lancaster appealed to me. Some of the modules I have most enjoyed were from wildly differing periods – from culture and society in the Roman Empire to gender and warfare in 20th-century Britain.

**Meet Thomas**

Thomas Side
BA (Hons) History, Year 3

During my second year, I realised that 20th- and 21st-century European and American history was where I wished to focus my studies. As my dissertation focuses on contemporary American history, I chose final year modules which were positioned in Europe, allowing me to cover a broad range of topics. I have chosen modules on Britain in the 20th century, Europe during the Cold War and a Special Subject on the Spanish Civil War.
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 day-trips have included Lincoln, where students visited the medieval cathedral and the City’s original copy of Magna Carta, and we have also taken trip to castles in North Wales built by Edward I. Closer to home, trips could include 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 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, LUSH is a fun way for you and your friends to engage with history outside the lecture hall or library. With regular socials, nights out, pub quizzes, movie nights and themed parties, we really do have something for everyone!

@LUSocofHistory

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: www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award

history.society@lancaster.ac.uk

– History students enjoying the winter ice skating rink in Dalton Square, Lancaster.
I am an expert in the archaeology and history of early colonial Mesoamerica, and I am also co-director of the University’s Digital Humanities Centre. In two of my recent projects, ‘Digging into Early Colonial Mexico’ and ‘Unlocking the Colonial Archive’, I have led a team of computer scientists, archaeologists, geographers, and linguists in an exploration of the Spanish ‘conquest’ of what we now know as Mexico during the sixteenth century. I am especially interested in this period because it witnessed the contact of two very different civilisations and worldviews. In my work, I have used digital technologies to reveal how the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica both adopted and challenged western conceptions and technologies, forming new understandings of space and creating new discourses that are alive still today.

Meet our staff

Dr Nicholas Radburn
Lecturer in the History of the Atlantic World 1500–1800

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 have 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 have developed 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.

Dr Sophie Thérèse Ambler
Reader in Later Medieval British and European History

My main interests lie in political ethics and war in the later Middle Ages. Much of my research has revolved around a central question: what could people do when they were fed up with their government? In particular I have explored the period from the first issue of Magna Carta in 1215 and the ensuing rebellion to the revolution of 1258-65, when a party led by Simon de Montfort seized control of government, investigating the arguments made for and against radical action and the influence of the crusading movement on political and military culture. My new research focuses on low status combatants in this period, exploring the experiences of soldiers as well as the shifting patterns of thought concerned with their roles and responsibilities in conflict. My teaching draws from this research and my wider interests, from rebellion and revolution in thirteenth-century Europe to the crusading movement, and warfare across the medieval world.

Professor Patricia Murrieta-Flores
Professor in Digital Humanities

I am an expert in the archaeology and history of early colonial Mesoamerica, and I am also co-director of the University’s Digital Humanities Centre. In two of my recent projects, ‘Digging into Early Colonial Mexico’ and ‘Unlocking the Colonial Archive’, I have led a team of computer scientists, archaeologists, geographers, and linguists in an exploration of the Spanish ‘conquest’ of what we now know as Mexico during the sixteenth century. I am especially interested in this period because it witnessed the contact of two very different civilisations and worldviews. In my work, I have used digital technologies to reveal how the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica both adopted and challenged western conceptions and technologies, forming new understandings of space and creating new discourses that are alive still today.
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. You can take modules with integrated work experience, such as the heritage placement or schools volunteering modules. You can also apply to our Faculty Internship Scheme which runs paid internships in relevant sectors. Past employers have included the National Trust and Carnegie Publishing with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects.

Placement year degrees

With most of our degrees you can apply for a placement year, where you apply to spend Year 3 working in a professional paid role in a sector of your choice. Securing a placement is a competitive process, so we support you throughout your second year. Find more at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

Lancaster University Careers Service

Our Careers Service has connections with top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across every sector, and organises careers fairs, workshops and networking opportunities. You can be matched with an employer or a graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in workshops such as writing a 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. Our team of friendly, experienced careers professionals are always on hand to help and advise. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

After you graduate

Our graduates go on to a wide variety of successful careers, including:
- Education
- Museums and Heritage
- Local Government
- Law
- Retail Management
- Human Resource Management
- Banking
- Insurance
- Data
- University Administration

Many of our graduates also choose to continue their studies with specialist postgraduate qualifications.

Important information

This information is subject to change. Students are advised to consult the University’s website for further details. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

Top 20

18th in the UK for History graduate prospects

Guardian University Guide 2022