Study Abroad Handbook for Postgraduate students
Department of History

How to Apply

Grade requirement:
You are expected to have a GPA of 3.0, a credit or grade B average or equivalent in a related degree.

English requirements:
If you are a non-native English language speaker, you will need to submit your most recent Secure English Language Test (SELT) certificate equivalent to IELTS 6.5 (with at least 6.0 in each element). This is usually a B2-C1 CEFR.

Students who have IELTS 6.0 (with at least 5.5 in each element) or Pearson PTE Academic 55 overall (with at least 51 in each element) can opt to take part in the 4 week English for Academic Purposes course instead of retaking their tests.

If you are an Erasmus+ student and you hold EU/EEA/Swiss citizenship, who has not taken a formal language test, please provide a letter from your home institution confirming that you meet our English Language Requirements (B2 - C1 based on the CEFR). Please note that we may need to adjust the requirements depending on the Brexit outcome and immigration regulations after it.

You can study at Lancaster for:
- Michaelmas term (October - December)
- Lent term (January - March)
- Michaelmas & Lent term (October – March)

You are required to take 20 - 30 ECTS credits per term.

Although we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of information about modules, there may be some unavoidable changes. At the stage of the application, you are only completing a provisional study plan and it will only be confirmed when you arrive in Lancaster. We recommend you to have a strong list of back-up options in case you need to make changes to your provisional study plan.

Please note that you can change your mind if you need to and switch modules during your first week at Lancaster.

Modules available to Erasmus+ students

**HIST401: Researching and Writing History**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits

**Term taught:** Michaelmas Term only or Michaelmas and Lent Terms Only

**Pre-requisites:**
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

**Module description**
Alongside having a passion for the past, researching and writing a quality piece of history requires close engagement with the historian’s craft. What does good history look like? How can we be sure we are at the cutting edge of our discipline? What does it mean to write well?

In this core module, you will be guided through the process of conducting advanced historical research, reflecting upon the skills that you have and how they can be applied to extended pieces of research. Spanning both Michaelmas and Lent term, this module will take you from an introduction to postgraduate study through to laying the foundations for your dissertation, developing your understanding of the discipline of history, and your identity as an historian. The module culminates with a conference at the end of the Lent term, where you will present your work to peers and members of academic staff, receiving feedback to develop your own and the opportunity to help your peers develop their projects.

**Assessment proportions**

This module will be assessed by a portfolio of work developed throughout the course, including a feasibility study.

**HIST477: Creative Voices: History and Fiction**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits  
**Term taught:** Michaelmas Term Only  
**Pre-requisites:**  
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline  
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

**Module description**

What is the relationship between historical writing and creative writing, fiction and nonfiction and the entire spectrum of writing that that encompasses? What are the limits on creativity created by source materials or gaps in source materials? What are the respective responsibilities of author and reader? This course explores those questions in the liminal space between historical and creative writing. By examining four areas - the individual; space and time; gaps; and textual intervention and negotiation by author and reader - you will be encouraged to think about the nature of writing across disciplines, your own creative voice and choices, and your relationship to your reader.

Through fortnightly case studies and one film-showing, you will consider extensive examples of how individual authors have chosen to meet the challenges of their subject matter, and be encouraged to explore the implications of this for your own writing.

**Recommended Reading**

- Laurence Binet, HHhH (2012)  
- John Clive, Not by Fact Alone: Essays on the Writing and Reading of History (1947)  

**Assessment proportions**

Portfolio: 5000W (100%) (consisting of variations on a theme, and reflection)

**HIST492: Historical Research Project**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits  
**Term taught:** Michaelmas and Lent Terms Only  
**Pre-requisites:**
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This is available only by agreement with the department’s study abroad advisor
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
This module exists to accommodate a student’s particular research project in consultation with a member of the history department staff as supervisor. Only students with a clear idea of a particular research project they wish to employ should consider this option.

Assessment proportions
Project, equivalent to 5000 words (100%)

HIST491: Outreach, Heritage and Public History Placement

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits
Term taught: Michaelmas and Lent Terms Only
Pre-requisites:
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- Only available to students with a UK or EU passport or on a Tier 4 visa
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
This module offers you the chance to benefit from the Department’s established and expanding network of heritage partners by completing a professional placement. Our previous placement partners have included a number of notable organisations, such as the Duchy of Lancaster, Hoghton Tower, the Museum of Lancashire, the National Trust, the North Craven Trust, and the Senhouse Museum Trust. The placement is centred on a specific project, which is agreed between the Department and the partner organisation, and completed under the supervision of that organisation. The work undertaken as part of the placement project can take a variety of different forms, ranging from cataloguing objects to assisting in arrangement for exhibitions to undertaking research work on a corpus of visual, audio or textual sources.

The placement offers the opportunity to apply historical skills to public outreach and heritage work as well as develop transferable skills and enhance employability. Creative interaction with a client will widen students’ awareness of employment opportunities for those with History qualifications, and will help to prepare students for newly emerging work and employment patterns. Depending on the nature of the placement, supervision will be provided within the department, by the module convenor or another member of staff, and by the placement partner. The department supervisor will also provide guidance on achieving a balance between satisfying the needs of the client and meeting the academic requirements.

Assessment proportions
The assessment for the module comprises a portfolio of work relating the placement and a (1,000-2,000 word) reflective essay.

HIST421: Beyond the Text: Image, Sound and Object as Historical Evidence

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits
Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only
Pre-requisites:
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
In this module, you will examine historical approaches to a variety of sources, from the visual (or audio visual), to the aural, oral and artefactual. Whatever period you are studying, you will be able to investigate material relevant to your own research: in the past, the module has covered the gamut from ancient Rome to the modern day, and the sources you investigate will be tailored to suit the specialisms of your cohort. Over the course of the module you will deepen your familiarity with the range of sources available, and be able to analyse how non-traditional sources have been approached by historians. The knowledge and skills you learn will provide insights into how you can approach such sources within your own research; indeed, you will have the opportunity to pursue a coursework topic that relates to your chosen area of historical investigation.

Recommended Reading

Assessment proportions
Essay (5,000 words)

HIST426: Using Digital Texts as Historical Resources

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits
Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
Despite huge advances in digital technologies, many of the approaches historian use remain rooted in the analogue age. Perhaps the only major change that computers have led to among historians to date is the use of major digitised archives, such as Early English Books Online, Old Bailey Online or the British Newspaper Archive. Even with these, many historians simply use these to search and browse, never making use of their full potential or able to critique the digitised sources effectively. In the first part of this course you will look at how paper sources are digitised and encoded to create digital historical resources. This will enable you to understand how digital sources are created, and encourage you to think critically about their benefits and limitations The second part the course explores how digitised historical sources can be explored and analysed in more sophisticated ways. Corpus linguistics enables us identify and summarise themes of interest from millions or billions of words of text in ways that go far beyond simply keyword searches. It also helps the historian decide which parts of a large body of text require further research and which do not.
You do not need any prior knowledge of computing beyond the basics all history students will have. We will draw on examples from a wide range of topics from the early modern to modern British. You will also have the opportunity to use the techniques and approaches learnt with their own sources.

Recommended Reading
Hitchcock T. (2013) “Confronting the digital: or how academic history writing lost the plot” Cultural and Social History, 10, pp.9-23


Assessment proportions
- One essay, 1,500 or equivalent for the first piece (30%)
- 2,500 for one practical exercise (70%)

HIST428: Early Modern World

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits
Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only
Pre-requisites:
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
The world between around 1450 and 1750 was highly distinctive. It covers seismic shifts in thinking which are particular to the early-modern period, and has given rise to particular ways of seeing and thinking about the period and its evidence. Unlocking the keys to the distinctive issues and sources open up exciting fields of study. You will therefore look at the period using case-studies and examples which, as far as possible, will be tailored to aid the interests of each year’s cohort of students. Examples of themes and events particular to the period would be the explosion of print culture and the corresponding rise in literacy and education; the fragmentation of Western Christendom and whether there developed distinctive Protestant and Catholic mentalities; the rise of a middling sort, the commercial world and the birth of a consumer society (the first British newspaper advertisement was for whiter teeth); new types of warfare and fields of conflict which devastated civilian populations and produced autocratic and military states; colonial expansion, imperialism and the suppression of civilisations and cultures; scientific, medical and technological innovation and the so-called rise of reason. The period is one which offers a wealth of possibilities for study: to reassess hackneyed topics, to explore new ground and supply you with the tools and the confidence with which to do so. You will explore the particularities of early-modern history and use local examples – with the possibility of on-site visits – to give you a richer, fuller and more rounded view of the fascinating early-modern world.

Recommended Reading
- Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E., Christianity and Sexuality in the early-modern World: Regulating Desire, Reforming Practice (London: Routledge, 2000).
**Assessment proportions**
Essay (5,000 words)

**HIST424: Medieval Primary Sources: Genre, Rhetoric and Transmission**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits  
**Term taught:** Lent Term Only  
**Pre-requisites:**
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline  
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

**Module description**
Designed for students taking the medieval pathway, this module examines both manuscript studies and the decoding of medieval sources in their original and printed forms. Using relatively straightforward examples, the palaeographical strand provides an introduction to the principles involved in deciphering scripts while the ‘genre-focused’ strand considers a range of types of source—some that you will almost inevitably encounter in your research (e.g. charters, letters and chronicles) and some that you might not have considered, but which offer much for the medieval historian (e.g. poems and miscellanies). Indeed, one of the main aims of the course is to alert students to the significance of book history and manuscript studies—to the importance of attending to manuscript evidence and what it can tell us about the production, transmission and reception of a medieval source.

The course is taught by means of a weekly two-hour seminar, which will include both substantive discussion of a topic or genre of source and a workshop element, for which some preparation, partly in the form of a weekly ‘palaeography exercise’, is expected.

**Recommended Reading**
- Clanchy, M. T., From Memory to Written Record, England, 1066–1307 (3rd edn, Oxford, 2013)  

**Assessment proportions**
- A brief manuscript description (1000 words, worth 20%)  
- Your three best palaeography exercises (1000 words, 20%)  
- One Essay (2500-3000 words, 60%)  

**HIST429: Spatial Technologies for Humanities Research**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits  
**Term taught:** Lent Term Only  
**Pre-requisites:**
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline  
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

**Module description**
This module covers a range of geospatial technologies which are now available to historians, and is an 
opportunity to gain the practical and critical skills which will allow you to apply them to your own 
research. In doing so, you will also be exposed to many of the ongoing trends and debates within the 
growing field of Digital Humanities. You will be introduced to the ‘spatial turn’ in the humanities, 
identifying its theoretical bases and technical requirements, as well as some of their limitations and 
practical implications. Topics include Spatial Theory and Thinking, Geographical Text Analysis, and 
Geographic Information Systems (GIS). You will explore the most cutting-edge research in the field in a 
number of case studies, and engage with them critically. In addition to this theoretical component, 
you will develop essential capabilities in GIS, including how to find, load, edit, visualise and analyse 
different kinds of data. You will learn how to combine texts and records with contemporary and 
historical cartography, sensor data, and satellite and aerial photography. This will allow you to 
visualize your own data in 2 and 3 dimensions, perform spatial statistical analyses, transform it into 
interactive time lines and visualisations, or produce high quality maps for presentations and 
publications. In doing so, you will acquire an important set of transferable digital skills and build an 
awareness of the opportunities, challenges and limitations of working with this medium.

**Recommended Reading**

- http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/text/34

**Assessment porportions**

- Essay (2000 words, @30%)
- GIS project (GIS files and report of 2,500 words; 70%)

**HIST434: Critical Heritage Studies**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits

**Term taught:** Michaelmas Term Only

**Pre-requisites:**

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
Module description
This module examines the objects and spaces through which history is presented to the public. Its aim is to give you the opportunity to engage with scholarly criticisms of heritage practices and to gain insight into the workings of public institutions. Questions we will explore include: What are the processes through which history becomes heritage? By what means are objects gathered together and arranged in order to present, and preserve, ‘the past’? How are the meanings of these objects controlled and communicated to the public? In thinking through these, and other similar, questions, you will have the chance to consider the means through which ‘the historical temper’ is cultivated in both institutions and public spaces and, in particular, how and why the presentation of the past has changed over time. The module combines seminars with site visits, tours and sessions with heritage professionals.

Recommended Reading
- Rodney Harrison, Heritage: Critical Approaches (Abingdon: Routledge, 2013)
- Robin Ostow (ed.), (Re)Visualizing National History Museums and National Identities in Europe in the New Millennium (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008)
- Timothy J. Dallen, Heritage Cuisines: Traditions, Identities and Tourism (Abingdon: Routledge, 2016)

Assessment Portions
1 x 5,000-word essay on a topic of your selection, agreed with the instructor(s)

HIST442: International Order and Disorder

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits
Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
In this module you will gain a foundation in the history of international relations from the Peace of Westphalia (1648) to the present day, in order to understand the making and evolution of the international system. This systemic approach will be complemented by a focus on political, economic, military, social, and cultural shifts and challenges, as well as on major international political actors. Each session will deal with a specific historical period and a theme or issue of major relevance, and the module will typically cover the following topics and themes: the modern international system from its birth in the mid-17th century until its first implosion during the Napoleonic Wars; the alliance system that emerged following the fall of Napoleon; the world-spanning British Empire; the complex and multi-layered alliance system of German chancellor Otto von Bismarck; the declines of China and Russia and the rise of Japan from the mid-19th to the early 20th century; the diplomatic escalation leading up to the First World War; the experiment of the League of Nations during the interwar period, and the renewed attempt to create an organisation for world peace after the Second World War with the United Nations; the far-sweeping post-war decolonisation process in Asia and Africa; the Cold War;
and the post-Cold War order. By the end of the course you will be equipped to assess whether the modern international system has been marked by order or, rather, disorder.

Outline syllabus
Indicative Module Content:
1. From Westphalia to the Fall of Napoleon
2. The Holy Alliance
3. Pax Britannica?
4. Bismarck’s Tightrope Walk
5. Power Shifts in Asia
6. Diplomatic Breakdown
7. From the League of Nations to the United Nations
8. Decolonisation
9. A World Divided
10. Post-Cold War Disorder

Assessment portions
100% Coursework

HIST443: Warfare in History

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits
Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only
Pre-requisites:
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description
In this module you will gain a foundation in the history of warfare from ancient Greece to the present day, allowing you to understand and gain specific insights into the evolution of and ‘revolutions’ in military affairs. Within this longue durée approach, you will be equipped to question how warfare has been affected by political, economic, social, technological, and cultural factors, as well as influential military figures, thinkers, and powers. Each session will deal with a specific historical period and a theme or issue of major relevance, and the module will typically cover the following topics and themes: warfare in ancient Greece through the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars; the rise of Rome as the dominating Mediterranean power in the Punic Wars; early medieval forms of warfare such as that of the Vikings; knights and soldiers in the High Middle Ages; the series of conflicts that constituted the Hundred Years’ War in the Late Middle Ages; the rise of the fiscal military state in the early modern period; the concept of a nation in arms through the Napoleonic Wars and such 19th century conflicts as the Franco-Prussian War; the idea of total war through the lenses of the First and Second World Wars; the Cold War and nuclear strategy; the ‘hot’ decolonisation wars of the Cold War, and more recent counterinsurgency campaigns like that in Afghanistan.

Outline syllabus
Indicative Module Content:
1. Ancient Greece
2. Ancient Rome
3. Early Middle Ages
4. High Middle Ages
5. Late Middle Ages
6. The Rise of the Fiscal Military State  
7. Nation in Arms  
8. Total War  
9. Cold War  
10. Asymmetric Warfare

Assessment proportions  
100% Coursework

HIST444: Warfare in the Medieval World, 1100 - 1500

ECTS Credits: 10 ECTS credits  
Term taught: Lent Term Only  
Pre-requisites:  
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline  
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module description  
In this module you will explore a crucial period in the history of warfare, from the age of the first crusaders through to the Hundred Years War and War of the Roses, when episodic and carefully managed conflicts gave way to near continual war. ‘Chivalric’ ideals were first established, in order to limit noble bloodshed and protect non-combatants, and then overturned, as in the later thirteenth century the killing of nobles on the battlefield and the systematic and efficient terrorizing of civilian populations became standard strategy. The need to raise and maintain armies for extended periods converged with the rise of the bureaucratic state, leading to the ‘professionalization’ of warfare. Military technology was transformed, with the invention of the trebuchet and then the gun, and new and potent battle tactics were developed, most famously the arrowstorm. You will examine key battles and campaigns – typically including those of Antioch, Damietta, Evesham, Tagliacozzo, Crécy, Nájera, Agincourt, Orléans and Towton – in order to examine the cultures, technologies and strategies of warfare in Christendom 1100-1500, and consider key areas of scholarship: what was the nature of chivalric warfare and how did that change? to what extent were later medieval armies ‘professional’? how can we study the psychology of battle? The module will also equip you to assess and use key sources for warfare in this period, such as eye-witness battle narratives, military ordinances, and battlefield archaeology.

Outline syllabus  
Indicative topics may include:

1. Warfare in the first chivalric age, 1000-1250  
2. Training for war: the tournament  
3. Recruitment  
4. The theory of war  
5. Warfare in the second chivalric age, 1250-1500  
6. The development of tactics: the chevauchée and the arrowstorm  
7. The development of technology: siege warfare from the trebuchet to the gun  
8. Battlefield archaeology  
9. Ritual and the psychology of battle  
10. The commemoration of the fallen

Assessment proportions
100% Coursework

**HIST445: From Peter to Putin: Russia as a Great Power**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits  
**Term taught:** Lent Term Only  
**Pre-requisites:**  
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline  
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

**Module description**  
In this module you will explore the ascent of Russia as a great power, examining first how Peter the Great’s desire to open a ‘Window on the West’ helped to lay the foundation for tsarist Russia to become a European great power, and then how nineteenth-century Russia sought to balance its role in European politics with ‘imperial’ expansion to the south and East. You will then explore the role of the USSR in the international political system, before examining how Russia’s contemporary international presence can be understood in terms of both the Soviet and the Tsarist past.

Gaining a broad historic overview of key themes and developments, you will also have the opportunity to study particular events in depth in order to relate them to broader patterns of change (eg Seven Years War, Napoleonic Wars, Crimean War, Russo-Japanese War, First World War, Great Patriotic War; etc).

**Assessment proportions**  
100% Coursework

**HIST447: The Cold War in the Third World**

**ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS credits  
**Term taught:** Lent Term Only  
**Pre-requisites:**  
- Must have completed an undergraduate programme and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in History or related discipline  
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

**Module description**  
The traditional historiography of the Cold War focused predominantly on the two superpowers, i.e. the United States and the Soviet Union, and the European theatre of the conflict. In this module, in contrast, you will gain a different, less Euro- or Western-centric view of the Cold War. Studying the impact of the East-West struggle in the Third World – Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America – you will explore how the course of the Cold War was affected by wars, conflicts, and crises in the Global South. You will learn that the Global Cold War was not only dominated by the two superpowers, but was also heavily influenced by Third World actors and lesser Cold War powers such as the People’s Republic of China.

The study of the Global Cold War is currently the most dynamic field in Cold War History and, probably, even in International and Military History more generally. As a result, you will be able to engage with a vast body of international literature, which is based on multi-lingual and multi-archival research around the world. Meanwhile, you will have the opportunity to analyse a vast array of documents, and carry out primary sources-based research. This is rendered possible by the availability of specific
Cold War History document collections, national collections of diplomatic documents, as well as digital archives and document collections.

Outline syllabus
Indicative Module Content:
1. The Globalization of Cold War History
2. The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Third World
3. The Outbreak: The Korean War
4. Between the Blocs: From Bandung to the Non-Aligned Movement
5. The Cold War Arrives in Africa: The Congo Crisis
6. Escalation in Southeast Asia: The Vietnam War
7. The Arab-Israeli Conflict and the Cold War in the Middle East
8. Chile in the Latin American Cold War
9. The Angolan Civil War and the Demise of Détente
10. Afghanistan and the End of the Cold War

Assessment proportions
100% Coursework