Background: The purpose of this document is to inform policy-making in the Department with respect to all research-related issues. It was drafted by the Director of Research, in consultation with the Research and Innovation Committee, and, following feedback, was approved by the Department Meeting on 14 December 2011. Revised biannually, it was last revised in May 2009.

1. Research Vision

We pursue the broadest range of research and innovation activities, involving undergraduates, postgraduates, and academic staff in a research community of shared endeavour. We conduct research of the highest standards, reflecting critically on all aspects of human society and culture, past, present, and future, and on the process of reflection itself. Our research fields are wide ranging, both chronologically and geographically, with a strong international dimension. Our perspectives are often interdisciplinary, working collaboratively with colleagues from both the University and the wider academic world, and we aim to be at the forefront in developing new perspectives on the past. We are strongly committed to disseminating the results of our research to as wide an audience as possible, creating the cultural capital of the future.

2. Strategic Objectives

2.1 We continue to support outstanding research, whether conducted individually or collaboratively, developing and enhancing the discipline both nationally and internationally.

2.2 All research practitioners in the Department from undergraduate honours level onwards have the opportunity of involvement in the research enterprise, and the
research environment is managed in such a way as to enable this as effectively as possible.

2.3 Postgraduates and academic staff are encouraged to engage with the research of those around them by taking an active interest in and by supporting the research and innovation of colleagues from across the University and beyond.

2.4 The Department has active fora for the dissemination of research findings, and supports opportunities for research practitioners to collaborate on projects of appropriate and varying scope and duration.

2.5 We facilitate research collaboration both within the Department and with partners in the Faculty, University, and beyond, by supporting research clusters, centres, networks and discussion groups.

2.6 We support and sustain a thriving postgraduate research community, recognising the contribution of PGR students to both our research and the wider discipline.

2.7 We conduct our research according to expected ethical standards of the discipline and the University. These mandate that any research involving human participants is subject to a formal ethics review.

2.8 Our research informs our teaching at all levels. We make undergraduates in the Department aware of our research, incorporate the research materials we develop into our teaching, introduce students to research methodologies, and provide them with opportunities to undertake individual research.

2.9 We seek to maximise our share of external research income in the context of the changing climate for research funding.

2.10 We are committed to sharing the results of our research with as a wide a public as possible, as articulated in our Public Engagement strategy. We believe public engagement is a two-way process, and encourage active public participation and feedback.
2.11 We continue to nurture the international context of our research, seeking to increase the visibility of our research and our range of overseas collaborators.

2.12 In identifying fields for new academic appointments, we seek to identify significant emerging themes and approaches within the discipline. Research excellence is a key criterion in all academic appointments.

3. Support for Research

The Department, in conjunction with the Faculty and University, supports the research of academic staff by:

- maintaining a regular research leave programme, with transparent arrangements for applications to undertake periods of research leave
- providing targeted support for research expenses through the Department’s research fund, supplementing funding provided by the Faculty and the Learned Societies Fund, and externally
- assisting colleagues, through Research and Innovation Services, the Faculty and in the Department, in pursuing external funding opportunities
- providing an opportunity for all staff to discuss their research plans in a Research Support Meeting with the Head of Department and Director of Research once a year
- using its library fund for the purchase of research materials, as resources allow
- fostering the research culture of the Department, Faculty and University by holding a regular programme of research seminars and by supporting, as resources allow, other research dissemination events including conferences, workshops, and postgraduate discussion groups
- encouraging public engagement activities (as outlined in our separate Public Engagement Strategy)
providing support for postgraduate research through the maintenance of a substantial PGT programme and provision of expert supervision of PGR research, and by supporting, within the constraints of available resources, postgraduate discussion groups and publications

4. Responsibilities of Academic Staff

The Department of History expects all full-time, permanent academic members of staff to be actively engaged in research. That engagement implies a clearly identified research agenda over the medium term, involving:

- a commitment to researching and publishing in their specialism
- providing a report using the standard format to the Research & Innovation Committee and Faculty following each period of research leave undertaken
- engagement with the research activities of the discipline within the Faculty and University
- playing a part in the wider research community at national and international levels
- contributing to the Department's submission to all national research assessment exercises
- communicating the results of their research to a wider public
- applying for external research funding where appropriate
- identifying potential subjects, appropriate to their research specialism, for postgraduate research supervision, pursuing opportunities for funded studentships, and undertaking research supervision as requested
• a commitment to making all teaching at a minimum research informed, and, wherever possible, research led.

5. Department Research and Innovation Governance

The Department’s Research and Innovation Committee is chaired by the Director of Research. Its members, who, with the exception of the PGR students, are appointed by the Head of Department, include the Department’s Public Engagement and Research Ethics Officers and the convener of the Department’s research seminar. There are two PGR representatives, selected by the postgraduate community. The Committee reports to the Department Executive Board and the Department Meeting on all matters of research policy. It sets policies for the distribution of the Department research fund and it evaluates applications to that fund. It oversees the organisation of the Department’s research seminar, and the publicising of our research on the Department’s web pages.

The Director of Research advises the Head of Department on Research Leave issues and participates in the annual individual research planning meetings. Along with other senior colleagues, s/he provides advice about external funding and offers feedback on drafts of all applications. The Director is a member of the Faculty Research and Innovation Committee and is in regular touch with the Faculty Director of Research.

6. Strategic Priorities 2012-16

6.1 We will facilitate the further development of our research centres and research clusters by reviewing their activities at Research Committee meetings and by offering where possible ‘seed money’ to encourage external funding applications.

6.2 We will seek to diversify the sources of our research grant income, especially to include funding from Europe

6.3 We will seek to maximise the research income we derive from the revised AHRC fellowship scheme and AHRC thematic funding calls by supporting colleagues in the development of research plans which meet the criteria for such schemes. To facilitate
our engagement with the AHRC, staff will participate as much as possible in AHRC activities such as the Peer Review College.

6.4 In light of the reduced number of research fellowships available, we will explore new methods of arranging workloads and research leave in order provide sufficient time for undertaking major research projects.

6.5 Working with the Humanities Research Institute, we will explore new possibilities for using emerging digital technologies both for carrying out research and for disseminating its results.

6.6 We will seek to develop the Department’s seminar programme to include more collaborative, interdisciplinary and thematic events.

6.7 We will further develop our public engagement activities, as set out in our Public Engagement Strategy.

6.8 We will continue to develop research collaborations within the Faculty, University, White Rose Partnership, and beyond. In addition, where appropriate we will pursue research collaborations with local, regional and national archives and libraries and similar institutions.

6.9 We will develop and refine the Department’s website to highlight our research activities and successes and promote public engagement.

6.10 We will endeavour to maintain PGT and PGR recruitment and funding in light of the new undergraduate tuition fees. We will seek to play a full part in the second phase of the AHRC’s Block Grant Partnership scheme.