Our Postgraduate Courses.
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Why choose Sheffield?

The Department of History at the University of Sheffield is one of the largest, most active and successful centres for teaching and historical research both in the UK and internationally. We offer expert teaching and supervision in a wide range of periods stretching from the ancient world to the present day and extending geographically from Britain to the Middle East and from America to India. Our teaching has been highly rated by both students and external auditors and we combine this with consistently excellent ratings in research. In the latest Research Excellence Framework Exercise (REF) in 2014, we were ranked third in the UK for our world-leading research.

Why choose Sheffield

- 3rd in the UK for our world-leading research (Research Excellent Framework 2014)
- Top in the Russell Group for teaching with a 96% student satisfaction rate (National Student Survey 2015)
- 97% of our students think staff are good at explaining their subjects through their teaching (NSS 2015)
- Top 3 in the UK for facilities and accommodation (Times Higher 2016)
- Extensive Special Collections with a wide range of research materials
- Best Students’ Union (Times Higher 2016)
- Top 3 Russell Group university for small group tuition (Times Higher 2016)
- One of the top universities students would recommend to a friend (Times Higher 2016)
- Ranked in the world's top 100 history departments (QS World University Ranking 2016)

History at a glance

We value excellence in both teaching and research, ensuring we use the most up-to-date digital resources.

- Innovative and intellectually stimulating, research-led teaching from world-renowned academics
- Flexible degree structure
- Excellent range of modules covering a wide variety of periods, locations, themes and approaches
- Career-focused modules designed to enhance your skills in areas like public history and historical writing
- Our graduates are successful both in further study and a wide range of careers from lecturing and working in the museum, tourism or heritage industry to business management and marketing
- Dedicated MA for PhD preparation
- Specialist supervision in a wide range of research areas
- A thriving research community. We offer our students a wide range of research activities and events. Our students also run a postgraduate forum and organise regular discussion groups
First-class facilities

Libraries
Our award-winning Information Commons sets a new standard for libraries. It combines library facilities with study spaces and IT resources. It’s open 24 hours a day, has full wireless access, over 1300 study spaces, 500 PCs and a cafe. And with over 100,000 of the most in-demand books, you won’t be short of inspiration.

We have two other main library sites on campus: Western Bank Library and the brand new Information Commons in the Diamond. Together, it means access to over 1.5 million books and journals and over 3000 study spaces including space for silent study and group work.

The Western Bank Library is the main library for research students and houses a number of outstanding bodies of research materials. These include several collections on modern British History, such as the wide-ranging holdings on fascism and anti-fascism, and the National Fairground Archive covering many aspects of popular entertainment. The Professor Sir Ian Kershaw and William Carr collections provide extensive materials on German history, and the library also has substantial microfilm holdings covering areas of US and European history. The Library contains complete runs of medieval sourcebooks in nineteenth-century editions, as well as the papers of Samuel Hartlib, the seventeenth century educationalist and natural philosopher. This is just a sample so visit the Library’s Special Collections web pages for more information:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/special

The library also runs a regular free minibus service to Boston Spa’s British Library Document Supply Centre allowing you easy access to their extensive collections.

Computer access
There are over nearly 2000 computers available to students across the University, located both in the libraries and in dedicated computer rooms. The whole campus including University accommodation also has full wireless access.

The Computing Services department also offers additional support and services including access to software for use on your own computer; equipment loans; and training courses.

Dainton Graduate Research Centre
The Graduate Research Centre offers additional dedicated and bookable workspace for PhD students. Open 7 days a week 8am to midnight, the centre offers flexible work space, a bookable seminar room and social space.
Sheffield life

Sheffield is England’s fourth largest city and home to over 45,000 students. Come to study with us and you’re not just choosing a top department in one of the UK’s finest universities but a great student city with loads to do for everyone.

Students’ Union
The Students’ Union is an important part of the student experience no matter what level of study you are at. Consistently voted the best Students’ Union in the UK by students, it has a lot to offer including study space, a cinema, cafes, shops, bars, night clubs as well as vital support services.

Find out more at www.sheffield.ac.uk/union

Sports facilities
The University has just made a significant investment to make sure that its facilities remain top of the range with first-class equipment. Our sports facilities also include floodlit synthetic pitches, swimming pool with sauna and steam rooms, a fitness studio with regular fitness classes, squash courts, a bouldering wall and 45 acres of grass playing fields.

Find out more at www.sport-sheffield.com

Accommodation
University accommodation isn’t just for undergraduates. A diverse range of students including postgraduates and mature students live in our accommodation. There’s accommodation specifically reserved for postgraduates in both of our student villages as well as in the City and Central Campus.

As well as all the other benefits of living in University accommodation, there are a wide range of events and activities that are organised in the residences for postgraduates. These can be a great way to meet new people, try new things and settle into life in Sheffield.

Find out more at www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation

A green friendly city
Being the UK’s greenest city, Sheffield has some stunning landscapes and a warm and friendly, laid-back feel. If you want to walk, cycle, rock climb or just visit a country pub the Peak District National Park is only a short bus ride away. You can also make use of Sheffield’s numerous parks, botanical gardens and indoor rock climbing walls.

A vibrant exciting city
Being green doesn't mean being quiet because there is always something going on in Sheffield.

We have some of the best pubs in Britain and bars offering a variety of music to suit all tastes. Sheffield also has a legendary live music scene with famous bands at the Leadmill or Academy and a great variety of smaller and local bands performing regularly in pubs around the city. And if you want to grab some food while you’re out and about then we have some great independent cafes and fantastic restaurants serving food from all around the world.

Sheffield also has a thriving cultural scene with a variety of excellent museums, galleries, cinemas and theatres, including the award-winning Crucible Theatre.
Our research culture

The Department is a thriving research community and we actively encourage our MA and PhD students to make the most of their time at Sheffield by getting involved in our research activities and events, as well as organising their own through the Postgraduate Forum. This vibrant research culture and postgraduate community helps to disseminate research-led findings and facilitate lively and exhaustive historical debate.

Research areas

Our research interests extend chronologically from the ancient world to contemporary history; geographically from the UK to Western, Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, South and East Asia and the USA; and thematically to include political, economic, social, cultural and intellectual history, with a distinct specialism in the application of digital technologies to historical research.

We have a variety of research clusters that combine several staff and student research interests cutting across the usual chronological and geographical boundaries.

Examples of our research clusters include:

- Cultures of Communication
- Empires and Encounters
- Religion, Ideology and Belief
- Health, Body and Society
- War and Peace
- Material and Consumer Culture

Our research centres and networks see us take that further by working across faculty and University boundaries with staff from all over the world.

Examples of our research centres and networks include:

- Medieval and Ancient Research Centre (MARCUS)
- Sheffield Centre for Early Modern Studies (SCEMS)
- Centre for Contemporary and Modern History (CoMo)
- Cultures of the Cold War Network
- Borders, States and Citizens Network
- White Rose South Asia Network
- Medical Humanities Sheffield (MHS)
- Eighteenth-Century Studies Group

Find out more about our research at

www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/postgraduate/researchculture

Departmental Research Seminars

The department has its own research seminar series, which runs regularly during semester-time and covers a huge range of topics. Seminars usually host an external guest speaker who will present a paper on their current research but can also be based around a roundtable discussion.

Speakers are usually established members of academic staff but there is a reserved spot each semester for one of our own PhD students. This is a great opportunity for students in later stages of their research to gain experience of presenting a full academic paper to a wider audience.

The seminars themselves are open to students at all levels, both MA and PhD, and provide an excellent opportunity to get involved in the department’s research activities and find out more about research that’s being undertaken by staff both in your area of interest and across the discipline more broadly.

Interdisciplinary Research Seminars

Many of our research centres run their own research seminar series:

- Medieval and Ancient Seminar Series
- Sheffield Centre for Early Modern Studies
- Medical Humanities Sheffield

Conference and other research events

In addition to our usual research seminars, many of the research centres, networks and postgraduate discussion groups organise seminars, day conferences or special lectures during the year, often working in conjunction with staff and students across the faculty and wider-University.

Recent events include:

- Indigenous Languages and Cultures: Then and Now
- Conquest 950: A Celebration of the Anniversary of the Norman Conquest
- Digital Humanities Early Career Forum
- Interdisciplinary Visiting Speaker Workshop and Discussion on ‘Material Culture and Emotion’
- Uppsala-Sheffield Early Modern Studies Workshop
- Concepts of Community Conference
- Religious Exemption and the State 400-1300

Find out more about the research seminars and other events happening this year on our events page:

http://history.dept.shef.ac.uk/events
Postgraduate community

Our current students are also very active in helping to create a departmental research community of both MA and PhD students and academic staff. Postgraduate students have their own forum and organise a variety of research and social events throughout the year.

History Postgrad Forum
The forum is run by our current postgraduate students and forms the basis of the postgraduate community within the department.

Taking part in the forum’s activities is a great way to meet other postgraduate students, have your views heard and get involved in the department’s research events. And, if you become part of the Forum Committee, it can also be an excellent way of demonstrating transferable skills when you start looking for employment.

The Open Forum
Open Forum is the postgraduate students’ monthly event, where members of the postgraduate community meet to discuss and organise research activities and social events and also to raise any matters for discussion at the History Department Postgraduate Committee.

Postgraduate Colloquium
The Colloquium is the PhD students’ annual conference, where students and staff are invited to present papers and share the latest insights into their research. Papers are welcome on any topic area so the Colloquium always promises to be an interesting and intellectually engaging event.

It provides an excellent opportunity for PhD students to gain some initial or further experience of giving papers to an academic audience and answering questions on your research.

It is also a great chance for MA students to experience an academic conference and pick up tips ahead of the MA Presentation Day that forms part of the Research Presentation module assessment. See page 9 for more details.

Postgraduate research groups
The forum includes a wide variety of postgraduate research groups where postgraduate students at all levels have the opportunity to work with other students and members of staff to create their own programme of speakers and research events. These events are often speaker-based with research students and staff from Sheffield and elsewhere coming along to discuss their research or can take the form of a less formal roundtable discussion on a particular topic.

Current postgraduate research groups include:
- Researchers in Early and Late Medieval Studies
- The Early Modern Group
- Eighteenth Century Reading Group
- The Gender History Discussion Group
- Sheffield Modern International History Group
- The Modern History Reading Group

Find out more about the research group events happening this year on our website:
http://history.dept.shef.ac.uk/events
What can an MA in history offer you?

Our MA degrees offer an outstanding experience for students who want to pursue an interest in History at an advanced level. We have a variety of options from our PhD preparation Masters, the MA in Historical Research, to our range of thematic MA programmes. Within these you can work with world-leading academics to study history from the ancient word to the modern day with options encompassing the history of Britain and Europe to America and the wider-world.

Designed for your future

All of our MA degrees are carefully designed to allow you to build a programme that suits your needs: whether your aim is to develop a deeper understanding of history; to gain research training in preparation for a PhD degree in history; or to enhance your professional development because you work in a sector where historical knowledge is valuable. Regardless of your ultimate goal and chosen degree, you will have access to high-quality, research-led teaching and training with both intellectual and social value.

A flexible degree to suit your interests

Our MA degrees include several core modules: the Dissertation and Research Presentation modules plus a third core module specific to your degree; these make your degree coherent and help you to develop your historical research skills.

You are then able to choose from a wide range of modules including both research skills and optional modules in your chosen subject area; so that you can design your degree based around your own interests and needs.

Find out more about the modules available on your chosen degree from page 12 onwards.

For more flexibility, all of our MA degrees are also available full-time or part-time. Find out more about part-time study on page 8.

Helping you get started

We have a voluntary mentoring system for all new postgraduates. To help you settle in we can pair you up with an existing history postgraduate, working on a similar period to your own, who you can go to for a chat, advice or help on a range of issues.

Excellent career opportunities

An MA degree in history will further develop the range of transferable skills at your disposal. You will be able to focus on the skills that are most important to you. You can enhance your research skills, develop new skills in public history and digital humanities or learn a language. These kinds of skills are why our graduates are successful in both further study and a wide range of careers.

Find out more on page 18.
Our MA programme

Our MA programmes are all available full-time or part-time and have a flexible structure allowing you to focus on modules that fit your own areas of interest. You will take 180 credits of modules over the duration of your degree including a range of core modules and a choice of research skills and option modules to suit you. You can even choose non-history modules that are relevant to your studies.

Modules
You will take three core modules totalling 105 credits. Your remaining 75 credits will be made up of research skills and option modules. Most of our optional modules are 15 credits each but if you choose to take modules from another department they may vary.

Core modules
• Dissertation
• Research Presentation
• Core module appropriate to your chosen degree

Research skills and option modules
You will choose five modules from our wide range of research skills and option modules.

Find out more about our research skills modules and our range of public history modules, which are available across all of our degree programmes from page 10.

You can see examples of the option modules available on your chosen degree programme from page 12 onwards.

You can also view a full overview of the structure for your degree programme on our website. Select the programme that you are interested in and click on the content tab.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Modules from outside of the department

Option modules
As part of our MA programmes you are able to choose from a selection of modules from outside of the Department. This includes modules in Archaeology, English Literature and Language and public humanities.

Languages modules
The study of Latin is a research skills option available to our students interested in medieval and early modern history and you can also choose to take other language modules as part of your degree programme where they fit in with your areas of interest.

You can take up to 30 credits of modules from outside of the Department as part of your MA programme and our students have in the past taken modules in Spanish, German, French, Arabic and Russian.

Teaching and assessment
You will probably already have a good idea about how University teaching and assessment works but there may be a few differences:

Teaching
You will mostly be taught through seminars plus workshops or tutorials for certain modules. Your seminars will usually be a little longer, at two hours each, which allows you to go into the topic that you are looking at in more depth.

Seminar group sizes are typically smaller than at undergraduate level with option module sizes ranging from around five to fifteen students.

Assessment
The assessment for our MA programmes is focussed on coursework, helping you to hone your research and writing skills. For most of your modules you will write one essay which will explore the key themes of the module, engaging with current historical debate.

The Research Presentation module is assessed by an oral presentation. See page 9 for more details.

“I did my undergraduate degree in history at Sheffield and really enjoyed the experience, which made it an easy choice to do my Masters here. I decided on Modern History as this was the period I had most enjoyed doing in my Undergrad and had focussed on for my dissertation. I was drawn to the range of different modules offered in the course and particularly excited to get to study new areas such as identity in South East Asia and Activism in Britain.

The thing that I most enjoy about postgraduate study is the freedom that it offers. I am currently writing essays on three topics that I am really interested in and have been able to work with my tutors to develop the ideas and themes of the module in a way that interests me. The course also allows you to control your own time and work in a way that suits you personally.”

Sophie Clark MA/Modern History
Part-time study

All of our MA programmes are available part-time, offering you the flexibility to study at a pace that can fit in with your personal or professional life. If you take the MA programme part-time you will study 180 credits, the same number as a full-time student, but over two years instead of one.

Modules

You will take three core modules totalling 105 credits: 30 credits in year one and 75 credits in year two. Your remaining 75 credits will be made up of research skills and option modules.

You should normally aim to have an even balance of 45 credits in each semester - 90 credits in each year - by taking four research skills and option modules in year one and one in semester one of year two.

We understand that it may not always be possible to follow this model due to individual module preferences and other factors or commitments so flexibility is available i.e. some students choose to take 105 credits in their second year because they are returning to education after a break and would like to take the first year at a slightly slower pace. This also creates a more even spread of taught modules, which can be useful if you need to balance your attendance with working life.

Most of our optional modules are 15 credits each but if you choose to take modules from another department they may vary.

Please note that all teaching takes place between 9am and 6pm. You will want to bear this in mind when thinking about balancing work and other commitments alongside your studies on the part-time MA programme.

Core modules

Year one

• Core module appropriate to your chosen degree

Year two

• Dissertation
• Research Presentation

Research skills and option modules

You will choose five modules from our wide range of research skills and option modules.

It is usually recommended that you take any relevant research skills modules in the first year so that you can benefit from the skills and knowledge that you acquire throughout your whole degree.

Find out more about our research skills modules and our range of public history modules, which are available across all of our degree programmes from page 10.

You can see examples of the option modules available on our individual programmes from page 12 onwards.

You can also view a full overview of the structure for your degree programme on our website. Select the programme that you are interested in and click on the content tab.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Modules from outside of the department

You can choose to take modules from outside of the Department as part of your degree. See page 7 for more details.

Find out more about part-time study on our website:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses/part-time

“I wanted to do an MA but couldn’t find funding, so opted for part-time study. The part-time course is flexible so it is easy to fit around working hours, and the department is very supportive.

What I like most about the course is that it allowed me to balance learning new research skills with gaining practical experience. In my first year I did a work experience placement at a City Learning Centre, and I also designed and produced an exhibit which was displayed in the department’s public Exhibition Space. My second year focused more on research skills, with a course on palaeography, a research presentation, and of course the dissertation.

As a part-time student I was concerned I might feel left out of student life, but this didn’t happen. The department holds open historical discussion groups with both academic staff and students, and there are frequent social events, so it is easy to get involved and meet people. I found Sheffield University friendly and welcoming, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here.”

Jose Cree MA/Early Modern History
Core modules

Dissertation

The dissertation module is an important part of your MA degree and it makes up a third of your programme credits.

It provides you with the opportunity to further develop the skills and methods that you learn during your taught modules and to apply this historical knowledge to your investigation. You will work under the supervision of an expert member of staff to complete an original 15,000-word piece of independent research.

Because you need to start working on your dissertation topic early on in semester one, we would encourage you to begin to research your options before you begin your course – as part of your registration activities, we’ll ask you to submit a broad area of interest for your dissertation in August. You are also welcome to contact staff to discuss your ideas as part of your application process.

Once you start, you will work with your supervisor to narrow the scope of your project and identify an appropriate primary source collection to engage with in your independent historical research.

You will receive individual guidance through tutorials with your supervisor as well as group support through our dissertation workshops. There will also be milestones in place throughout the year to make sure that you are on track with your progress. This will begin with submitting a provisional dissertation title in the middle of semester one and then be followed up by a more in-depth synopsis and an annotated bibliography in semester two. Your project will culminate in the presentation of your findings submitted in early September.

What can I write my dissertation on?

We have academic staff teaching and researching in a wide range of areas spanning from the ancient world to the present day and across the globe from Britain and Europe to America and the wider-world. You can also choose to focus on a variety of themes such as social, political, cultural, religious or medical history.

Some examples of past dissertation topics include:

- Sheffield and the American Civil War 1860-1865
- Quality of Life: The Hopes and Expectations of African-Caribbean Women in the Transition from Slavery to Freedom, 1807-1865
- Elite Female Segregation in the Late Roman West
- Construction and Destruction: Zionist Radio in 1948
- Communicating Death in Seventeenth Century London: Common Medical Language of the Body and Mind
- Feeling the Past: Emotions and the Representation of History in Museums of Crime and Punishment

Research Presentation

In this module you will identify specific research questions and learn what sources and approaches you can use to answer such questions. You will gain the skills and experience that you need to present and communicate a defined research project to an academic audience.

The subject of your presentation will be based around your dissertation topic, so this module will also contribute towards the successful completion of your dissertation.

This module will be completed through the MA Presentation Day which gives you the opportunity to communicate your research findings to an audience made up of both specialist and non-specialist staff and students.

This is a great day that gives you the opportunity to enhance your skills and confidence in self-presentation and experience what it’s like to take part in an academic conference. A really useful skill to have, whether you want to go onto PhD study or into the work place after your degree.
Skills development

These modules enhance the skills and knowledge developed through the core modules, allowing you to focus on the skills that are most relevant to you.

**Research Skills for Historians**
This module will enhance your research skills equipping you to undertake independent investigation in history.

You will focus on identifying and evaluating research materials, furthering your knowledge on resources such as libraries and archives; the use of bibliographies, handling and managing research data, history and its audiences.

The generic research skills that you will learn on this module will help you if you’re looking for employment following your degree and the history-specific skills will help you if you choose to further your studies with a PhD degree.

We particularly recommend this module for students who have been out of education for a number of years or whose first degree isn’t in History.

**Languages**
Please note that all language classes are subject to availability.

**Latin**
Students studying medieval and early modern history will be able to take Latin modules taught by the Modern Languages Teaching Centre. As well as learning to read and understand Latin texts, you will gain and understanding of the influence of Latin on English and Romance languages and the civilisation within which the language and literature that you are studying was produced.

Beginners and post-beginners classes are available depending on your prior knowledge.

**Modern languages**
Depending on your area of specialism, a range of modern language are available through the Modern Languages Teaching Centre. Students have in the past taken modules in Spanish; German; French and Arabic.

Beginners and post-beginners classes are available in most languages depending on your prior knowledge.

**Palaeography**
Available to students studying Early Modern history programmes this module introduces you to the different forms of law hand and secretary hand current in the early modern period including transitional styles and the emergence of italic script.

You will learn the technical skills necessary to undertake primary research using manuscript sources from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and also to undertake editorial work on these kinds of documents.

**Supporting PhD progression**
We offer tailored support for students planning to progress to PhD study following their MA degree.

Each year in the Autumn Semester, there will be workshops to help you prepare for writing funding applications – providing you with guidance on the funding opportunities available at Sheffield, as well as giving you the opportunity to speak to current PhD students who been successful in applying for funding. You will also be encouraged to attend one-on-one sessions with your proposed supervisor.

Together these workshops and supervisory sessions will support you in devising and developing a research project, including identifying appropriate research material. Providing you with advice on how to present the originality, intellectual purpose and research context of your project and also how to frame your approach and rationale for undertaking it.
Public history experience

We have a range of option modules focusing on aspects of public history. These modules are available across all of our degree programmes and are designed specifically to provide you with the opportunity to reflect on the role of history in the public sphere and enable you to develop different kinds of transferable skills and experience. These can be especially valuable for those considering a career in history outside of academia.

Work Placement
The module will give you an insight into the day to day workings of, for example, a museum; heritage site; archive; school or research institute and help you develop history-specific vocational skills. You will gain practical experience of the application of historical skills and knowledge outside of academia and be encouraged to reflect on the challenges involved in disseminating historical knowledge and understanding in a public context.

A range of placements are available each year and some examples of past placements and projects include:

**Historical and Heritage Sites**
- Sheffield Manor Lodge 1940s Living History - An Assessment of the Value of Living History as a Pedagogical Tool within Museums

**Museums and Galleries**
- Bank St Arts Centre - Public History in an Art Gallery: Dissemination and Its Pitfalls

**Schools**
Please note that school projects tend to focus on curriculum and approaches to teaching rather than providing practical teaching experience
- Dobcroft Primary - Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Teaching of ‘Citizenship’ in Primary Schools

**Archives and Libraries**
- National Fairground Archive - Digitalizing the Archive: Potential benefits, risks, difficulties and consequences

**Public History, Community & Industry Engagement**
- Sheffield Theatres - Heritage and Memory: Conflicts within historical research

More examples available on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses/publichistory

History Writers’ Workshop
This module gives you the opportunity to develop your historical writing skills for non-academic audiences.

The focus is on practical work allowing you to prepare drafts of print and online features such as articles for journals, online magazines and blogs; non-fictional prose and scripts for television and radio ahead of submitting your final assessment. You will develop the skills to critically evaluate history-writing in a range of media and to reflect on the differences between academic and other types of history-writing - through considering professional history-writing produced for different audiences and in different media and peer review - and develop your communication and presentation skills for ‘public’ audiences.

Presenting the Past: Making History Public
This module focuses on the interpretation and creation of ‘public history’. It enables you to reflect on the challenges involved in disseminating history outside academia including writing for the ‘public’; sound and vision; and digital history. You will develop critical skills in interrogating public history through analysis of examples as well as communication and presentation skills for non-academic audiences by working as part of a group to develop your own project and create an example of a public history output.

Students have in the past created websites; mobile apps; blogs; twitter feeds; poster displays; films; video and oral interviews; interactive exhibitions often using a combination of these media. Optional workshops will help you to develop the necessary skills in basic web design; multimedia production and editing as well as 3D modelling to enable the creation of virtual exhibitions.

This module may be of particular interest if planning to pursue careers in heritage, museums or education.

Examples of past projects include:
- Living with the Sheffield Circus
- Voices of the Strike
- History is Everywhere
- Then and Now: Music Mad Britain
- Breaking Windows: Riots in Great Britain
- Remembering 84 An Interactive Local History of the Miners’ Strike
- Royalist or Parliamentarian An Exploration of Allegiance in the English Civil War
- Sheffield Manor Lodge 1940s Living History Centre
- Sheffield WW1 & Now
MA in Historical Research

The MA in Historical Research is our PhD preparation masters. It provides excellent preparation for students intending to proceed to PhD degrees in history, providing specific research training as well as helping you to develop a broad range of transferable skills.

The combination of core and optional modules allows to pursue your interests and broaden your field of knowledge while honing the research skills you will need for further study. You will be supported in developing your research proposal and funding applications through non-credit bearing workshops and supervision sessions, allowing you to use your credits to develop necessary skills and focus on modules in your area of historical interest.

Staff

We have over 35 permanent members of academic staff specialising in ancient, medieval, early modern, modern British and European, American and global history and covering a variety of themes such as society and culture, politics, religion, gender, the history of violence and peace research and medical humanities.

Find out more about our staff and their teaching and research interests from page 22.

“Of the various institutions I applied to, Sheffield was by far the most attractive choice. Besides a thriving research community in my desired area of specialism, the department and university as a whole offers a diverse and stimulating study environment in which I felt immediately at home.

The fine balance between research freedom and a structured teaching programme has been the ideal development for my PhD. The fact I have had the chance to pursue my own interests across a variety of projects - public history, group work and individual study - has been an immeasurable help in my development as a budding postgraduate researcher.”

Chris Worrall MA/Historical Research

Modules

Core modules
- Research Presentation
- Dissertation

Choose one from:
- Approaching the Middle Ages
- Early Modernities
- Modernity and Power: Individuals and the State in the Modern World
- Approaches to the American Past
- The World in Connection: Themes in Global History

Research skills and option modules
- Research Skills for Historians
- Directed Reading
- Palaeography
- The Transformation of the Roman World
- Order and Disorder around the year 1000
- The Early Modern Body: Identity, Politics and Embodiment, c1640-1800
- Language and Society in Early Modern England
- Burying the White Gods: Indigenous People in the Early Modern Colonial World
- City Life in Jacksonian America, 1828-1850
- Debating Cultural Imperialism in the Nineteenth-Century British Empire
- Another Country: America and the Problem of Decolonisation
- Prisoners of War in the Twentieth Century
- Cold War Histories
- Sex and Power: The Politics of Women’s Liberation in Modern Britain
- Stories of Activism, 1960 to the present

You can also choose from a range of modules from other departments including modules in archaeology, English and modern languages.

For the full range of modules see our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Please note that option modules may vary from year to year.
MA in Medieval History

Aspects of the medieval past exert a continuing fascination in the popular imagination: medieval castles, abbeys and churches are among the most frequently-visited heritage sites in Britain; exhibitions at museums like the V&A attract huge crowds; and there is a seemingly constant audience for representations of the more blood-thirsty aspects of the medieval past on television.

You will be able to work closely with members of staff whose research interests range widely in time and space, from antiquity to the Renaissance, and across Europe and beyond, and who approach the medieval period from a variety of thematic and methodological perspectives.

Approaching the Middle Ages

The medieval core module will provide you with a grounding in key themes and debates in current medieval research.

Classes will focus on historiographical developments and new methodological approaches to familiar problems, covering topics such as the problems of studying pre-industrial societies, the interpretation of material culture, methods for studying the medieval economy, and the examination of power structures and political culture.

You will also be introduced to technical and methodological problems associated with the effective use and interpretation of pre-modern sources, such as court records, tax records and accounts, chronicles and pamphlets, paintings, drawings and artefacts.

Modules

Core modules
- Research Presentation
- Dissertation
- Approaching the Middle Ages

Research skills and option modules
- Research Skills for Historians
- Latin
- Church, Life, and Law in the Central Middle Ages
- Order and Disorder around the year 1000
- The Dawn of Modernity in the Late Middle Ages
- Crime and Punishment in Late Antiquity
- Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses
- Public history modules, see page 11

Students planning to progress to PhD study will also be able to take advantage of our non-credit bearing PhD progression support, see page 10.

You can also take option modules from other departments as part of your MA programme, for example:
- Society and Culture in the Later Middle Ages
- Ethnicity and Identity in the Early Middle Ages
- Viking-Age Britain

Find out more about our medieval modules on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Please note that option modules may vary from year to year.

Staff

Our team of ancient and medieval historians includes:

Dr Julia Hillner (ancient and early medieval European history)
Dr Eliza Hartrich (late medieval and early modern British history)
Dr Simon Loseby (late antique and early medieval European history and archaeology)
Dr Daniele Miano (History and historiography of Republican Rome and Italy 500 BC - 45 BC)
Professor Martial Staub (history of late medieval and Renaissance Europe)
Dr Danica Summerlin (legal & religious history of the central middle ages)
Dr Charles West (early medieval European history)

Find out more about our staff research interests from page 22.

“...The University of Sheffield has a unique relationship with the public. The MA reflects that in its structure, and that reflects on my own desire for a better relationship between history and the public outside of heritage sites and museums. A postgraduate degree from the University of Sheffield puts me on the front line of that ambition.

At the start of the MA I felt that I had considered all aspects of history, that my undergraduate degree had fully challenged me. The Medieval MA does the extraordinary job of challenging everything you think you knew.”

Martin Smith MA/Medieval History
MA in Early Modern History

Between c.1500 and c.1800, economic, political, social and cultural change was broad in reach and profound in effects. The Reformation and Counter-Reformation, the British civil wars, the settling of the New World, the early stages of industrialisation and the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution, were a series of ruptures that transformed the way people thought and lived.

Sheffield’s long and distinguished tradition in early-modern history continues today with a group of internationally-renowned scholars working at the cutting-edge of their fields. The MA in Early Modern History draws on that expertise to provide a fascinating examination of the early-modern world, and the opportunity to rethink some key narratives of change.

Modules

Core modules
- Research Presentation
- Dissertation
- Early Modernities

Research skills and option modules
- Research Skills for Historians
- Palaeography
- Religious Tolerance and Intolerance in Early Modern Europe
- Revolutionary England, 1640-1660: Politics, Culture and Society
- Language and Society in Early Modern England
- The Early Modern Body: Identity, Politics and Embodiment, c1640-1800
- Eighteenth-Century British American Colonies
- Burying the White Gods: Indigenous People in the Early Modern Colonial World
- Public history modules, see page 11.

Students planning to progress to PhD study will also be able to take advantage of our non-credit bearing PhD progression support, see page 10.

You can also take option modules from other departments as part of your MA programme, for example:
- Understanding Public Engagement
- Early Modern Books
- Reconsidering the Renaissance

For a full list of our early modern modules see: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Please note that option modules may vary from year to year.

Early modernities

This core module involves a critical analysis of the many ways in which assumptions about the characteristics of ‘pre-modern’ and ‘modern’ cultures and societies have shaped historians’ approaches to the early modern period.

A series of seminars will introduce you to themes and topics in early modern history, focusing on issues of individuality and self-hood in the early modern period. The sources for writing early modern history will be a complementary focus of the module, which will also introduce students to the technical and methodological problems associated with the effective use and interpretation of a range of pre-modern sources.

Staff

Our team of early modern historians includes:

Professor Mike Braddick (social, economic and political history of early modern Britain and its colonies)
Dr Karen Harvey (cultural history of the long 18th century; gender, the body and the domestic interior)
Dr Tom Leng (intellectual history, commercial discourse and policy in seventeenth-century England)
Professor Anthony Milton (early modern England, 17th c. Anglo-Dutch relations; Church of England 1525-1700)
Dr James Shaw (history of late medieval and Renaissance Europe)
Professor Phil Withington (early modern social, cultural, and political history; literary history and historical pragmatics)

Find out more about our staff research interests from page 22.

“I wanted to do a masters programme because I really enjoyed being able to start specialising in the last year of my undergraduate degree and wanted to keep going. The strength of the early modern contingent in the history department here at Sheffield meant it didn’t really make sense to go anywhere else.

I have really enjoyed the programme so far, and each module has had its own particular benefits. I got to develop my understanding of linguistic analyses in Language and Society, and am now incorporating that into my dissertation methodology. Revolutionary England managed to make a traditionally ‘political’ subject of the Civil War really relevant to my work on women and domesticity. The module on Embodiment has introduced me to interdisciplinarity too!

One of my favourite elements of the course, however, has been the opportunity to learn study Palaeography and Latin. These are useful skills, for sure, but it’s mainly nice to be doing something a bit different.”

Alice O’Driscoll MA/Early Modern History
MA in Modern History

Historians have long been fascinated by modernity and the societies to which it gave rise. From the French Revolution, human history has been marked by state-sponsored attempts to transform social and cultural life, from the de-Christianisation campaigns of the Terror to the recreation of non-European societies by imperialism and the mass mobilisations of state socialism and the two world wars.

The MA in Modern History examines these changes, allowing you to explore the political cleavages and cultural uncertainty unleashed by the great revolutions, the mobilisations and resistance of the two world wars, and the transnational forces of empire and globalisation. A focus on contemporary history introduces you to the political and strategic imperatives of the Cold War as well as the new sense of the individual fostered by the counter-culture of the 1960s.

You can also take option modules from other departments as part of your MA programme, for example:

- Rise of the Gothic
- Memory and Narrative in Contemporary Literature
- Post-war British Theatre, Film and Television

For our full range of our modern modules see: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Please note that option modules may vary from year to year.

Modernity and Power

This core module introduces students to the challenges of studying modern history at an advanced level. It explores the distinctiveness of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as a period, the study of which raises particular questions about perspective and interpretation, about the relationship between academic history and public understandings of the recent past, and about the selection and treatment of sources across a wide range of media.

Classes will focus on some of the key themes and developments in recent historiography, including an engagement with the use of interdisciplinary approaches, particularly in the study of contemporary history.

Staff

Our team of modern historians includes:

Dr Adrian Bingham (social, cultural and political history of twentieth-century Britain)
Dr Miriam Dobson (the history of the Soviet Union)
Dr Julie Gottlieb (interwar Britain, politics, gender history)
Dr Dina Gusejnova (20th century intellectual and cultural history; transnational history)
Dr Eirini Karamouzi (Western Europe since 1945; European integration and the cold war, Modern Balkan History)
Professor Bob Moore (Western European history and the Holocaust)
Professor Mary Vincent (modern Spain)
Professor Benjamin Ziemann (political and cultural history of modern Germany)

Find out more about our staff research interests from page 22.
MA in American History

Contemporary politics shows that, more than ever, there is a need for a critical understanding for the formative political, social, economic and intellectual trends in American history.

The MA in American History gives you the opportunity to study the historical development of the United States from the first encounters between Europeans and Native Americans in the colonial period through to the end of the Cold War.

**Modules**

**Core modules**
- Research Presentation
- Dissertation
- Approaches to the American Past

**Research skills and option modules**
- Research Skills for Historians
- Burying the White Gods: Indigenous People in the Early Modern Colonial World
- Eighteenth-century British American Colonies
- City Life in Jacksonian America, 1828-1850
- Another Country: America and the Problem of Decolonisation
- Cold War Histories
- Medical Humanity? Medicine and Identity
- Public history modules, see page 11.

Students planning to progress to PhD study will also be able to take advantage of our non-credit bearing PhD progression support, see page 10.

You can also take option modules from other departments as part of your MA programme, for example:
- Introduction to Digital Humanities
- Exchanging Letters: Art and Correspondence in Twentieth-Century America
- ‘Tales of the City’ - The Living Space in Contemporary American Fiction

Find out more about our American modules on our website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses)

Please note that option modules may vary from year to year.

**Approaches to the American Past**

This core module explores key themes in American history from the colonial period through to the modern era, introducing students to important debates in historical scholarship and giving them an awareness not only of the principal historiographical schools but also of the critical interrelationship between historical trends and events and scholarly interpretations of the past.

Classes will be organised chronologically and thematically and will be taught through a series of case studies covering topics such as Native American history, consumption, gender, class, slavery, immigration and ethnicity, the New Deal, revisionism and the Cold War, and the New Left.

**Staff**

Our team of American historians includes:

- Dr Andrew Heath (political, urban and social history of nineteenth-century America)
- Dr Simon Middleton (colonial American social and cultural history, early American politics and political economy)
- Dr Sarah Miller-Davenport (U.S. 20th century history; U.S. foreign relations; cultural history)
- Dr Caroline Dodds Pennock (Mesoamerican, early Americas and Atlantic world history)
- Dr Simon Toner (U.S. foreign relations history; Vietnam War; history of development)

Find out more about our staff research interests from page 22.
MA in Global History

One of Britain’s leading centres for the postgraduate study of Global, International and Imperial Histories, our staff bring together internationally recognised expertise in the histories of South, East and Southeast Asia, Africa and the Americas, as well as in the wider history of imperialism, decolonisation, migration, war, humanitarianism and globalisation.

The MA in Global History draws on this expertise to provide a deeper understanding of the forces shaping world history. By allowing you to examine connections, comparisons and exchanges across broad geographical and chronological terrain, it establishes the significance of global history from a variety of perspectives.

Modules

Core modules
- Research Presentation
- Dissertation
- The World in Connection: Themes in Global History

Research skills and option modules
- Research Skills for Historians
- Debating Cultural Imperialism in the Nineteenth-Century British Empire
- Burying the White Gods: Indigenous People in the Early Modern Colonial World
- Prisoners of War in the Twentieth Century
- City Life in Jacksonian America, 1828-1850
- Worlds of Labour: Working Class Lives in Colonial South Asia
- The Japanese Empire in East Asia, 1895-1945
- Cold War Histories
- Eighteenth-Century British American Colonies
- Autobiography, Identity and the Self in Muslim South Asia
- Public history modules, see page 11.

Students planning to progress to PhD study will also be able to take advantage of our non-credit bearing PhD progression support, see page 10.

You can also take option modules from other departments as part of your MA programme, for example:
- Rocket-State Cosmology: Cold War Techno Culture
- Heritage, History and Identity

See the full range of international modules on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ma/courses

Please note that option modules may vary from year to year.

The World in Connection: Themes in Global History

This module introduces you to some of the most important and innovative themes, debates and controversies relating to global history and its linked fields of imperial, international, transnational, transregional and world history. Seminars will focus on understanding of global forces, structures and processes that have shaped and reshaped our world, including empires, trade, technology, religion, decolonisation, migration, war, diplomacy, humanitarianism, disease and the environment.

Our team of global historians includes:

Dr Esme Cleall (history of the British Empire, and of race, gender and disability)
Dr Siobhan Lambert-Hurley (Women, gender and Islam in South Asia)
Dr Tehyun Ma (history modern China, East Asia, World War II and the early Cold War)
Dr Saunabh Mishra (history of medicine, and modern South Asian history)
Dr Simon Stevens (twentieth-century international history, African history)

See page 16 for our American historians. A number of our modern historians also incorporate a global focus into their teaching and research, this includes Emily Baughan, Dina Gusejnova, Eirini Karamouzi, Dan Lee and Bob Moore.

Find out more about our staff research interests from page 22.
What can an MA in history do for my career?

Whether you are looking to continue to a PhD degree or want to gain professional development to help you with your future career, our MA degrees can help you to fulfil your goals and, at the same time, help you to further develop a valuable set of transferable skills.

Skills for the future

Our world-class, research-led teaching and range of modules that focus on developing your skills in research and public history will stand you in good stead for any number of career paths.

You will develop your skills in historical research and your ability to analyse the information that you uncover, using these skills to work independently and under pressure of time to produce work that is critically reasoned, clearly argued and effectively presented.

Our public history modules are designed to help you gain more specific experience and skills. You will have the opportunity to be involved in group projects, making discoveries and producing assessed work as part of a team.

Our core module, Research Presentation, also gives you the opportunity to design and deliver a high-quality presentation at our MA Presentation Day, an academic conference-style event held in May each year.

Dedicated support for MA students

We have a dedicated Careers Liaison Officer who can help you think about your options. Each year they work with the University’s Careers Service to organise events including a talk specifically about career opportunities for history MA students and an evening with recent graduates talking about their careers and passing on tips for successful job hunting.

The Careers Service also offers extensive help through with a range of general and MA specific events such as employer presentations and Q&As; fairs and industry networking events; mock interviews; skills sessions and talks and workshops.

Recent workshops include:

- Job application forms: hints and tips for MA students
- Interview skills for MA students
- Personal branding through social media for MA students
- Effective communication skills (with IBM)
- The power of networking (with Unilever)

So, what do our graduates actually do?

These kinds of skills are why our graduates are successful in both further study and a wide range of careers – from taking research degrees, lecturing and working in the museum and heritage industry to business management, and marketing.

But don’t just take our word for it:

“Following my degree, I worked as a market researcher for an international innovation consultancy firm, in which I utilised both the qualitative and qualitative research skills I developed during my MA course. I also feel that my MA puts me at an advantage compared to non-MA qualified examiners, as it allows me to introduce academic language to students with comparative ease. I also use both my analytical and foreign language skills (I began learning Russian during the course) when analysing CVs and liaising with colleagues about the recruitment of new Russian speaking teachers.

I thought the MA was a fantastic experience. I met lots of interesting people, had many interesting discussions about a multitude of different themes, and with the exception of my 6 months of living here, learnt more than at any other time in my life.”

Daniel Rennie MA in Modern History 2009-10

See what more of our graduates have to say at www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/ma/careers/graduates
Our PhD programme

Training the next generation of historians is a vital part of our research strategy. We have one of the most active centres for postgraduate research in the country, with around 40 PhD students and a vibrant postgraduate research culture.

Our PhD degree involves independent study, supervised by world-leading academic staff. You will also gain a range of high-level transferable skills that will be a valuable asset whatever career you go on to choose.

**Different ways to study**

Our PhD programme is available both part-time and full-time and involves the writing of a doctoral thesis that is approximately 75,000 word in length. Full-time students are registered for three years and part-time students are registered for six years.

Most of our students are based in Sheffield but it is possible to take our programme as part of the remote-location or joint-location scheme, subject to approval.

Find out more about these programmes:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/away

**Research community**

At Sheffield we offer a stimulating, friend and informal study environment for our PhD students that encourages and motivates you to achieve your full potential. We have a thriving research community and we actively encourage our PhD students to make the most of their time at Sheffield by getting involved in our research activities and events, as well as organising their own through the Postgraduate Forum. You will be encouraged to present the results of your research in papers at seminars and conferences and we will help you to seek publication of your work as you progress. See page 4 for more information.

**Research areas**

Individual expert supervision for research degrees is offered in the following broad areas:

- Ancient and medieval British and European history
- Early modern England and Europe
- The history of colonial, nineteenth- and twentieth-century America
- Nineteenth- and twentieth-century British and European history
- Global, international and imperial history
- Social, religious, cultural, gender and political history
- Medical humanities

You can find out more about our academics’ research interests from page 22.
Study space
PhD students have their own study space within the department with access to networked computers and printers.

Alternative study space is also available in the University’s libraries and Graduate Research Centre. See page 2.

Supervision
You will have a supervisory team usually made up of a primary and a secondary supervisor both from within the Department. Although some students, whose research is interdisciplinary or involves an external partner, may also have a supervisor outside of the Department.

Your primary supervisor will be an expert in your field of study. You will usually have an idea of who you want to work with before you apply and we would encourage you to get in touch with your proposed supervisor to discuss your research proposal before submitting your application itself.

Your primary supervisor will take the central role in helping you to develop your research project, offering guidance on appropriate primary and secondary materials and the handling or interpretation of these sources. They will also provide constructive criticism on draft chapters of your thesis as well as any seminar papers or articles you may write.

Your secondary supervisor’s expertise will lie in a related field and they are available to offer a different perspective on aspects of your research.

Doctoral development and training
As part of your PhD degree you will take part in the University’s Doctoral Development Programme - a flexible, on-going training plan that is an integral part of your PhD degree and can be tailored to your individual needs.

This training helps you progress by identifying the skills you already have and providing opportunities to improve these and acquire new skills and experience. Training may be provided through attending modules offered within the Department or elsewhere in the University but your developmental needs may also be about gaining different forms of experience such as networking, or focusing on particular aspects of presentation and study skills.

You will acquire transferrable skills that will not only make you a successful researcher, but also extend your options for employment more broadly.

Teaching experience
We value the role of part-time teaching assistants at level one of our undergraduate programmes and believe that PhD students are well placed to assist in course delivery at this level. It can also provide valuable experience and help you to develop a broad range of personal and presentational skills.

We can’t guarantee what level of teaching will be available each year but anyone holding an offer with us will be contacted when the application process opens in summer.
Our PhD students

Some of our recent graduates tell you about their research and why they chose Sheffield for their PhDs.

You can find out more about what our current students are researching on our website at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/research/students

“One of the main reasons that made me choose Sheffield was the city itself. Sheffield has a vibrant environment, it’s very friendly and it has all the perks of being a larger city while also being safe and cozy. Working with my current supervisor in what I knew to be a Department with an excellent research environment was also a big factor.

I am only in my first year, but so far my experience has been great. The postgraduate community is vibrant and friendly. We, the postgraduate students, have designated desks throughout the department. It’s an open space which helps with the process of getting to know other students and academic staff, so you don’t feel isolated.

I really enjoy working with my two supervisors. They are very helpful and understanding but also demanding. I also appreciate the opportunities to teach and the possibility to take courses that might be useful to my research. I have settled into the department quite fast and I am looking forward to spend here the next few years.”

Carla Gutierrez Ramos PhD in Modern European History
Labour and Nation. Welfare, Sub-State Nationalism and Labour Unionism in Galicia and Scotland.

“I was delighted to have the opportunity to do a PhD at Sheffield. I had already done an MA in the history department and had found the academic and departmental staff really welcoming and helpful. I did my MA part-time while working, after a few years out of education, and I really appreciated how easy the department made it for me to plan around my work and were always quick to respond to all my (many) queries. So there really was no doubt for me that, if I got the chance, Sheffield would be where I wanted to do a PhD.

My research is in medieval history, and the history department has a really good medieval presence, both in terms of academic staff and other researchers, as well as the Medieval and Ancient Research Centre (MARCUS). My supervisor has been a huge help throughout my PhD, but I’ve also been able to call upon the knowledge and experience of many other experts from across the whole medieval period as well as outside. This has helped me greatly in my research, and it has given me ideas around methods and approaches that I would not have been aware of otherwise.

The postgraduate community within the department is also really supportive. People work in and around the department a lot and everyone gets to know each other, so there’s always someone to ask for advice – and it’s really good to see how people conduct research into other periods using different approaches. I’d thoroughly recommend Sheffield to anyone thinking about doing a PhD.”

James Chetwood PhD in Medieval History
Tom, Dick and Leofric: The Transformation of English Personal Naming. 850–1350

“I really enjoyed the years spent doing my PhD. It’s often the only time in an academic career where you can focus almost all of your time on your research for three years, and if you can find something you love researching, that’s fantastic. I also really enjoyed working within a friendly PhD community in Sheffield - I spent most working days in the office, and got involved in organising events with other PhD students. I think this is really important, as otherwise doing a PhD can be quite lonely!

The support my supervisor provided through the PhD, in terms of writing up the PhD but also getting experience in other areas, such as teaching and conference organisation, was very helpful. By making the most of all the opportunities available at Sheffield, I was very well prepared for the two roles I’ve taken on since leaving.

Straight after submitting my thesis, I was lucky enough to start a research fellowship at the Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick. This was a one-year post focused on public engagement activities. This was a really nice contrast to the PhD, as it involved lots of collaboration and interaction with non-academic organisations and audiences.

Since 2012, I’ve been working at the University of Leeds as part of a project called ‘Arts Engaged’: This is about creating innovative partnerships with cultural organisations, museums, community groups and so on. Half my time is spent doing my research, and half focuses on external engagement. More information about the project is available here: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/homepage/343/impact_and_innovation"

Laura King PhD in Modern British History
Fatherhood and Masculinity in Britain c. 1918-1960
Our staff research interests

Our staff tell you about their research interests and current projects. We are able to supervise research students and MA dissertations in these areas.

Ancient and medieval history

The research interests of staff in this field range from Roman antiquity to the eve of the Reformation and across Europe, both north and south. Particular areas of expertise include urban history, trade and networks (Hillner, Loseby and Hartrich), the history of belief, memory, ritual and myth (Miano, Staub), and law, politics and society (Hillner, West, Summerlin). All are concerned with identities and the linkages between Britain, Europe and the wider world, as well as with the concept of premodern empires.

Dr Eliza Hartrich
My research concentrates on urban and political history in the fourteenth- and fifteenth-century British Isles. I explore the relationship between urban governing institutions and the larger ‘state’ in later medieval England and its subject territories of Ireland, Wales, and France. My work focuses, in particular, on the ways in which residents of different towns communicated with one another and exerted collective influence on royal policy and political discourse. In addition to my specialist research on the later medieval British Isles, I am interested in interdisciplinary, transnational, and cross-period approaches to urbanism, political language, rebellion, networks, and empire.

I am eager to supervise students investigating any aspect of later medieval European history, and particularly those interested in British history, towns, political institutions, or communication.

Dr Julia Hillner
My research focusses on late Roman and early medieval social history (c.300-900). I have a particular interest in the transformations of the family and the household in this period and how these are reflected in legal sources and in the late antique city of Rome, where I have investigated issues ranging from settlement, property transmission and patronage, to issues of authority, hierarchy and discipline within the household.

I am happy to supervise students interested in any aspect of social history of the Roman and late Roman empire, in particular those with interests in the city of Rome, the family, monasticism, crime and punishment, and late Roman and early medieval law.

Dr Simon Loseby
My research interests include all aspects of the history and archaeology of late antiquity (c. 300 - c.750) and of the transition from the ancient to the medieval world. I am happy to supervise students on most topics within this time-period, but have particular interests in urbanism, exchange-networks, the Mediterranean, late Roman and Frankish Gaul, and the world of Gregory of Tours.

Dr Daniele Miano
My research focusses on the history and the historiography of Republican Rome and Italy. Much of my work is devoted to ancient religion in Italy, and ancient gods and goddesses in particular. I have also done extensive work on the way in which ancient Romans thought about their past and represented the early history of their city in monuments and in written historical works, looking at the connection between memorial practices, exemplarity, and myth.

I am happy to supervise students on any aspect of Roman Republican history, in particular religious and cultural history.
Professor Martial Staub
I am by training a historian of the late Middle Ages with specialism in the history of the Church and the history of German and Italian cities. My publications and interests cover a range of other topics and include the history of exile, history of ideas and history of the discipline of history. Of late, my research has focused on the history of late medieval and early modern citizenship in a global context and on the history of European migration and the role of perceptions and the state in this context.

I welcome research students working on European history from 12th to 16th century as well as students with an interest in the history of migration and exile, the history of ideas and the history of historiography.

Dr Danica Summerlin
My research centres on the history of Europe in the central middle ages, around 1000 to 1300. My particular focus is the development and use of law at the time, and particularly ecclesiastical, or canon, law. That interest expands to both the social and institutional aspects of religious and legal history, and I am currently starting a new project looking at the relationship between law and government in the period, in both the Church and amongst secular rulers.

I am happy to supervise students with interests in the central Middle Ages, but particularly those interested in the legal, religious, and political history of Europe.

Dr Charles West
I work on the history of Western Europe, including the British Isles, between the eighth and the twelfth centuries, with a particular interest in the transition from the early to the central Middle Ages in politics, society and culture. I've published research on a range of topics, from microhistories of local priests in ninth-century Francia through to the role of English sailors in the Second Crusade. My current research investigates the notion of the secular in the early medieval Western world.

I welcome proposals for research projects in the field of early medieval European history in general.
Early modern history

Current staff interests cover both Britain and Europe, from the Renaissance and the Reformation to the period of the American and French Revolutions. There is a notable concentration of expertise around the English civil war (Braddick, Leng and Milton) and political mobilisation (Withington, Braddick) complemented by an interest in the European colonisation of America and the development of American society in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Middleton). There are other concentrations of expertise on the social and cultural history of early modern England (Withington, Shoemaker and Harvey), urban history and criminal justice (Shaw and Shoemaker) and in the application of information technology to the humanities (Shoemaker).

Professor Mike Braddick

I have published widely on aspects of state formation and forms of political resistance in early modern England, as well as on the first stages of British imperial expansion. My most recent book is God's Fury, England's Fire: a new history of the English civil wars. My current research is on the political life of John Lilburne, partisanship in early modern popular culture, the relationship between high and low politics, and the role of gesture in creating identities and expressing dissent.

I am keen to supervise students with interests in early modern state formation and political culture; popular politics; the English revolution; the early modern British Atlantic and the first stages of British imperial expansion; and early modern political economy, in particular attitudes towards the commercialisation of the grain trade. I would particularly welcome applications from those interested in the social, cultural and political history of early modern England.

Dr Tom Leng

My research interests lie in seventeenth-century British history, with a particular interest in commercial policies, discourses and practices as well as the intellectual history of the period more broadly. I have recently published a biography of the intellectual and state-employed expert in commerce, Benjamin Worsley (1618-1677) and I am now working on the trading company known as the Merchant Adventurers in the seventeenth century.

Dr James Shaw

I work on the relationship of legal structures (laws, practices, institutions) to the daily practices of economic life, with a special focus on early modern Italy. I have worked on petty crime and small claims litigation in Venice, and on retailing in the medical sector in Florence. My present research examines denunciations of contractual fraud from seventeenth-century Venice to explore how people experienced the workings of the market at the everyday level of understandings, practices and customs. I am particularly interested in the way that people's experiences of credit markets were conditioned by factors such as poverty, gender and status.

I welcome applications from students with an interest in projects that bring together social, economic and legal perspectives, and particularly projects focusing on the history of early modern Italy.

Dr Karen Harvey

I am currently writing a book about the case of Mary Toft (a hoax monstrous birth in 1726). Alongside my research interest in the history of the body and reproduction, I continue to work on material culture and masculinity, as well as eroticism and sexuality. I also have an interest in contemporary representations of the eighteenth-century past and public history.

I welcome postgraduate students working on any aspect of cultural or social history from 1650 to 1850, and particularly those interested in gender, sexuality, material culture and public history.

Professor Anthony Milton

My main area of research lies in the religious, political and intellectual history of England 1560-1660, although I also have active research interests in Dutch and modern Indonesian history. I have worked extensively on political thought, religion, and the public sphere in early Stuart England, and am particularly interested in English contacts with continental Europe.

I welcome postgraduates interested in pursuing any aspect of English religious, political, cultural or intellectual history in the period 1560-1700. The University Library at Sheffield is excellently equipped for the study of the printed literature of this period.

Professor Bob Shoemaker


Professor Phil Withington

I work on various aspects of the social and cultural history of England, Ireland and the wider world between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Current interests include urbanization and urban culture; citizenship and popular politics; intoxicants and intoxication; the history of language and its uses; and the social history of the Renaissance.

My most recent book is Society in Early Modern England.

I am happy to supervise postgraduate work on most aspects of early modern British and imperial history as well as research into the history of language, society, and (early) modernity.
**Modern British and European history**

The Department has exceptional strength in modern history. It became particularly well known for research on modern European, and particularly German history. That reputation continues with a notable concentration of expertise on the topics of fascism, repressive regimes, and political violence (Dobson, Gottlieb, Lee, Moore, Nic Dhaibheid, Vincent, Ziemann). Our research on European history includes the study of nationalism (Baycroft), international and economic relations (Karamouzi), borderlands (Tompkins), and intellectual and cultural history (Gusejnova, Reid). We cover a wide range of themes in modern British history, including 19th and 20th century social history and welfare (Moses, Baughan), and women, gender and politics in the inter-war period and media, popular culture and sexuality (Bingham).

**Dr Emily Baughan**

My research places the history of modern Britain within wider international and imperial contexts. I focus particularly on the history of aid, development, and internationalism in the twentieth century and on connections between international humanitarianism and the British welfare state. I am also interested in the ways history can inform contemporary debates about aid and development.

I am interested in supervising projects that relate to the history of popular politics, internationalist activism, NGOs, humanitarianism, development and human rights, and childhood in Britain, the British Empire/Commonwealth and Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

**Dr Tim Baycroft**

I have recently published a history of French identity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, entitled Inventing France. I also have an interest in comparative identity formation in border regions and, more widely in memory, identity and nationalism, particularly in France. I have recently begun work on a study of the Commune in Lyons.

I supervise research students in several areas of modern French and European History, and would welcome enquiries from prospective students in this area.

**Dr Adrian Bingham**

My main research interests are in the social and cultural history of twentieth-century Britain. I have worked extensively on the national popular press in the decades after 1918, examining the ways in which newspapers both reflected and shaped attitudes to gender, sexuality and class. Beyond my work on the press, I am interested in popular attitudes to politics; cultural hierarchies, particularly the category of the 'middlebrow': the circulation of knowledge about sex; and the social and cultural changes in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s.

I am keen to supervise postgraduate students working on the political, social and cultural history of modern Britain, particularly those with interests in the media and popular culture; gender, sexuality and class; and popular political engagement and social activism.

**Dr Miriam Dobson**

I work on the social and cultural history of post-war Russia. My first book explored popular responses to the reforms of the Khrushchev era, in particular the massive exodus of prisoners from the Gulag. My current project focuses on a specific group – evangelical Protestants – but continues to develop my earlier interest in how individuals and communities related to the Soviet project. I am also interested in the role of religion in the Cold War more broadly.
Dr Julie Gottlieb
My research interests lie in modern British political history, the history of extremism (with a focus on right-wing extremism in Britain), and the construction of gender identities in the political sphere.

I have published widely on women, gender and politics between the wars, including the role of women in Britain’s fascist movement, women and the peace movement, and gender and appeasement.

Dr Dina Gusejnova
My research interests are on the connections between the intellectual, social and cultural history of twentieth-century Germany and Central Europe, in particular the moments of political transition and the social situations in which ideas and ideologies emerge. My current project is an exploration of the history of statelessness in modern Europe, with a particular focus on the cultural and intellectual history of internment during the Second World War.

I welcome research students wishing to work on any aspect of intellectual history from the early modern to the modern period, on modern European history (especially the German and Russian empires and Austria-Hungary, as well as their twentieth-century successors), on twentieth-century transnational, imperial and global history, on the history of non-governmental organisations, as well as those seeking to integrate interdisciplinairy approaches to history in their work, such as concentrating on sources from the visual arts and music in social and political contexts.

Dr Eirini Karamouzi
My research interests lie in the history of Western Europe since 1945, and in particular in the historical roots of the European integration process and the early stages of development of the EU, as indicated by my most recent monograph Greece, the EEC and the Cold War, 1974-1979. The Second Enlargement. I am also interested in the history of the Cold War in Europe and in the links between democracy and European identity. I am currently working on a new project that examines the role of the press and the public opinion in the construction of ‘Europe’ in southern Europe in the 1980s.

Dr Daniel Lee
My research interests are in modern French and modern Jewish history. My first book, Pétain’s Jewish Children: French Jewish Youth and the Vichy Regime, 1940–42 explored the coexistence between young French Jews and the Vichy regime. My research reveals significant exceptions to Vichy’s antisemitic policies, in which the regime’s desire for a reinvigorated youth and the rebirth of the nation, took precedence over its racial laws.

My new research on the experience of Tunisian Jews during the Second World War provides a fascinating microcosm that may be used to analyse Vichy’s colonial and racial ambitions. I seek to explore how antisemitic legislation designed in French North Africa came to affect Jews in Metropolitan France. I also examine the experiences of Tunisian Jewish women. Although all of Tunisia’s 80,000 Jews were subject to Vichy and Nazi discrimination irrespective of their sex, women’s experiences emerge as markedly different from those of men.

I welcome applications from candidates working in the history of modern France and the French Empire; Jewish history; the Second World War.

Dr Chris Millard
I research the history of medicine and psychiatry in late-modern Britain (1900-present). I am particularly interested in ideas about mental health and mental illness, suicide and self-harm, child abuse, and emotional well-being. I look at the interactions between the National Health Service, social work and broader welfare state when treating mental illness and promoting mental health. I am interested in how institutions and professional authority shape our sense of identity and self.

I am happy to supervise students interested in any aspect of medicine, psychiatry, welfare and health in twentieth-century Britain. This includes ideas of emotional health and welfare, broadly conceived, and focus on any kind of medical or psychological expertise, including interactions between medicine and online environments.

Professor Bob Moore
My research interests include the Holocaust, with specific reference to Western Europe, the history of the Netherlands, and prisoners of war in twentieth-century conflicts. I completed a monograph on the rescue of Jews in Europe during World War II in 2010 and am currently working on a history of prisoners-of-war in Europe during the Second World War. In addition, I have published on decolonisation and refugee policy in the 1930s and am happy to offer supervision in these fields as well.
Dr Julia Moses
My main research interests lie in the history of social problems and policy in Britain and Western Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I have published on five main strands of my research: the history of the welfare state, private law, and especially torts; transnational history; marriage and the family and, the history of ideas about ‘risk’. I have recently completed a comparative study of conceptions of risk, workplace accidents and the welfare state in Britain, Germany and Italy, and my current research investigates the political history of marriage in Imperial Germany from transnational and global perspectives.

Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid
I am currently engaged in two research projects. The first, entitled 'Writing Terrorist Lives' is a study of individual engagement with varieties of political violence from the late nineteenth to the twenty-first century. It considers journeys from radicalisation, to mobilisation, to activism, and beyond to disengagement and re-engagement. Ranging across both geographical and historical locations and the ideological spectrum, it aims to explore the range of human experience which lies behind the blunt label of ‘terrorist’. My second project is in the field of Irish history, and is a study of the children of the executed men of the Easter Rising of 1916. This explores issues of memory, state commemorative practices, the forging of personal identities in the shadow of national foundational myth, as well as the legacies of political violence.

I welcome enquiries from prospective research students interested in working on modern Irish history or the history of political violence.

Dr Colin Reid
My research focuses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Irish and British history. I am particularly interested in political, cultural and intellectual history approaches to understanding the impact of the Act of Union of 1800 within British and Irish life. The experience of Union underpins his historical writings, which include federalist political thought during the 1870s, constitutional nationalism during the Irish revolutionary period (c.1912-22), Irish Protestant literary figures in Britain, and the legal defences of republican rebellion during the nineteenth century.

I am happy to supervise research projects in Irish and/or British history since 1789, particularly those with an interest in political, cultural or intellectual history.

Dr Andrew Tompkins
My research focuses primarily on transnational interactions, practices, and spaces. Current research focuses on Germany's post-1945 borders with France and Poland, investigating how borderland residents engaged (or not) with the historically contested meanings of the Rhine River and Oder-Neisse line in their everyday lives. By examining unequal but entangled relationships in East and West together, this research will shed light on the construction of both Cold War blocs as well as the development of Europe since 1990.

I am pleased to supervise postgraduates interested in transnational phenomena such as borders, migration, and minority populations (national, regional, or sexual) in Europe as well as those studying protest, revolutions, and social/political movements in Europe and the United States.

Professor Mary Vincent
My main research interests lie in the history of modern Spain, particularly around the period of the Second Republic, Civil War (1931-39) and the Franco regime (1936-75). My interests in religion, fascism, and political violence come together in my current project, a history of General Franco’s ‘crusade’, and I have also published on the history of gender. My recent book, Modern Spain 1833-2002: People and State explores questions of state legitimacy in a divided society.

Professor Benjamin Ziemann
I have published widely on many aspects of modern German history from the 1880s to the 1980s, including political, social and cultural history, with a particular emphasis on the First World War and the Weimar Republic. One of my main fields of interest is the history of religion in twentieth century Germany. I am happy to supervise postgraduate work on any aspect of German history since 1871.
American and global history

The Department is one of the most active centres in the UK for the study of American history and the study of global, international and imperial Histories. Our American expertise encompasses research on early colonial settlement (Middleton), nineteenth-century urban and social history (Heath), the political culture of the US in the 20th century (Miller-Davenport) and US foreign relations since 1945 (Toner). Our global expertise encompasses the histories of South, East and Southeast Asia and Africa, as well as in the wider history of imperialism, decolonisation, migration, war, humanitarianism and globalisation. We offer remarkable geographical coverage including the study of the early modern Atlantic world (Pennock), the British empire (Cleall), colonial and post-colonial South Asia (Lambert-Hurley and Mishra), the Muslim world (Lambert-Hurley), modern China and Taiwan (Ma), twentieth-century Africa (Stevens) and Vietnam since 1945 (Toner).

Dr Esme Cleall
I am an historian of the cultural and social history of the nineteenth century British Empire. My research looks at ideas about ethnicity, gender and disability both within the British Isles and in the Empire overseas. I have explored these identities and constructs in various contexts including through research on families, sickness, missionaries and colonial violence. My current project is on the History of Disability, particularly in a British imperial context.

I welcome students interested in working on the history of the British Empire; the histories of race, gender, and disability; colonialism and postcolonialism; missionary history; and the histories of nineteenth-century India, southern Africa and Britain.

Dr Andrew Heath
My research interests lie at the intersection of the political, urban and social history of the USA during the nineteenth-century. I am currently working on a monograph exploring how the optimism and anxiety engendered by America's imperial expansion over the civil war years shaped the way citizens imagined, built and used the city of Philadelphia.

I am happy to supervise students working on urban history or the political and social history of the nineteenth-century United States.

Dr Siobhan Lambert-Hurley
I am a cultural historian of modern South Asia with particular interests in women, gender and Islam. I have written on education, social and political organisations, Indian princely states, the culture of travel, missionaries and personal narratives. There is strong interdisciplinary aspect to my research reflected in my analyses of how different literary genres, including reformist writing, travelogues and autobiography, have evolved in South Asia in the modern period.

I welcome research students interested in women's history, Islam, autobiography, the culture of travel, education, and/or princely states in modern South Asia.

Dr Simon Middleton
My research interests lie in the area of early American social and cultural history, particularly the intersection of daily life and political economy in an urban setting. My first book, From Privileges to Rights, considered connections between work and political theory in colonial New York City. Since then I have published on colonial class, law, and credit. My next book, The Price of the People: Money and Power in Early America, considers the introduction of colonial paper money.

I am happy to supervise research students in early American history, particularly those interested in the northern and middle colonies, the social history of money and finance, political theory, law, and, in general, topics in eighteenth-century colonial history.

Dr Sarah Miller-Davenport
My research focuses on how Americans conceptualized their nation’s role in the world after World War II, and how the emergence of the United States as a global superpower transformed domestic culture, politics, and social relations. My current project explores the impact and meaning of Hawai’i’s statehood in 1959 and its relationship to both the global movement for decolonization and the emergence of multiculturalism in American society.

I am happy to supervise students working on 20th century U.S. politics, culture, and foreign relations.
Dr Tehyun Ma

I am a historian of modern China and Taiwan, with a particular focus on how state-building and propaganda fostered legitimacy at home and abroad. Her research explores the development of ‘Free China’ on Taiwan in the early Cold War, as well as the role of American sponsorship in regime consolidation. I am also interested in the transnational exchange of ideas in wartime East Asia, where she has looked at the translation and reception of the British Beveridge Plan – the blueprint for the postwar welfare state – among Chinese Nationalists.

I am happy to supervise students working on the history of modern China and Taiwan, particularly those with an interest in the Republican era (1911-1949), World War II, and the early Cold War.

Dr Saurabh Mishra

My research focuses on modern South Asian history, with a particular interest in issues related to the history of science and medicine, agrarian history, labour history, and the history of caste and religion. I am currently working on a project that explores the medical/health dimensions of indentured servitude in the Caribbean.

Dr Caroline Dodds Pennock

My research focuses on Aztec and Spanish American history and the Atlantic world, with a particular interest in gender, violence, and cultural exchange. My first book studied the role of ritual violence, integrating the study of human sacrifice with a reinterpretation of Aztec gender and daily life. I am currently working on a major new research project on ‘Aztecs Abroad’, studying the neglected history of Native American travellers to Europe and beyond in the sixteenth century.

I am keen to supervise research students in indigenous American (particularly Mexican), Spanish American, colonial and Atlantic history, particularly those interested in indigenous travellers, gender, violence and early colonial sources. I would also be happy to discuss projects related to cultural exchange, imperial and indigenous histories and Amerindian cultures.

Dr Simon Stevens

I am a specialist in twentieth-century international history, with a particular focus on the era of decolonisation and the history of Africa in the world. I am interested in changing ideas about how to organise international order, and in the strategies and tactics historical actors - especially those from the global south - have adopted in order to bring about political change. I am currently writing an international history of the use of boycotts and sanctions by the global anti-apartheid movement.

I am happy to supervise students interested in twentieth-century international or African history, in particular those with interests in internationalism, international organisations, transnational mobilisations and movements, decolonisation, and political violence.

Dr Simon Toner

I am a historian of the United States and the world, focusing particularly on the history of development and the American War in Vietnam. My work examines how a diverse array of U.S. actors formulated and projected ideas about postcolonial development into the Global South after 1945 and how “Third World” actors received, renegotiated and sometimes resisted these ideas and projects. I explore these themes in my book manuscript, which I am currently completing. Based primarily on Vietnamese and American archival sources, the manuscript examines the final years of the American War in Vietnam as an episode in the history of global development. In particular, it shows how changes in global development thinking and practice in the late 1960s and 1970s shaped debates within and between the allied U.S. and South Vietnamese governments and had a decisive impact on the course and outcome of the war.

I am happy to supervise students focusing on any aspect of U.S. foreign relations, particularly those interested in the history of the Vietnam War, political economy, counterinsurgency, and U.S. development and nation-building projects in the Global South since 1945.
Applying for our MA programme

Entry requirements
Our MA in Historical Research is designed for students wishing to apply to PhD degrees and associated funding competitions. Our standard entry requirement for this MA programme is a first-class performance, or equivalent, in a Bachelors degree from a recognised UK or overseas university. The standard entry requirement for our thematic MA programmes is normally a 2.1 or equivalent in a Bachelors degree from a recognised UK or overseas university. However, each application is assessed on an individual basis.

International students
We welcome applications from international students. English language requirements for all of our courses are IELTS 7.0 with no less than 6.5 in each component, or an equivalent English language qualification.

The University offers additional English language courses before the start of the academic year, and support is available throughout the academic year from the University’s English Language Teaching Centre.

You can see all acceptable qualifications on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/info/englang

Does my BA degree need to be in history?
No. We are happy to consider applications from students whose first degree is in a related subject such as English, languages or politics.

I haven’t been in education for a while, can I still apply?
Yes, we are very happy to consider applications from applicants who have been out of education for a number of years.

Can I study part-time?
Yes, we offer all of our MA programmes part-time and you can find out more information on page 8.

Need to get in touch?
You’ll find our full contact details inside the back cover.

Applying
You can apply for one of our MA programmes using the University’s on-line application form. You’ll find the application form and more information about applying on the University website:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/apply/applying

What supporting documents do I need?
You will need two references and a transcript of your BA results so far. You are also welcome to submit a CV and a sample of written work with your application.

Where should my documents be sent?
It is best if your supporting documents are uploaded directly to your application or sent to the Department’s Admissions and Postgraduate Support Manager as this helps to ensure that your application is completed as quickly as possible.

Who should be my referees?
You should usually have two academic referees from your first degree, including a third year tutor where possible.

If you have been out of education for some time, then you can use alternative referees who can speak about your commitment to learning and to history, your ability to work independently, and to manage your workload under time constraints. It can be useful to get back in touch with a former lecturer, though, as you may find that they are still able to offer a reference.

Can I apply to more than one MA programme?
Yes, you can make up to three postgraduate applications at one time. However, we would recommend that you give careful thought to the programme that you would like to study before submitting your application and you are very welcome to contact us to discuss your options.

When is the application deadline?
There is no formal deadline for applying to the MA programme and we can usually accept applications up until late-August for entry that September. However, if you are planning on applying for funding then you will need to submit your application ahead of the funding deadline. See page 28.

When will I receive a decision on my application?
We will usually respond to applications within four weeks. Please note that we cannot begin to consider your application until we have received your references and transcript.

Will I need to attend an interview?
We don’t invite all MA applicants to attend an interview but you may be asked to attend an interview if, for example, your first degree is not in History or you are returning to education after a prolonged gap.
Applying for our PhD programme

Entry requirements
We normally expect applicants to complete a suitable MA in History, or a related discipline, with a research-training element before joining our PhD programme.

Applicants who have not taken an MA may be considered in special circumstances and will be expected to take modules in research skills from our MA programme in the first year of research.

Applicants are also expected to have achieved at least a 2.1 (or equivalent) in a Bachelors degree in History or a related discipline from a recognised UK or overseas university.

International students
We welcome applications from international students.

English language requirements for all of our courses are IELTS 7.0 with no less than 6.5 in each component, or an equivalent English language qualification.

The University offers additional English language courses before the start of the academic year, and support is available throughout the academic year from the University’s English Language Teaching Centre.

You can see all acceptable qualifications on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/info/englang

Applying
You can apply for our PhD programme using the University’s on-line application form. You’ll find the application form and more information about applying on the University website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/apply/applying

What supporting documents do I need?
In addition to your research proposal, you will need two references, a transcript of your BA results and a transcript of your MA results so far, where possible. You are also welcome to submit a CV and a sample of written work with your application.

Where should my documents be sent?
It is best if your supporting documents are uploaded directly to your application or sent to the Department’s Admissions and Postgraduate Support Manager as this helps to ensure that your application is completed as quickly as possible.

Who should be my referees?
You should usually have two academic referees from your BA and MA degrees (or equivalent).

If you have been out of education for some time, then you can use alternative referees who can speak about your commitment to learning and to history, your ability to work independently, and to manage your workload under time constraints. It can also be useful to get back in touch with a former lecturer, though, as you may find that they are still able to offer a reference.

When is the application deadline?
There is no formal deadline for applying to the PhD programme and we can usually accept applications up until late-August for entry that October. However, if you are planning on applying for funding then you will need to submit your application ahead of the funding deadline. See page 28.

Do I have to start the PhD programme in October?
No, you can apply to begin the PhD programme on the 1st day of any month. However, please be aware that to be eligible for most funding competitions you need to begin in October.

When will I receive a decision on my application?
We will usually respond to applications within four weeks. Please note that we cannot begin to consider your application until we have received your references and transcripts.

Will I need to attend an interview?
We don’t invite all PhD applicants to attend an interview but you may be asked to attend an interview if, for example, you are returning to education after a prolonged gap.
Fees and funding

Fees

Fees levels for our postgraduate degrees are set by the University in approximately February each year. Current fee information is available on our website:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/finance
www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/finance

MA Funding opportunities

There are several funding awards that MA applicants are able to apply to including University Fee Scholarships and funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

MA funding is highly competitive and applicants are usually expected to have a first or upper second class undergraduate degree or equivalent or be in the process of completing an undergraduate degree at this level.

The MA funding deadline is usually in March and you need to submit an application to our MA programme ahead of applying for funding.

For more details on funding opportunities and criteria see:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/ma/funding

More information about funding postgraduate study is available at
www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/pg

PhD Funding opportunities

There are a variety of funding opportunities that PhD applicants are able to apply to including University and Faculty Scholarships and funding from the White Rose College of Arts and Humanities (WRoCAH, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council).

To be eligible to apply for funding you must be applying to begin the PhD programme on 1st October in that year.

Funding is competitive and applicants are usually expected to have a first or upper second class UK degree or equivalent and have completed or be in the process of completing a Masters degree or similar postgraduate qualification.

The PhD funding deadline is usually early February and you need to submit an application to our PhD programme ahead of applying for funding.

We also regularly have PhD studentships funded by WRoCAH and the University connected to specific research projects. These sometimes have an application deadline later in the year.

For more details on funding opportunities and criteria see:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/phd/funding

Visiting us

University open days

The University usually holds open days in November and February each year for prospective postgraduate students, where you can find out about postgraduate study at Sheffield and information about funding opportunities.

You can also sign up to a history talk where our Director of MA Programmes or Director of Graduate Studies will tell you all about our MA degrees or PhD degree and you will have the chance to ask questions about the course content or application process. You will also be able to meet some current History postgraduate students to hear about their experiences. Find out more:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/open-days

What if I can’t make the open day?

The University also holds monthly postgraduate open afternoons where you can take a campus tour, find out about funding opportunities and arrange to visit us in the Department of History.

Postgraduate webchats are also available each month where you can talk to current students and expert staff from the University’s recruitment team in an informal setting.

Find out more:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/open-days

You are also very welcome to visit the University and department independently.

Just get in touch at history@sheffield.ac.uk and we can arrange a suitable time for you to meet an appropriate member of academic staff.
How to contact us

If you have any questions about our degrees or applying to study with us please just get in touch:

Admissions and Postgraduate Support Manager
Department of History
The University of Sheffield
Jessop West
1 Upper Hanover Street
Sheffield S3 7RA
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 114 222 2552
F: +44 (0) 114 222 2576
E: history@sheffield.ac.uk
www.sheffield.ac.uk/history

Facebook: HistorySheffield
Twitter: UniShefHistory
YouTube: HistorySheffield
History Matters

Please note that the course details set out here may change before you start, particularly if you are applying significantly in advance of the course start date. The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it is current and relevant. Individual modules may be updated or withdrawn in response to discoveries through our world-leading research, funding changes, professional accreditation requirements, student or employer feedback, curriculum review, staff availability, and variations in student numbers. In the event of a material change the University will inform students in good time and will take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.