Our Undergraduate Courses.
Make the past your future with a degree in History

A word of introduction from our Head of Department, Professor Adrian Bingham:

Our Department is committed to excellence in teaching and research. Studying with us means you have a wide range of modules to choose from so you can tailor your degree to suit your own interests. Your modules are taught by leading historians who bring their award-winning research to life in the seminar room. Innovative teaching methods and student-led projects ensure you’ll be inspired by the subjects you are learning about, and let you carry out your own research in the areas that interest you. And it doesn’t stop there: our history degrees help you build an impressive range of skills and qualities that equip you for a wide variety of careers.

Why choose Sheffield

- 3rd in the UK for our world-leading research (Research Excellence Framework 2014)
- Ranked in the world's top 100 history departments (QS World University Ranking 2018)
- Joint top in the Russell Group for student welfare and support (Times Higher 2018)
- Top 5 Russell Group university for small group tuition (Times Higher 2018)
- Top 5 in the UK for overall best student experience for eighth year in a row (Times Higher 2018)
- Best Students' Union in the UK for tenth consecutive year (Times Higher 2018)
- Number 1 in the Russell Group for accommodation (Times Higher 2018)

History at a glance

We value excellence in both teaching and research, making sure our students achieve their potential. We are particularly proud to offer our students:

- Cutting-edge course content with research-led teaching from world-renowned academics
- A flexible degree structure with a wide range of modules
- A degree programme carefully designed to develop your skills as an independent historian - from supporting your transition from school to university, to writing an original research-led dissertation in your final year
- A third year special subject which offers a unique combination of intensive teaching and small class sizes, running over the full academic year
- The opportunity to gain a wide range of transferable skills leading to successful careers in areas such as law, the media, marketing, heritage, business management, government and teaching.
What do you get with a degree in History?

An exciting subject to study

Study history with us and you’ll be able to investigate great events and influential people from the ancient world to the present day. You’ll do this alongside leading historians whose findings are shaping our understanding of history. Many of them have written books you’ll use on your course, and their modules will introduce you to the very latest historical discoveries.

We get to know you and support you

We want you to get the most out of your degree. Our class sizes stay small so you can have your say, and our support doesn’t stop at the seminar room door.

Find out more from page 10.

Great career opportunities

Graduates with a degree in history have a wide range of options available to them. You’ll develop lots of transferable skills, and past students have put these to use in teaching and further study as well as becoming lawyers, accountants and much more.

Find out more from page 16.

The opportunity to study abroad

History is all about discovering and understanding the world at large. As well as helping you to get a wider perspective on your studies, studying abroad gives you a great opportunity to experience another culture, make new friends and maybe even learn a new language. Our students can choose from a range of locations including France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, North America, Canada, East Asia and Australia. If you take a History degree with a language, a year abroad is built into your degree.

Find out more at www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/studyabroad

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, over 400 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 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 facilities in Sheffield are brilliant; I only study in the library, and there’s plenty of study space options here, so there’s always somewhere to work on campus, whatever your learning style or workplace preferences.”

Danielle Martin BA/English and History

Computer access

As well as the 1000 computers available across both Information Commons, you have access to the University’s network via hundreds more computers both across the campus and in University accommodation.

Want to use your own laptop or iPad while you’re out and about? You will have wifi access across the whole of the University as well as back home in your University accommodation.
Our lecturers

We are a thriving, successful department with around 40 permanent members of academic staff as well as qualified, experienced associate tutors and postgraduate researchers who complement the strengths of our full-time academics.

Our Students’ Union

The Students’ Union is an important part of your student experience. It has a lot to offer including study space, a cinema, cafes, shops, bars, night clubs as well as vital support services.

There are also over 300 student-run clubs and societies that you can get involved with or you can start your own! Our History Society is very active, organising lots of historical and social events each year. You can also enhance your CV through the History Society’s work with local charities and schools or by getting involved with the society committee.

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

Our Students’ Union is the best in the UK for the tenth consecutive year

Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2018

“The Student Union especially is a stand out feature, and somewhere I have visited on many occasion, be it for a night out, somewhere to eat or somewhere to study. The way the accommodation is separated from the university buildings I think is great, as it forces you to go into different parts of Sheffield, whilst also allowing a communal, homely atmosphere in the student villages.”

Kate McLaughlin BA/History

In the 2018 Times Higher Student Experience Survey we were voted first in the Russell Group for our good community atmosphere.

Accommodation

University accommodation is not just somewhere to eat, sleep and study. We have a wide range of accommodation for you to make your new home.

Whether you choose city or village living, catered, self-catering or a mixture of both, the same high standards of facilities and support are available to you.

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

Sports facilities

Our top of the range sports facilities include a variety of grass and synthetic pitches, swimming pool with sauna and steam rooms, tennis and squash courts, a bouldering wall and the superbly equipped S10health Fitness Centre, including a fitness studio with regular fitness classes.

Find out more at www.sport-sheffield.com
Extra-curricular Opportunities

Studying history at Sheffield also gives you the opportunity to get involved in a range of exciting extra-curricular activities, helping you to engage with history in new ways and get even more out of your student experience. These activities can also help you to enhance your CV by gaining valuable transferable skills and experience in areas such as interviewing, film-making, and working with school children.

Some of these projects run each year, so you can get involved at each level of your degree, and others, like the SURE projects and Witness, are great one-off opportunities. Examples include:

**Hands on History**
Hands on History teaches you about a range of historical objects before helping you to take them out into local schools to work with year 7 and 8 pupils. The aim of the project is to encourage the pupils to engage with History and think about university-level study more generally.

**The Witness Project**
The Witness Project allows you to help collect and preserve Sheffield’s past and heritage through the medium of oral history. You’ll create an oral archive that will be used for years to come.

Students who join the scheme are trained in interviewing techniques and ethics by experienced oral historians before identifying participants and recording interviews based on their topic of interest.

“As part of the project, I was able to plan and conduct my own interview with a member of the public, with the aim of researching the history of the Jewish community of Sheffield in the twentieth century.

I decided to participate in the project initially to further my experience of oral history and to develop my interview skills. Witness however far exceeded such expectations, leaving me with a desire to take this area of historical study further in the future.”

*Molly Preger* BA/History

**New Histories**
New Histories is a student-led online history magazine, which aims to make written history more accessible to a wider audience through short informal articles. It’s a great way to enhance your communication skills with different styles of writing. You can also develop editing experience by becoming part of the editorial team.

**Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)**
SURE offers students scholarships to work together with an academic and/or collaboratively in a group on a dedicated research project.

This summer, we have two academics running projects where a group of students from across the University have come together to explore a research topic. Julie Gottlieb has been working with four students to look at The Effects of National Crises on Mental Health, exploring the emotional and behavioural responses to well characterised, historic social stresses. Casey Strine has been working with six students on Representing Migration, which explored how images of migrants and refugees shape public understanding and opinions of migration.

Individual student projects have also focussed on the History of the Sheffield Jewish Journal and The 1970s in the Cultural Memory of British Iranians.

**History Society**
As well as offering a wide variety of social activities, the History Society can be a great way of getting involved in CV-enhancing activities through their charity, volunteering and education work or by becoming part of the society committee.

“I am a member of the History Society committee, and not only has it allowed me to make new friends, learn about the runnings of a society and equip myself with necessary skills for the future, it has greatly improved my confidence, communication and team-working skills. These are all vital and had I not taken part, I might never have found the confidence I have now.”

*Laurissa Hackett* BA/History

Find out more on our website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/studentprojects](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/studentprojects)
Sheffield is England’s fourth largest city and, with two universities, home to over 50,000 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.

**A green friendly city**
Being one of the UK’s greenest cities, 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.

“Sheffield is an amazing city that is made for students. It is both safe and fun and there are venues that cater for everyone’s taste in music. Similarly the range of pub quizzes and great offers for students all over the city make it a brilliant place to live.”

Henry Spooner BA/History

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

We have some of the best pubs in Britain and night clubs 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.

If eating out is your thing, then we have some great independent cafes and fantastic restaurants serving food from all around the world.

When it comes to shopping we’ve got it all. You’ll find all the big names in Meadowhall and if you like independent and boutique shops then the city centre and Ecclesall Road are the places to be.

Sheffield also has a thriving cultural scene with a variety of excellent museums and galleries as well as several cinemas and theatres, including the Showroom, the largest independent cinema outside London, and the well-renowned Crucible Theatre.

**A cheap city**
Sheffield is one of the cheapest student cities in the UK – ranked among the top 10 most affordable UK university cities in the 2017 Natwest Student Living Index -, which means your money goes further, perfect for student budgets!

**A safe city**
The UK Peace Index, a study using Home Office data, measured levels of peacefulness in the UK from 2003 to 2012 and found Sheffield to be England’s safest major city.

**Great links to the rest of the UK**
Sheffield also has excellent transport links so you can easily visit friends and family during your time here.

“Sheffield as a city, to me, is one of the most underrated cities. The Peak District is only a bus ride away and has the most incredible walks and hidden gems. Kelham Island is one of my favourite places to visit in Sheffield as it has lots of quirky cafes and shops.”

Kate McLaughlin BA/History
Our degrees

BA in History (V100)

History is the world’s collective memory, helping us to understand our current culture and society. Our three year single honours degree gives you the opportunity to explore all aspects of History.

You will study core modules in each year to help build the foundations of your degree. You can then choose from a wide range of option modules focusing on history across the globe from the ancient world through to the present day and covering political, social and cultural themes.

The third year lets you specialise one of the areas that you find most interesting by taking a Special Subject and working independently on a connected dissertation.

Degree structure and modules

How it works

- Your degree is taught over three years
- The academic year has two semesters
- Each year you take 120 credits of modules
- Usually you will study three 20 credit modules each semester
- In your third year your dissertation and Special Subject are 40 credits and taught over the full year

Find out more on our Course Structure webpages: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/courses

“I chose Sheffield because I wanted to study at a great university in a great city and Sheffield ticked both of those boxes.

The freedom of choice with modules is fantastic, it really offers you the opportunity to broaden your horizons in the subject and the department is very encouraging with this. I discovered a love for British history that I never knew I had!

I have made a habit throughout my time in Sheffield to attend talks put on by the department and the Students’ Union which I feel are great ways not only of meeting the academics you read so much about but to also really engage with the topics that interest you and other like-minded people.”

David Boorer BA/History

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What is an unrestricted module?

We like to give you as much choice as possible, so in the first and second year you have the opportunity to swap some of your history option modules for modules in another department, subject to availability and any prerequisite A Level subjects. So if there is something that you enjoyed at school or college or you just want to try something new, go for it! Don’t want to study another subject? that’s no problem, you can simply select additional modules from the list of options for your degree.
Our dual degrees

Our large range of dual degrees means you don’t have to choose between your passion for history and another subject.

All of our dual degrees are well-matched combinations that will provide you with an interesting, coherent degree and skills that are attractive to a wide range of employers.

We want you to feel at home in both departments, so you will normally have a personal tutor or member of staff in each subject that you can go to if you need any advice or support.

The University’s module system means that you’ll do the same amount of credits and have the same learning hours as single honours students.

We know that you want your degree to run smoothly, so we work hard to communicate with our dual departments to ensure that the timetables work together.

Degree structure and modules

How it works

• Your degree is taught over three years
• Each year you take 120 credits of modules over two semesters
• You will usually take 60 credits in each subject
• In the second and final year you may have the option to major in one subject
• In years one and two you may have the option to take unrestricted modules. See page 6.

Find out more on our Course Structure webpages: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/courses

BA in Archaeology and History (FV41)

Our degree in Archaeology and History allows you to combine the study of historical texts with the investigation of past material culture and practical fieldwork.

Core modules such as History Workshop; Historians and History; Towards Modernity: Anthropology, Archaeology & Colonialism and Archaeology and Text help build the foundations of your historical and archaeological knowledge.

In History you have freedom to choose from the full range of options meaning you can focus on medieval and early modern history or contrast your archaeological study with elements of modern history.

In Archaeology you will carry out practical archaeological work as well as learning about nature and formation of archaeological relevance.

BA in English and History (QV31)

You will learn historical skills that can help you understand the context in which the great works of literature were written, and literary skills that will support your study of historical sources.

Core modules such as History Workshop and Historians and History help build your historical knowledge, while our wide range of option modules in both subjects include topics such as theatre, film, 20th Century poetry, religious history and social and cultural change in Britain.

“Sheffield University had such a positive reputation that I was immediately interested in studying there. The University appealed to me more and more as I researched it. It offered me the chance to follow my passions for History and English by studying a dual subject. The History Department are so enthusiastic and engaging, and the wide variety of modules made Sheffield my only choice for where I wanted to study.

I love learning and being challenged and Sheffield has exceeded all my expectations. It is such a wonderful environment to learn in. The lecturing and teaching team are so helpful, informative and always on hand to share their research and love of history.”

Charlotte Bean BA/English and History

BA in History and Music (VW13)

Our new history and music degree allows you to combine a passion for two quite different yet complementary subjects.

A really flexible degree structure allows you to choose from a wide range of music genres and historical themes, including classical, pop, jazz, folk and world music and political, social and cultural history from the ancient world to the modern day.

BA in History and Politics (VL12)

It is often said that History is past politics and Politics is present history. With our dual degree you can investigate contemporary politics and political theory, within the broader context of historical investigation.

Core modules such as History Workshop; Historians and History; Analysing Politics and Political Analysis: Research Design and Data Analysis will help you to build your historical and political knowledge. You will then be able to choose from a wide range of option modules in both subjects. Our flexible structure means that you can choose modules from any available period and geographical location to suit your interests.
BA in History and Philosophy (VVI5)

Your philosophy modules will help you to understand the nature of human thought through logic and reason. This knowledge will provide a theoretical framework for your study of History and your history modules will help you to understand the context of the creation of some of the great works of philosophy. Core modules such as History Workshop and Historians and History will help to build the foundations of your historical knowledge.

Our wide range of optional modules makes sure that you are studying topics you’re really interested in.

“I like the variety I get in my degree. I chose a dual honours degree because I couldn’t decide which course to choose, by combining them I have the best of both worlds. The two subjects both complement each other whilst being incredibly different. This variety in my course means that I am always challenged and never bored.”

Hannah Clayton BA/History and Philosophy

BA in History and Sociology (VL13)

History is the study of past societies and sociology considers the theory of modern society. Your modules in sociology will help you understand patterns of social change and give you insights into the past societies that you will study in your history modules.

Core modules such as History Workshop; Historians and History; The Sociology of Everyday Life; Introduction to Social Research and The Sociological Imagination Seminar help to build the foundations of your historical and sociological knowledge, while our wide range of optional modules means that you can focus on the areas of both history and sociology that most interest you.

Find out more about history core and option modules on pages 11-15

For more information on modules see our degree programmes webpages: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/courses

Our duals with languages

Languages are a very useful skill to have in the modern world and can be a priceless asset for historical research, particularly if you choose to continue your study of History after graduation. This makes history with a language the perfect choice for many students, allowing you to investigate the past while you develop your language skills and spend a year abroad.

In History, you will have core modules such as History Workshop and Historians and History in years one and two to help you build up your historical knowledge and a wide range of option modules to choose from including modules that are related to the history of your chosen country.

Degree structure and modules

How it works

• Your degree is taught over four years
• You will spend your second year (Chinese Studies only) or third year studying abroad
• Each year you take 120 credits of modules over two semesters
• In years one and two you may have the option to take unrestricted modules. See page 6.
BA in History and Modern Languages & Cultures (RV50)

Available from September 2019, our new degree offers a flexible option for studying history together with one or more modern languages.

You will focus on developing your historical awareness as well as your language skills and your understanding of cultures and societies in Europe and beyond. The flexibility of the modern languages part of the degree means you have the option to study either one or two of the 11 different languages we have on offer: Catalan, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Luxembourgish, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. In your first year, you can take any language from beginner’s level, and you can take French, German, Polish, Russian or Spanish post-A Level (or equivalent).

You’ll develop your communication skills in your chosen language or languages to a high level. Optional modules include linguistics, literature, society and politics, history, philosophy and film studies.

“Doing a dual degree gives you a different perspective on both subjects and contributes knowledge to either side. It gives you different ways of thinking about things, and brings you into contact with more types of people than you would meet doing single honours. For me, a dual degree is the best option as it genuinely broadens your horizons.”

Nicole Oshisanwo BA/German and History

BA in Chinese Studies and History (TV11)

You will focus on developing your language skills as well as learning about one of the world’s most populous nations, with a rapidly developing economy and growing political influence as well as a rich cultural history. Beginners and intermediate languages classes are available.

BA in Japanese Studies and History (TV21)

You will develop your language skills with intensive classes covering both written and spoken Japanese. You will also learn about society and culture in Japan, an exciting country which blends a fascinating traditional culture with modernity and technological advances.

The Year Abroad

All of our language degrees are four years long and include the exciting opportunity to spend a year abroad.

Modern Languages

You have the choice of spending your year abroad studying at a well renowned University or gaining some work experience by being a teaching assistant at a local school.

The places that you can go to include Brussels, Canada, Cuba, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Russia and the Netherlands. The places that you can go to include France, Canada, Germany, Brussels, Spain, Cuba, Russia and the Netherlands.

Chinese and Japanese Studies

You have the opportunity to study at a top-ranking University in China or Japan.

“At university in Yokohama I was able to take a variety of courses (in English) about Japanese business, culture, law and history alongside my language classes.

Japan is an incredible country. The people are amazing, the food is fantastic and there is something for everyone - whether you want to climb mountains, visit museums and beautiful temples, go skiing, dancing or to the beach!”

Laura Wilkins BA/Japanese Studies and History
Year One

Your first year is where it all starts. We want you to get the most out of your degree so we make sure your seminar classes are small and we offer you plenty of support to settle in and get started with your studies. This support then continues throughout your whole time at Sheffield.

**Personal tutors**

You’ll be given a personal tutor who will help you settle into the department. They are then available if you need any advice or support at any point during your degree.

Personal tutors are also able to offer you feedback on your essays and exams to help you make sure that you’re working to your full potential.

**Level and senior tutors**

We also have a level tutor available in each year of your studies and an overall senior tutor.

“In Intro Week you will meet me in my role as Senior Tutor. My job is to ensure that pastoral care is available in the department. This is partly about making sure the personal tutor system works as effectively as possible so that all students feel there is a member of staff they can consult about their academic and personal development. But I’m also available if you encounter problems and feel you need any extra support and advice.”

Tom Leng  
Senior Tutor

**Lectures and Seminars**

All of our first year modules are taught using a combination of lectures and seminars. Lectures give you a good overview of each topic and seminars allow you to go into more detail and get involved in discussions with your tutor and other students.

At level one your learning will include more lectures to ensure you build up a strong foundation of historical knowledge.

Class sizes will vary in each year but we think it’s important to keep seminars small so that you can have your say and not get lost in the crowd.

*First year seminars have a maximum of 12 students each.*

**Learning hours**

Each module you take has a certain amount of timetabled lectures and seminars each week.

In the first year each history option module has two lectures and one seminar per week. Paths from Antiquity to Modernity has three lectures and one seminar.

But it doesn’t stop there: history is a research subject so you will also spend time in the library preparing for your seminars and doing independent research for your essays.

Extra advice is also always available through your personal tutor or our regular tutors’ office hours.

**Tutors’ office hours**

During term-time, all of our tutors also have two hours office hours each week meaning that if you have any questions then you can just drop in and see them.

The first year experience

**Why did you choose to study History at Sheffield?**

I chose Sheffield because as soon as I arrived on campus for the first time during a visit day, everything just clicked into place.

**Has your first year been what you expected?**

My experience so far at Sheffield has been beyond my expectations. The lecturers are extremely friendly and supportive, the course has an outstanding variety of topic choices but most importantly, the atmosphere within the university is incredible and unbeatable.

**What is your favourite module so far?**

I have loved every minute of The Enchantment of Early Modern Europe, most probably because we learn about everything from literacy to how the body was understood during the early modern period. It is completely different to anything you would ever study at A Level and it gives you an opportunity to learn all sorts of things from this time period.

Joss Woodend  
BA/History and Politics

**Assessment**

Modules are assessed through a combination of coursework, exams, seminar participation and short presentations given during your seminar classes.
Modules

In the first year you will study our core module, History Workshop. This module introduces you to our historians’ research at an early stage and provides all students with a common framework to prepare you for the modules that you will study at Levels Two and Three.

Single Honours students will also take Paths from Antiquity to Modernity and dual students will take at least one option module. Many students choose to take some unrestricted modules in the first year but, if you want to concentrate on history, dualists can take at least one further history option and single honours students can take up to four.

Core Modules

History Workshop
You will explore the process of historical research, learning discipline-specific methods and essential study and writing skills through close engagement with a historical question. Tutors use their own research interests to explore how historians analyse primary sources and navigate historiographical debates, while teaching a range of skills such as critical reading, essay writing, bibliographic techniques, and oral communication.

By the end of the module you will have been integrated into the research culture of the department and have a clear understanding of what it takes to be a university-level historian.

Paths from Antiquity to Modernity
(optional for dual students)
This module will introduce you to the broad structures of Western history from the end of the Roman Empire to the Fall of the Berlin Wall. You will gain insight into the periodisation of Western History and of the major transitions in the process of modernisation.

Your study skills will also be developed further by learning to respond directly to feedback and using it to produce a second, enhanced version of your initial assessment.

Option Modules

Empire: From the Ancient World to the Middle Ages
You’ll explore the ancient and medieval world through the analytical lens of ‘empire’, investigating a great variety of movements and events to discover what it meant to live in ancient and medieval empires, what kind of social, cultural and religious encounters they engendered, and whether there was any space for resistance.

The 'Disenchantment' of Early Modern Europe
You will explore the fundamental shifts in mental attitudes and public behaviour in Europe between the age of the Reformation and the age of Enlightenment.

The central focus is on examining the supernatural, as well as religious beliefs. You will look at the changing ways that beliefs impinged on people's lives at various social levels.

The Transformation of Britain, 1800 to the present
You will discover the central political, social, economic, cultural and diplomatic developments that transformed Britain.

Unlike most of Europe, Britain did not experience dramatic moments of revolution, invasion or military defeat and a belief that the nation was set on a course of gradual evolutionary progress was central to British identity. You will examine how, when and why change occurred.

The Making of the Twentieth Century
The module highlights the ways that barbarism and civilising forces went hand in hand in forging twentieth-century history, broadening your understanding of this period.

You will explore key developments in political, social and cultural history through themes such as globalisation; the political and social history of war; and democracy.

American History: From Settlements to Superpower
You will be introduced to the main narratives, themes, and problems of American history from European colonisation to the present, focusing especially on the rise of U.S.

Topics include European conquest and settlement, the American Revolution, slavery, the Civil War, the New Deal, the struggle for Civil Rights and the conflict in Vietnam.
Year Two

We want you to be able to choose a variety of modules but we also believe that your history degree should be coherent, so our core modules continue to give you a strong foundation for your historical knowledge while our option modules give you the opportunity to learn more about an existing interest or branch out and try something new.

Core Modules

**Historians and History**

This module introduces you to some of the most influential and significant developments which have shaped the ways that historians think about and write about the past.

You will also develop a more critical approach to the secondary literature that you will use as you continue your degree.

**Writing History (optional for dual students)**

This module gives you the chance to carry out a detailed independent study on a topic related to one of your options.

Collaborative feedback and support from a supervisor and students working in similar areas, seminars and a workshop on electronic sources enable you to develop your research and academic writing skills.

Option modules

Our wide range of option modules reflect a variety of approaches and methodologies. You can choose to focus for example on political, social, cultural, economic or religious history in Britain, Europe, America or the wider world.

Single honours students will take at least one option module in each available historical period - medieval, early modern and modern - this helps to broaden your historical knowledge and understanding. You can choose to specialise in one of these areas through your additional option choices.

Examples include:

- The Roman Republic and the making of Roman Italy (500-90 BC)
- Warriors, Saints and Heroes in Early Medieval Britain
- Gender, Culture and Society: Britain, 1689-1837
- Intoxicants in Early Modern England
- Slavery and Abolition in the United States
- The History of American Foreign Relations
- Understanding the Aztecs: Life and Death in Early Sixteenth-Century Mexico
- Shell-Shock to Prozac: Mental Health in Britain
- Imperial Germany, 1871-1918
- The History of Terrorism
- From World War to Cold War: Europe 1945-1968
- Media and Popular Culture in Twentieth-Century Britain
- The Battle for China’s Future, 1839-1949
- European Fascism
- The Northern Ireland ‘Troubles’ and Peace Process

The level two experience:

“My experience has far surpassed any expectations I ever had, and those expectations were fairly high to begin with!

I really enjoy the flexibility of the course. Personally I enjoy modern history the most and there are plenty of modules that cater to different time periods of history and different historical events. I also really enjoy being able to spend time in a lecture and then time in a seminar to consolidate everything I’ve learnt!

This year I am studying Historians and History, the History of Terrorism and US Foreign relations. I particularly enjoyed the making of the twentieth century module as it spanned such a wide time frame and dealt with some very interesting topics such as genocide and ethnic cleansing. The layout of the course is very well done especially in terms of dual honours and the lecturers are always approachable and helpful.”

Hannah Stevens BA/History and Sociology

**Assessment**

Modules are assessed through coursework, exam or a combination of both. Document options are also assessed through a short presentation and seminar participation.

**Lectures and Seminars**

Most modules include one lecture and one seminar per week over one semester.

Your seminars will have a maximum of 15 students each.

**Document options**

These modules usually cover a specific event, movement or a moment in time and they help you develop your skills in the use and analysis of primary sources which will be invaluable as you progress through your degree. Examples include:

- Match of the Day: The Nika Riot in 532
- 1066 and all that
- The Medieval Inquisition
- The Myth of Venice
- Global Lives: South Asian Travel and Migration in the Age of Empire
- Jane Groom’s ‘Extraordinary Scheme’: Disability and the Body in the Transatlantic World c. 1800-1900
- The Welfare State in Britain, 1900-2015
- Barcelona and the Tragic ‘Week’
- Russian Revolution, 1917-18
- Appeasement, the Munich Crisis and the British People
- Coercion and Consent in the Third Reich
Final Year

Your final year is where you can choose to focus on one of the areas of history that interests you most. You will use the skills and knowledge that you have acquired in years one and two to undertake focused research using primary sources. Specialist modules include the Special Subject and the dissertation: we consider these to be important staples in a history degree, and that’s why we make sure they are available to all students.

Core modules (optional for dual students)

The Uses of History

In this module you will critically engage with public history by exploring its theory and practice, communicating your scholarly work to new audiences, and reflecting on the possibilities and challenges of translating history between academic and non-academic settings. The module will also offer the opportunity to engage with a range of practitioners of public history such as filmmakers, activists, and heritage professionals.

Dissertation

This module gives you the opportunity to really focus on a piece of independent research in an area of your choice. You will develop your skills in research including critical analysis of primary source materials and advanced engagement with secondary literature.

For single honours students this is a double-module taught over the full academic year. Dual students have the option to take a short version taught in semester two.

Thematic options

These modules take major historical themes and explore them across a broad time-frame and in a variety of different cultural and geographic settings.

Examples include:
- Cities
- Cultural Encounters
- Debt, Money and Morality

Dual students will normally choose 60 credits of history modules and have the freedom to choose any combination of these modules:
- The Uses of History (20 credits)
- Short Dissertation (20 credits)
- Thematic Option (20 credits)
- Special Subject (40 credits)

For dual degrees with the option to major in one subject, you can choose to take either 40 or 80 credits of history instead of 60 credits. If you choose to take 80 credits in history this can include either the short or the long dissertation (40 credits). The long dissertation must be taken in combination with a Special Subject.

Assessment

Your assessment will vary between modules but will include both coursework and exams. The Special Subject has two exams at the end of the year including one focusing on primary sources. Your dissertation is assessed solely on this piece of independent coursework.

The level three experience:

“My experience has definitely improved year upon year as I have become more independent and more settled in Sheffield. There is a really strong student community and this is definitely a bonus. My degree has been challenging at times but never overwhelming due to the support of my seminar leaders in my chosen modules.

I am particularly enjoying my special subject this year and it is allowing a more in-depth focus on a particular time period. The 4 hours of seminars a week rather than lecture is also more interesting as it means discussion is mostly led by ourselves.

My overall experience of studying at Sheffield has been a roller coaster. Looking back at the first week of first year and the fear of leaving home to the confident adult I am today is an amazing transformation. This would not have been possible without the support of the university who has not only helped me grow academically but also personally.”

Ben Stringer BA/History & Politics

Lectures and Seminars

You will experience a variety of teaching in the final year. The Uses of History and thematic options include regular lectures and seminars over one semester; the Special Subject has intensive two-hour seminars twice a week over the full year and the dissertation consists of one-to-one supervision supported by skills workshops.

All seminars, including Special Subjects, have a maximum of 16 students, as we think it is especially important to keep your classes small for your final year.
Special Subjects

We consider Special Subjects to be a very important part of our degree programmes, as they allow you to specialise in one of the topics that really interests you.

They involve intensive study - four hours of seminar teaching per week - over the full academic year and give you the opportunity to explore your historical topic in great detail while receiving focused supervision.

This is where being a research-led department really comes to the fore, as it means that our specialist final year teaching is kept fresh and current and you can really benefit from working closely with an expert in the field, as you investigate a specific body of primary sources.

All single honours students take a Special Subject in their final year and, because these specialist topics are of such interest to our students, many dual students chose to take one too.

In each year there is a range of around 20 Special Subjects to choose from. You can view more examples on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/courses. Simply select your course and click on the ‘course content’ tab.

Cannibals and Christians: Mexico and Spain, c.1491-1600

In 1521, less than thirty years after the ‘discovery’ of the Americas by Columbus, Hernando Cortés and his famous conquistadors brought about the collapse of huge Aztec empire which dominated Central Mexico. The module looks at this extraordinary clash of cultures, and the following settlement of Mexico by Spain, putting it in the context of the relationship which developed between Europe and the Americas in the sixteenth century. Drawing on a wide range of perspectives, from sailors, conquistadors, priests, historians, explorers, missionaries, administrators and the indigenous people themselves, we explore themes such as the cultural and military encounter, its intellectual and cultural impact, trade and exchange, migration, missionary work and empire.

“The Special Subject is a fantastic opportunity to spend four hours a week for the whole year working in a small seminar group. This means we all get to know each other incredibly well, so that everyone feels comfortable to experiment and try out new ideas - including me! Students take the lead in shaping the way the module develops, and this year seminars included role-playing, presentations, quizzes and debates as well as document analysis and discussion. The module allows you to become a real expert in the subject you’re studying, giving you time to get to grips with the sources and engage directly with this fascinating period.”

Dr Caroline Pennock

Breaking up (in) the Carolingian Empire

In 858, an early medieval king attempted to get rid of his wife. This was not in itself unusual – but in this case, and for the first time in European history, the king was unable to bring about the divorce he desperately wanted. This failure dragged his kingdom into a crisis from which it never recovered, with enormous political consequences for the continent and the empire established by Charlemagne; and it set a precedent for marriage that endured for centuries. This special subject uses this divorce case, between King Lothar and Queen Theutberga, as a window onto early medieval politics, society and culture.

“King Lothar’s divorce is something I’m working on at the moment – together with a colleague from London I’ve recently published a new translation of a major source – so I’m really excited to be able to bring my own research into the seminar room so directly. The case offers a fresh angle onto classic themes in early medieval history, such as the break-up of the Carolingian Empire, the Viking raids and the rise of the papacy, and also opens up new perspectives on aspects of cultural history, ranging from love to witchcraft and magic.”

Dr Charles West
Permissive Britain? Social and Cultural Change, 1956-74

From the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s, Britain enjoyed a period of unprecedented affluence. This was also a time of intellectual ferment when traditions and authorities were challenged, personal morality was re-evaluated, and new freedoms were claimed. The transition to a more individualistic, pluralistic and multicultural society caused considerable debate and disquiet.

Using a wide range of primary sources, including social surveys, government reports, memoirs, court transcripts, newspaper and magazine articles, television broadcasts and cartoons, this Special Subject examines the impact of affluence and consumerism on class and gender relationships; the emergence of a national youth culture based around music and fashion; changes and continuities in sexual behaviour in the wake of the introduction of the contraceptive pill; and the increasingly heated debates about immigration and race.

Students will assess the significance of the reforming legislation that relaxed the censorship regime, decriminalised homosexuality, enabled easier access to abortion, liberalised the divorce system and abolished capital punishment. They will examine the arguments of those who championed, and those who resisted, ‘permissiveness’.

The United States and the Cold War, 1945-1975

The United States and the Cold War takes a broad view of the conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to explore how it shaped both American foreign policy as well as domestic politics and culture during the second half of the 20th century. It encourages students to probe the nature of the Cold War’s impact. How all-encompassing was the Cold War? How did non-state actors react to and influence the course of its development? And how “cold” was the Cold War? This module examines the Cold War with fresh perspective.

We will revisit the traditional historiography, which focuses on high policy actors and U.S. relations with the Soviet Union. But we will also gain new insight from an emerging literature that challenges such a deterministic and elite framing of what was a global conflict that involved multiple actors at all levels of society, many of whom brought with them complex motivations that existed prior to, or outside of, the rigid Cold War binary.

In addition to these secondary sources, we will explore a wide range of primary source material, from declassified State Department documents to Third World assertions of sovereignty to popular films and novels.

“How permissive was Britain in the 1960s? Was this a period of social revolution? Did London really ‘swing’? Students taking this course will get the opportunity to study all the evidence and find out for themselves.”

Dr Adrian Bingham

“The Cold War is one of the most studied developments in American history. One of the aims of this special subject is to get students to question much of the received wisdom found in the copious literature on the Cold War—to encourage students to tackle the both the secondary and primary sources with a critical and original approach. There is a tendency among historians to view the Cold War as ubiquitous: as a social, economic, and political framework that permeated all levels of society, foreign relations, and even individual consciousness. But were all social, political, and cultural developments during the second half of the 20th century related to the Cold War? What happens when we take off the ‘Cold War lens’?”

Dr Sarah Miller-Davenport
Your future

With a degree in history, whether it’s single honours or a dual degree, you’ve got a wealth of careers open to you.

Our teaching involves regular seminars, which encourage active participation and group-working, and include oral presentations. You are also encouraged to read widely, processing and analysing substantial bodies of information before using this to produce written coursework, source commentaries, and potentially a substantial and independently researched dissertation.

This means that throughout your studies you are acquiring various desirable attributes that will improve your employability including critical thinking; the ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; information literacy; the ability to work both independently and in groups; organisation and time management as well as confidence in the use of IT.

What we do to help

The Department

We know that it’s important for you start to think about your career early on, so we organise a range of departmental careers activities starting in year two of your studies.

Careers support includes:

- a year two careers programme with talks on important topic areas such as Career Planning and the Graduate Labour Market; Enhancing your Employability and the Importance of Work Experience; Making Applications and Interviews and Assessment Centres
- an evening with recent graduates talking about their careers and passing on tips for successful job hunting
- many of our degrees give you the option of adding a year in employment to your programme
- extra-curricular activities such as Hands on History and History in the City, or volunteering through the History Society, can also help you build your CV and gain valuable experience. See page 4
- our final year module, The Uses of History, will encourage you to think about how you can draw on your training as a historian in life beyond graduation
- your personal tutor is another excellent resource for careers planning and you are encouraged to talk to them about your plans for your future career or further study

The University

The University’s Careers Service also offers extensive help to students at all levels of their undergraduate study including additional tailored talks and meetings and a drop-in advice service.

The Careers Service’s excellent reputation has also resulted in an extensive network of employer contacts with many top companies coming directly to the University to recruit graduates at our regular recruitment fairs.

Find out more on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/careers

What do our students actually do?

Past graduates have gone on to become successful lawyers, teachers, management consultants, archivists, university lecturers, researchers, marketing executives, civil servants, accountants, librarians, and workers in museums, tourism and the heritage industry.

But don’t just take our word for it...

“Shortly after graduation, I was employed full-time as a Study Abroad Coordinator. I am the main contact for all worldwide exchanges and I handle 48 partner universities on every continent except Europe, which is really exciting.

Although a lot of my job is administrative, I would say that the main skills I use are communication-based. I speak to students, staff members and parents on a daily basis about the opportunities afforded by studying abroad, and the options that are available to them; as well as negotiating with partner universities, writing promotional material and handling queries that come in via email and on the phone.

Aside from verbal and written communication skills, I am also very grateful for the data analysis skills that working with historical sources has given me, because I feel far better placed to work with numbers and analyse figures than I would have otherwise!”

Amy Thompson
BA/History and Politics
Study Abroad Coordinator
“I started working at Search Laboratory in April 2012 and I’m now a Content & Online PR Manager. This involves managing a team of Content & Online PR Executives, ensuring we deliver the best content marketing and online PR strategies for our clients.

The skills I use on a daily basis involve building upon what I learned during my time at Sheffield - strong writing and research abilities, communication and organisation.

The History course provides transferable skills that you can take to a variety of different industries - digital marketing is just one of many. Often people come to university without knowing what their career path will be, but choosing to study at Sheffield ensures that everyone can leave with the skills in place to go on do whatever they want in whatever industry they choose.”

Danielle Birch  
BA/History  
Content & Online PR Manager

“I left Sheffield in 1993, already having secured a job in the Diplomatic Service.

In my diplomatic career, I’ve worked on a UK development programme with newly capitalist Russia, helping them transform their command economy to a market economy in the early 1990s. I've learned two difficult languages (Cantonese and Vietnamese) and perfected my French. I have worked as Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, seeing at close quarters how Ministers take decisions and how parliament and media influence our policy making process. I have led the FCO's efforts to become a more diverse organisation. I have been deputy Ambassador in Vietnam and Deputy Ambassador in Paris.

Academically, I found the high expectations of the staff helped prepare me to work in an environment where excellence is expected and delivered. They taught me not to let any assumption go unquestioned. We were pushed to develop rigorous thinking, to consider all angles, even those that were least fashionable or obvious. I still push myself to do this now. My dissertation focused on Foreign Office documents. When I returned last year to what I wrote, I expected to find my conclusions immature and ill-informed – I’d written it, after all, before I’d entered the world of work. But I didn’t. All of my conclusions still stood. I think that says a lot about the quality of the academic experience at Sheffield.

I’ve spent more years at work than I did at Sheffield. But I’m very aware that I’m still drawing from my Sheffield experience to perform.”

Kara Owen  
BA/History  
Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy in Paris

Find out what more of our graduates are doing now on our website:  
www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ta/careers/graduates
Applying to study with us

All applicants should apply to study with us through UCAS. Information about the application process is available on their website at www.ucas.com.

Visiting us

University open days

The University has several open days each year for prospective undergraduate students. They include tours of the University and accommodation facilities as well as talks about the University, student life, the Students' Union and student finances.

You can also sign up to a history talk where our Admissions Team will tell you all about our degrees and you will have the chance to ask questions about the course content and application process.

History open days

If you are offered a place on one of our degrees then you will be invited to attend a departmental open day with us or, for duals degrees with Archaeology, English and Languages, your dual department.

Our open days give you the chance to see the department; hear more about the content of our degrees; talk to current students; and experience a sample lecture and seminar based on our historians’ teaching and research. Dual students will also have the opportunity to attend a session with their dual department. You will also have the option to visit our Experience Sheffield Exhibition which gives you access to information on a wide range of facilities; support services and extra-curricular activities such as studying abroad.

You will also be able to visit our accommodation and take a campus tour.

Find out more on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/visit

What if I can't make the open days?

The University runs regular campus tours, you can view more details and book on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/opendays

We are also able to arrange a meeting with a member of our Admissions Team. Just get in touch at history.admissions@sheffield.ac.uk and we’d be happy to help.

“I chose to study at Sheffield after attending an open day and getting a really good feel from the University and surrounding area! It felt inclusive and vibrant, which was exactly what I wanted from my experience.”

David Dean BA/History

Need to get in touch?

You’ll find our full contact details on the inside of the back cover.
Entry requirements

We accept A Levels as well as a range of other UK and international qualifications including the International Baccalaureate, the Welsh Baccalaureate, the Cambridge Pre-U and Scottish Advanced Highers. We are also able to accept the Extended Project for many of our courses where the EPQ is in history or a related subject.

Find out more about entry requirements on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/study/ba/courses

Do you accept all A Level subjects?

Yes. We take all A Level subjects. However some subjects should be combined with two acceptable A Level subjects. For full details of acceptable combinations of A Level subjects see our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/policies/alevel

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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>A Level</th>
<th>International Baccalaureate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single honours</td>
<td>V100 History</td>
<td>AAB typically including an A in History or Classical Civilisation</td>
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<td>FV41 Archaeology &amp; History</td>
<td>ABB typically including History or Classical Civilisation</td>
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<td>QV31 English &amp; History</td>
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<td>RV50 History &amp; Modern Languages and Cultures</td>
<td>ABB typically including History or Classical Civilisation and a modern foreign language</td>
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<td>TV11 Chinese Studies &amp; History</td>
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<td>TV21 Japanese Studies &amp; History</td>
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<td>WV15 History &amp; Philosophy</td>
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<td>VL12 History &amp; Politics</td>
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<td>VL13 History &amp; Sociology</td>
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<td>VW13 History &amp; Music</td>
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Please see the online prospectus for full details of acceptable music qualifications.

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.
Our staff and research culture

The Department is a thriving research community and we actively encourage our students to make the most of their time at Sheffield by getting involved in our research activities and events.

Research-led teaching is a core part of our departmental philosophy. You’ll be taught by world-leading historians who bring their award-winning research to life in the seminar room.

We have around 40 members of academic staff, actively teaching and researching in ancient, medieval, early modern, modern and contemporary history. Our historians address themes including society and culture, politics, religion, gender and the history of violence and peace, in Britain, Europe, America and the wider world.

The Department has its own research seminar series, which runs regularly during semester-time and covers a huge range of topics. There are also a range of research centres and networks many of which are interdisciplinary or focus on cross-cutting research themes. These include the Medieval and Ancient Research Centre, the Sheffield Centre for Early Modern Studies; the Cultures of the Cold War Network; the Centre for Contemporary and Modern History; the Borders, States and Citizens Network and Medical Humanities Sheffield. These centres all have their own seminar series and students at all levels of study are encouraged to take part.

This provides you with the ideal environment to develop your historical research skills and explore your individual areas of interest as well as developing a broad range of transferable skills to help you prepare for your future.

Find out more about our staff on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/research/strengths
How to contact us

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

Admissions 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.admissions@sheffield.ac.uk
www.sheffield.ac.uk/history

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it’s up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we’ll consult and inform students in good time and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.