MA Public Humanities

An innovative programme which combines hands-on training in project management and digital methodologies with the study of cultural heritage and public engagement. On this programme you will address the value of the humanities, their impact on society and what forms public humanities may take in the future.

- Specialise in Cultural Heritage, Digital Humanities or Public Engagement with modules taught by leading academics in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Study with experts from the world-leading Humanities Research Institute to explore ways of communicating research in the arts and humanities through technological innovation and application to real world situations
- Work with specialists in digital technologies on public engagement and cultural heritage projects
- Develop project management skills by working with an external partner on live projects

Your Future
This programme will equip you for a career in communicating ideas, working directly with the public or behind the scenes in the arts and heritage industry. The combination of theoretical learning and practical application will provide you with experience and skills which are sought by employers.

Recent graduates of this course have found employment in a wide range of fields, from content marketing in Indonesia to working as a marketing executive for a market research company.

Course Duration
The course can be taken full-time in one year or part-time over two years.

Graduates also continue into further research in the field of public humanities.

Optional Modules
Choose modules from across the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and
- study topics aligned with your chosen pathway
- enrich your knowledge of specialist subject areas (for example, building on subjects studied at undergraduate level)
- take a module from another Public Humanities pathway

Course Structure
Introduction to Public Humanities (15 credits)
Dissertation (60 credits)
Pathway modules (60 credits)
Choose one or two from:
- Cultural Heritage
- Digital Humanities
- Public Engagement
(see next page for further details)
Choose one or two pathways from the following:

1 | Cultural Heritage Pathway
This pathway introduces the theoretical and practical issues involved in managing, conserving and interpreting the historic environment. Practical elements include the production of educational resources and conservation plans.

2 | Digital Humanities Pathway
Recent developments in digital technologies have revolutionised humanities research. You will learn about key methodologies and gain hands-on experience of implementing and evaluating electronic tools and resources. Staff at the internationally respected Humanities Research Institute teach this pathway covering topics including:
- data acquisition
- visualisation
- images, video and 3D worlds
- interface design

3 | Public Engagement Pathway
Learn how to successfully engage external audiences and organisations with Arts and Humanities research. Consider the value of public engagement, its impact on society, its history, and the forms it might take in the future. At a practical level, you will explore different strategies for engaging with external audiences, and attend and reflect on a range of public engagement events. You will address the theoretical and critical frameworks of public engagement, models of collaborative practice, project management, evaluation and ethics.

Choose modules with practical experience

- **Public Engagement in Practice**
  You will focus on the issues raised when communicating research to a lay audience, and the practical aspects of engaging with the wider public. Explore the ways in which academics bring their research into the public domain; how the impact of such engagement activities is evaluated; and the role institutions such as museums play as intermediaries between researchers and their prospective audiences.

  You will work with other students to deliver a project in collaboration with an external organisation. In previous years students have worked with the Devonshire Collection at Chatsworth (see next page) investigating the role of servants at Chatsworth and with the Guild of St George on their 'Ruskin in Sheffield' project.

- **Digital Humanities in Practice**
  Gain hands-on experience managing and contributing to a project currently under active development in the Humanities Research Institute. Working as part of a team you will use digital technology to address a research problem. You will be introduced to aspects of project management such as planning, developing a brief, ethics, and theories.
Chatsworth Servants Project

Students undertook a project in partnership with Chatsworth which followed the fortunes and stories of the servants who worked in and on the property.

The project required students to work closely with senior archivists to work through the records and develop a picture of the lives and experiences of the servant population at Chatsworth. This included their collective responses to events both within the estate and the wider world, such as World War One.

Students used ledger books and original documents to construct a database of servants. They also created an archive of oral histories from servants, holding eight interviews that were recorded and transcribed for future research. In order to publicise their findings, the students wrote blog posts throughout the project and organised a public presentation event.

“Combining pathways based the course in a strong practical foundation, whilst allowing an exploration of exciting and challenging cutting edge theory.”

Nick Potter, MA Public Humanities

Teaching

| Workshops |
| Collaborative work on real projects with external partners |
| Seminars and tutorials |
| Independent research - dissertation |
| Site visits (Cultural Heritage pathway only) |

Entry Requirements

A first degree (e.g. BA, normally of 2.1 standard or above) from a recognised university or equivalent institution in the UK or overseas.

If you are an international student, you need to provide proof of English Language proficiency. We require IELTS 7.0 (minimum 6.5 in writing, and 6.0 in all other components). We offer specialist pre-sessional entry routes in our English Language Teaching Centre.

Scholarship Opportunities

There are a range of scholarships and awards available to Masters students in the Arts and Humanities, including those for International students. Find out more at www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/pg
Find out more
Visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/arts-and-humanities/interdisciplinary/ma/public-humanities

Humanities Research Institute
www.sheffield.ac.uk/hri

Tel: +44 (0)114 2229707
Email: i.kemp@sheffield.ac.uk