I am delighted that you are considering studying MA History at Oxford Brookes. Our programme offers you a diverse and incredibly flexible postgraduate degree, which is excellent preparation for a range of career fields, including PhD research.

You will combine thorough research training with a choice of modules on specific historical topics. You will also be able to conduct your own intensive research on a dissertation topic of your choice.

You will join a school with expertise in areas such as Early Modern History, the History of Crime, the History of Medicine, and Modern Political and International History, and you will get to work alongside active and publishing academics at the forefront of their fields.

Professor Joanne Begiato
Head of the School of History, Philosophy and Culture
WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

**University study**

We understand the need for extensive teaching and contact time through lectures, workshops and tutorials. You will learn from qualified university teachers and have regular face-to-face contact with your tutors.

Studying at Oxford Brookes will give you access to university facilities such as an excellent library and IT resources, sport and leisure activities, student accommodation, a dedicated student careers service, a nursery, medical and dental facilities and also student support services including academic and personal counselling.

**Key features of our programme**

- Top-quality teaching by experienced, research active historians
- A wide choice of optional modules
- The chance to specialise in the history of medicine
- The opportunity to study either full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years)
- Classes take place in the evening, which fits in with work and/or caring responsibilities
- Assessment by coursework, not exams
- A close, supportive learning environment with extensive tutor contact time
- Access to the world-class resources of Oxford’s Bodleian Library and Museums
MA HISTORY

The MA in History provides a coherent but flexible course of graduate study. You will combine research training with intensive modules on specific historical themes and conduct advanced, independent research on a dissertation topic of your choice.

Research is fundamental to our MA in History programme. It informs all of our teaching, and History at Brookes enjoys an international reputation, attracting both high quality staff and students.

### Optional modules
- Behaving Badly: Crime, Deviance and Civilization
- Britain and Europe 1950-1990
- Civil War: Russia, Spain and Greece
- Engineering Society: Eugenics and Biopolitics in Europe
- History That Was Not: Counterfactuals and Alternate History
- Independent Study Module
- Medical Ethics and Ideas
- Religion, Doubt and Secularism in Victorian England
- Science, Magic and Religion
- Terrorism and the Sacralization of Violence
- The American Colossus: US Foreign and Domestic Policy 1945-to the present
- The Hospital in History
- The Reformation and the Parish Church
- The Social History of Mental Illness, c.1700-2000
- Worlds of Risk: Technology, Health and the Environment

### Key Concepts and Methods in Historical Research

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**Semester 1**
- Theories, Methods and Practices in the History of Medicine

**Summer**
- Option 2
- Dissertation

**Optional modules**
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- Independent Study Module
- Medical Ethics and Ideas
- Science, Magic and Religion
- The Hospital in History
- The Social History of Mental Illness, c.1700-2000
- Worlds of Risk: Technology, Health and the Environment

**James Rodwell**
MA History of Medicine alumnus and currently training to become a paramedic.

“My main research project focused on the advancement of neurosurgery in the treatment of head injuries from the 1930’s onwards, and how this has contributed to the development of modern-day Accident and Emergency Medicine.”

HISTORY OF MEDICINE STRAND

History of Medicine is a distinctive strand within our MA History programme. It offers you the chance to focus specifically on the social, scientific and cultural history of medicine, as well as on the relationship between medicine and the humanities (history, philosophy, sociology, literature, religion and art) through a course of research training. This course also allows you the flexibility to pursue modules in other aspects of history.

### Key Concepts and Methods in Historical Research

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MA History of Medicine alumnus and currently training to become a paramedic.
Research opportunities

Research is fundamental to our MA History programme. You can choose modules to reflect your own academic interests, and many students feel moved to continue their academic studies and become specialists themselves. Several former MA students have chosen to become researchers, publishing and lecturing on their work and graduating to do a PhD.

Dissertation module
This module gives you the opportunity to investigate a specialist topic of your choice, resulting in the submission of a dissertation of up to 15,000 words. Support is available at every stage of the process, including individual tutorials and workshops on research techniques and source analysis. You can also access the world-class resources of Oxford's Bodleian Library.

Research and expertise
You will be taught by active researchers with strong reputations. They draw on their own research to create a programme which incorporates the newest academic thinking. Our current areas of staff research expertise include:
- Early Modern History
- Health, Welfare, and Society
- History of Art and Visual Culture
- History of Crime
- Modern Political and International History
- Religion
- Social and Cultural History

Our research centres
Centre for Medical Humanities
The Centre for Medical Humanities brings historians of medicine together with scholars from History, History of Art, Philosophy, Social and Life Sciences as well as Religion. It aims to foster genuine interdisciplinary collaboration amongst staff and students through a range of research and teaching initiatives. This reflects new concerns with the relationship between medicine and the humanities in the 21st century.

Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History
Oxford has a rich past in relation to the church. It can claim to be the birthplace of Methodism, where John and Charles Wesley’s small religious society first met from 1730. The aim of the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History is to embody the historic links between Oxford Brookes University and the Methodist Church through a programme of research activities and support for its special collections. The Centre organises lectures and seminars, and has a significant publications programme. It also works in partnership with centres in Manchester, Durham and Cambridge.

Staff profile: influencing counter-terrorist policy
Professor Roger Griffin is widely acknowledged as one of the world’s foremost experts on the socio-historical and ideological dynamics of fascism, political and religious fanaticism, and contemporary terrorism.

His exploration of various forms of political or religious fanaticism and their relationship to modernity, has had not only policy and practice impacts, but has also contributed to improved public understanding of radicalism, fanaticism and extremism. He has given presentations on his theory of radicalization to various conferences on extremism, as well as to the Home Office and, more recently, to Europol in the Hague.

His taught module, Terrorism and the Sacralization of Violence, considers the evolution of terrorism since the late 19th century, when revolutionary anarchists first pioneered the use of violence against civil society and symbolic political targets.

It considers several aspects of contemporary terrorism, notably the social and psychological dynamics of terrorism, the politicization of religion; the ‘sacralization’ of politics by secular ideological movements; and the lone wolf sense of a personal mission to combat evil.
Uncovering criminal history

Dr Katherine Watson is a historian of forensic medicine and crime in Britain, focusing on the period between 1700 and the First World War. Her research is interdisciplinary, drawing on law, medicine and the social history of crime.

Her taught module, Behaving Badly: Crime, Deviance and Civilization, examines how societies have sought to construct and regulate conceptions of “good behaviour” from the early modern period to the present day. It considers several areas where the systems in place were deemed by society as ‘failures’, and what the public and legal responses were to these particular cases.

The topics covered include the growth of law enforcement agencies, changes in the concept of punishment, forensics, “civilising” processes, family violence, homicide and violent death, juvenile crime, crimes of sex and sexuality, magical crime, and gendered perceptions of crime and bad behaviour.

Part of the assessment for this module includes a group visit to Oxford castle.

Material Culture and the Reformation

Professor Andrew Spicer researches Early Modern History, particularly the Reformation and the impact it had on art and the material culture of worship.

His taught module, Reformation and the Parish Church, examines the impact of the Reformation on the material culture and fabric of early modern religion.

What effect did an emphasis on preaching have on the appearance and furnishings of places of worship? How did Protestant attitudes to religious imagery vary and what were the consequences of these different theological standpoints? In particular the module will examine the impact that the Reformation had upon art, architecture, music and sculpture.

The Social History of Mental Illness

Professor Waltraud Ernst researches the history of western science, psychiatry and medicine, the relationship between modern medicine and indigenous healing, and the global history and culture of medicine.

Her taught module, The Social History of Mental Illness, c.1700-2000, examines ‘madness’ in the 18th and 19th centuries. It will address how social, religious and ideological forces have influenced medical ideas of mental illness and provide a broad overview of the history of mental illness. This spans the ‘trade in lunacy’ during the 18th century to the emergence of state-regulated asylums in the 19th. It will also feature the introduction of physical treatments such as lobotomy, and the rise of psycho-pharmaceuticals in the 20th century.

78% of our History research is ‘internationally excellent’ or ‘world leading’ REF 2014
STUDYING IN OXFORD

Living in Oxford

Oxford is not only a centre of education and learning but it is also a rich cultural hub with a wealth of cinemas, theatres and museums, far exceeding many other cities of its size.

Oxford has a culturally diverse population and consequently offers multiple dining opportunities as well as bars, clubs and English pubs famous for their legendary customers including J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. Performances of live music range from classical concerts at the intimate Holywell Music Room to jazz, reggae, rock and indie at venues the O2 Academy on Cowley Road.

Oxford has over 50 parks, meadows and nature reserves to discover, as well as Britain’s oldest botanic garden – ideal spots for a quiet walk or picnic with friends. Of course, your time in Oxford would not be complete without spending a summer afternoon rowing or punting on the river.

History in Oxford

Oxford is full of historical significance, with incredible architecture and an abundance of resources for history students. Alongside the outstanding museums in Oxford city centre, you can visit the old Oxford jail and castle, perfect if you have an interest in the history of crime.

The famous Martyr’s Memorial in the centre of Oxford commemorates some of the 16th century Oxford martyrs featured in The Protestant Reformation and the Parish Church.

Our proximity to London also allows easy trips to visit inspiring collections like the Wellcome Library or Imperial War Museum.

Library resources

In addition to our own excellent libraries and resource centres, Oxford Brookes also offers you access to the world-renowned Bodleian Library, one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and home to over 12 million printed items - an amazing resource that can be invaluable when completing your dissertation.

Careers Support

You will be offered careers advice and support from both your tutors and from specialised counsellors at our Careers and Employment Centre. They provide a drop-in service offering one-to-one career coaching sessions, interview practice, and help with completing job applications.
Jane's first career was in events management, marketing, and fundraising. It was after having children and taking a career break that she enrolled at Oxford Brookes.

“I have always been interested in the History of Medicine as I come from a medical family. I am fascinated by the concept of what constitutes mental health or mental illness, and by the way that those suffering from mental illness have been treated across time and in different territories. I also have a particular interest in France, and because French physicians were pioneers in the introduction of moral treatment for the mentally ill in the early nineteenth century I was able to combine my interest in both medical history and France.

I really enjoy being a “detective” and tracking down articles or books that are out of print and obscure archive material; if something is difficult to get hold of that makes me want to locate it even more! I also find it very satisfying to put together these elements to make an argument that hangs together. I suppose you could say that I enjoy the craftsmanship involved in research and writing, and the MA course has really helped me develop those skills. Whilst studying for my masters I became very interested in the history of psychiatry and mental illness. I hoped to continue working with my MA supervisor, Professor Waltraud Ernst, a specialist in the history of psychiatry, at PhD level. Encouraged and supported by Professor Ernst, I applied to the Wellcome Trust and was successful in securing a PhD studentship. I am now half way through my first year of PhD study, which I still can’t quite believe! I feel that I have come a long way since first enrolling as an undergraduate and I wouldn’t be at this stage without the support and encouragement of my supervisors and tutors.”

Jane Freebody
MA History of Medicine alumna and current recipient of a Wellcome Trust PhD Studentship for a project on “Patient work, psychiatry and society, in France and England, 1900-1940”.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING

Entry requirements
You should normally hold a 2:1 honours degree or equivalent, in an appropriate subject. If it is some time since you completed your undergraduate education or you do not meet the standard requirement, it may be possible to consider your application based on evidence of other relevant personal and professional experience, the support of your referees, and examples of written work.

You may be asked to send a sample of recent academic writing in English together with the application form. If this is not possible, you may substitute a 1,500-word essay reviewing a recent academic book on a historical topic.

If your first language is not English an IELTS score of 6.5 or more is normally required. If you do not meet this language requirement, Oxford Brookes International offers a number of preparation courses designed to improve your use of English in an academic context. For more information see: www.brookes.ac.uk/international

How to apply
Please apply through UCAS Postgraduate

Funding
• Oxford Brookes graduates are eligible for a 10% discount on postgraduate tuition fees
• The UK government offers postgraduate loans to eligible UK/EU students

Visit our website for details of scholarships, bursaries and other funding sources. www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance