

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

MA History

Managed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

delivered by School of History, Philosophy and Culture

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| Date approved: | 13/1/20 |
| Applies to students commencing study in: | September 2020 |

RECORD OF UPDATES

| Date amended* | Nature of amendment** | Reason for amendment** |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 13/1/20 | Section 4: Addition of module HIST7028 on Renaissances Deletion of modules P67504 (HIST7004), P67505 (HIST7005), P68505 (HIST7022). Removal of module P67576 from the Prog Spec (this module has already been deleted but had not been removed from the Prog Spec until now) | To reflect staffing changes |
| 13/1/20 | Section 4: Replacement of old P... module numbers with HIST... numbers | Change to university's student management system |
| 28/10/2020 | 4.2. Addition of Link | New Assessment and Progression regulations webpage |
| 28/10/2020 | Section 5. Addition of link and update of information in Assessment and Feedback | Link to Assessment and Feedback Policy for Taught Programmes, (22 April 2020) |

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Awarding body: | Oxford Brookes University |
| Teaching institution and location: | Oxford Brookes University, Oxford |
| Language of study: | English |
| Final award: | MA |
| Programme title: | MA in History MA in History (History of Medicine) |
| Interim exit awards and award titles available: | Postgraduate Certificate in History; Postgraduate Certificate in History (History of Medicine); Postgraduate Diploma in History; Postgraduate Diploma in History (History of Medicine) |
| Brookes course code: | MA-HT (HU62) MA-HIS/HOM (HU62A1) |
| UCAS code: | P008101 |
| JACS code: | V100 |
| HECoS code: | 1 (100302) |
| Mode of delivery: (Mode of Study given in brackets) | Face to face/on-campus (full-time) Face to face/on-campus (part-time) |
| Duration of study: | Normal expected duration of study, full-time: 1 years Normal expected duration of study, part-time: 2 years Maximum possible duration of study, full or part-time: 5 years. |
| Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme: | None |
| Professional accreditation attached to the programme: | Not applicable |
| Apprenticeship Standard: | Not applicable |
| University Regulations: | The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/ |

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

History at Brookes has established an outstanding reputation for its exciting research-led teaching. The department has a dynamic research programme and the teaching staff includes some of the most distinguished researchers in their fields. For details of the staff team see <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/hpc/staff-and-students/academic-staff/>

All are passionate about their subject and about imparting their specialist knowledge to their students, with the result that students come into direct contact with the latest developments in the specialist areas covered by their lecturers.

The MA in History provides a coherent yet flexible course of graduate study, combining research training with intensive modules on specific historical themes and the opportunity to conduct advanced research on a dissertation topic. The course provides an excellent preparation for students intending to go on to PhD research as well as those wishing to pursue a career in, among others, history teaching, archive management, and professional and commercial researching.

Students taking the MA in History at Brookes have the opportunity to take advantage of a particular area of research expertise within the department and develop a specialisation in the history of medicine. Those opting to do so follow a pathway of designated modules and graduate with a named degree in MA in History (History of Medicine). This option is supported by the facilities and opportunities offered by the Brookes Centre for Medical Humanities.

Oxford is also an ideal place to study history at postgraduate level, with an exceptional wealth of libraries and archives. Students on the MA in History have access to the world-renown Bodleian Library, a copyright library, which houses all books published in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In addition to the Bodleian, there are affiliated libraries such as Rhodes House, home to the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies, and the Vere Harmsworth Library of the Rothermere American Institute, where students will find one of the finest collections of publications on the Political, Economic and Social History of the United States from colonial times to the present

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

1. Be able to show a critical awareness of the relative merits of significant methodological and theoretical approaches to historical analysis and interpretation, and sensitivity to the value and appropriateness of their application and use.
2. Be able to demonstrate a knowledge in-depth of one (PGCert) or two (PGDip/MA) specialist historical topics and a critical understanding of the processes by which knowledge is developed in each area.
3. Be able to comprehend some of the fundamental changes and continuities over time relating to one (PGCert) or two (PGDip/MA) specialist historical topics, and a layered understanding of the main causes of those changes and continuities.
4. Be able to appreciate the nature, development and importance of historiography and historical debate.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

1. Be able to identify, retrieve and select a range of primary and secondary historical sources, in accordance with their relevant historical contexts.
2. Be able to synthesise and critically evaluate a range of primary and secondary historical sources, in accordance with their relevant historical contexts.
3. Be able to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the problems and possibilities presented to historians by the selection and interpretation of a wide range of primary and secondary sources.
4. Be able to design, conduct and complete an original research project on a self-chosen topic and to situate the significance of this work within current historical scholarship.
5. Be able to select and deploy research methods and skills appropriate to a broad range of sources and media, including library collections, archival holdings, visual and textual sources and statistical data.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

1. Be able to formulate and communicate complex arguments, both orally and in writing, using an appropriate range of primary and secondary historical and theoretical material.
2. Be able to communicate knowledge and present arguments in a way which conforms in terms of style, organization and scholarly apparatus to the standards and conventions prevailing within the discipline of history.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

1. Be able to identify appropriate sources, primary and secondary, and consider questions of research planning, logistics and accessibility of sources, and relative mass of useful information.
2. Be able to select, as appropriate, a range of bibliographic technologies and search engines for use in historical research.
3. Be able to select and integrate primary and secondary source material into course work assignments using bibliographic apparatuses and techniques of referencing and quotation.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

1. Be able to demonstrate an appreciation of different national and regional traditions of writing and thinking about history.
2. Be able to recognise the historical nature of global development and global values (all students).
3. Be able to appreciate how the discipline of history can help with cross-cultural awareness and the affirmation of human diversity.
4. Be able to recognise the historical contingency and fragility of notions of equality and social justice.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Programme Length:

PG Cert: 4 months FT 9 months PT

Updated January 2018

PG Dip 9 months FT 20 months PT
 MA 12 months FT 24months PT

Programme Credit Structure

PG Cert 80 credits (HIST7002 or HIST7019 + 40 credits of alternative compulsory modules)
 PG Dip 120 credits (HIST7002 or HIST7019 + 80 credits of alternative compulsory modules)
 MA 180 credits (HIST7002 or HIST7019 + 80 credits of alternative compulsory modules + HIST7018 or HIST7024)

| Code | Module Title | Credits | Level | Status | Coursework: Exam ratio |
|----------|--|---------|-------|--|---------------------------|
| HIST7002 | Theories, Methods and Practices in History | 40 | 7 | Compulsory for all except those opting for the MA in History (History of Medicine) | 100% coursework |
| HIST7019 | Theories, Methods and Practices in the History of Medicine | 40 | 7 | Compulsory for those opting for the MA in History (History of Medicine) | 100% coursework |
| HIST7001 | History That Was Not: Counterfactuals and Alternate History | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7003 | American Colossus: US Domestic and Foreign Politics, 1945-2012 | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7006 | The History of Emotions in Britain c. 1700-2000 | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7007 | A History of the British Population, 1580-1911 | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7026 | Monsters and Magical Beings: Medieval Lore to Pop Culture | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7008 | Worlds at Risk: Technology, Health and the Environment | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7010 | Britain and the European Communities, 1945-2010 | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7011 | Terrorism and the Sacralization of Violence | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7012 | Behaving Badly: Crime, Deviance and Civilization | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7013 | The Reformation and the Parish Church | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7015 | Civil War: Russia, Spain and Greece | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7016 | Religion, Doubt and Secularism in Modern Britain and the US | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7027 | Independent Study Module A | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7017 | Independent Study Module B | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7020 | Ethics and Ideas: The Hippocratic Oath to Informed Consent | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7021 | Engineering Society: Eugenics | 40 | 7 | Alternative | 100% |

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|----------|--|----|---|--|-----------------|
| | and Biopolitics in Europe | | | compulsory | coursework |
| HIST7023 | The Hospital in History | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7028 | Renaissances: Space and Society in Europe, 1400-1600 | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7018 | Dissertation (History) | 60 | 7 | Compulsory for all except those opting for the MA in History (History of Medicine) | 100% coursework |
| HIST7024 | Dissertation | 60 | 7 | Compulsory for those opting for the MA in History (History of Medicine) | 100% coursework |

Those opting for the MA History (History of Medicine) must choose their alternative compulsory modules from the following list:

| Code | Module Title | Credits | Level | Status | Coursework: Exam ratio |
|----------|--|---------|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
| HIST7008 | Worlds at Risk: Technology, Health and the Environment | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7027 | Independent Study Module A | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7017 | Independent Study Module B | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7020 | Ethics and Ideas: The Hippocratic Oath to Informed Consent | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7021 | Engineering Society: Eugenics and Biopolitics in Europe | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |
| HIST7023 | The Hospital in History | 40 | 7 | Alternative compulsory | 100% coursework |

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/assessment-and-progression>

Indicate any specific requirements for progression and awards in respect of the modules that must be passed, including any requirements that must be met to qualify for interim exit awards:

To qualify for the PGCert in History students must pass HIST7002 and one alternative compulsory module.

To qualify for the PGCert in History (History of Medicine) students must pass HIST7019 and one alternative compulsory module

To qualify for the PGDip in History students must pass HIST7002 and two alternative compulsory modules.

To qualify for the PGDip in History (History of Medicine) students must pass HIST7019 and two alternative compulsory modules.

To qualify for the MA in History students must pass HIST7002, two alternative compulsory modules and HIST7018.

To qualify for the MA in History (History of Medicine) students must pass HIST7019, two alternative compulsory modules and HIST7024.

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

For programmes with professional accreditation, provide a list of any modules which are required in order to achieve accreditation.

Not applicable.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Information about the learning experience is provided in the prospectus course entry. Include information here about:

- typical contact/independent study mix across the programme – how student time is divided between different teaching and learning methods;
- how the assessment strategy is informed and how it has been designed to enable students to achieve the programme learning outcomes;
- an indication of the typical mix of coursework/examinations students will experience across the programme.

The programme will be delivered by staff members who are active researchers and experts in their respective fields. Members of staff will relate their electives to their personal areas of expertise. Students will therefore have the opportunity to work closely with researchers of national and international reputation who are actively shaping knowledge within their disciplines.

The five key Graduate attributes will be addressed in the following manner:

Academic literacy

General: Through written assignments, classroom discussions and oral presentations, students develop their ability to express complex, discipline-specific ideas to a variety of audiences, using appropriate language and media. They also develop the ability to listen actively so as to be able to participate in and learn from discussion, and the ability to persuade rationally, through negotiation and defence of a position, while respecting other people's stances.

Specific: The core modules HIST7002 and HIST7019 provide a through introduction to contemporary historiographical issues and methodological approaches, as well key discipline specific institutions, not least the archive. Discipline specific knowledge is also developed via the elective modules and dissertation.

Research literacy

General: Through the work involved in researching and producing assignments, students learn to apply knowledge, understanding and experience to identify and deal with a research problem and/or question; to analyse and think laterally about a problem and its solution; and to evaluate the success of different strategies and sources.

Specific: Those who proceed to the MA (and so the dissertation) will need to display originality in asking new questions and proposing new interpretations – as well as a suitable source basis on which to sustain both.

Critical self-awareness and personal literacy

General: Students encounter a variety of learning contexts which promote the ability to identify and appraise personal learning strategies; to work independently and co-operatively, using library and ICT skills; to access and manage information, and a range of academic skills to research, interpret, analyse, synthesise and summarise this information. Furthermore, the teaching and assessment schedule on the

programme fosters the ability to set and organise personal objectives; to work to briefs and deadlines; and to evaluate performance through a process of critical self-reflection.

Specific: All modules include summative and formative assessment and the use of tutorials to encourage students to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their work.

Digital and information literacy

General: All students completing assignments will have to engage with search engines and the appropriate use of ICT to find learning resources and secondary and primary sources. All written assignments require the use of bibliographic skills and the appropriate acknowledgment of sources of information. Students are also encouraged to access and participate in relevant on-line communities and forums.

Specific: The core modules HIST7002 and HIST7019 contain special sessions on the archive (its history and use and abuses), and using the internet as a research tool; the Subject Librarian provides a tour of the library as well as individual tutorials to students; whilst students studying for the MA must produce a research design detailing the sources they will use in their dissertation, and how they will be accessed.

Active citizenship

General: Module seminars encourage the ability to listen respectfully and persuade rationally, whilst recognizing the particularity of other people's stances. Throughout students will learn of the specificity of historical knowledge and how it is shaped by particular traditions of scholarship, often with strong national inflections.

Specific: The core module contains a special session on global history, as well as one on the use of history in the context of globalized world and how it might inform the practice of critical citizenship. Other modules, such as 67566, also encourage students to think critically about Britain's engagement with the wider world throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

There are no exams on the MA in History. The teaching and learning methods include:

- lectures, seminars, and tutorials held by individual members of staff on specialized topics
- team teaching on the core module
- group discussions and student-led presentations
- private research and directed reading
- preparation of assignments which demonstrate conceptual and research skills. A variety of assignment types are used appropriate to the competences being fostered in individual course units. These include essays, literature reviews, oral presentations, reports, bibliographical assignments, and research proposals.
- feedback tutorials on written assignments
- the preparation of a research dissertation, supported by individual tutorials with a supervisor and by group workshops
- specialized training sessions with subject librarians and learning resources specialists
- visits to archives, specialized libraries, and, where appropriate, sites associated with particular modules
- attendance at research seminars
- e-learning designed to support the use of ICT as a communication and learning tool as well as a tool for accessing and managing information and for presenting this information and related ideas.

Typically, students attend 10 (2.5 hour-long) seminars for each module (core or elective), supplemented by two tutorials (normally 30 minutes long, though further tutorial hours are available on request). Dissertation students attend four dissertation workshops (2.5 hours), plus two tutorials with the workshop leader (30 minutes). The outcome is a non-assessed research design, which both reflects and feeds into the students' tutorials with their dissertation supervisor. Students must attend a minimum of three tutorials with their supervisors. All other time is spent undertaking directed study.

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/getmedia/f614bd44-70b4-4d1a-85d8-1fd580819d3a/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy.pdf>

- The inclusion of marking criteria in module guides and other MA literature
- The distribution of sample work and assignments (for instance the inclusion in the library of dissertations which have received the Detlef Mühlberger Prize)
- The use of formative and summative feedback
- The use of written feedback
- Compulsory tutorials to discuss assignments and give oral feedback
- The avoidance of deadline clustering through guidance/timetabling by MA Subject Coordinator
- The provision of dissertation workshops leading to the production of a research design
- MA History student representation at all departmental meetings
- The use of module evaluation forms

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry requirement see:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/history/?acc=section-four#section-four-marker>

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

If applicable (please indicate if not applicable).

Not applicable.

6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)

Not applicable.

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Please provide information about how the programme has been designed to prepare students for employment. This may include, for example: the involvement of visiting lecturers from relevant industries/professions; involvement of relevant professionals/employers in other learning activities; mentoring; work placements (optional or integral to the programme); any other opportunities for work-based learning.

The MA in History opens up a number of career opportunities. Past MA students have gone on to the following: doctoral study; professional research; archive management; history teaching at secondary and further levels of education; civil service, local and national; accountancy, law, management consultancy and international banking.