

Programme Specification

BA History with Foundation

For students entering Foundation year in September 2021

UCAS Code: V101

UFHISTFY

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The single-subject programme in History offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience. Throughout this process of discovery, students encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches, while having the opportunity to pursue their own enthusiasms, and to benefit from the research expertise and activities of staff.

We aim to familiarise students with a broad chronological range, whilst providing them with the opportunity to specialise in particular periods and areas of British, European, African, Atlantic, US American, Russian, Middle Eastern and South Asian history, and to pursue their own interests further through independent study and a dissertation.

Students who meet the progression requirements at the end of their foundation year will be able to transfer onto any BA Programme in the School of Humanities or the School of Literature and Languages, or joint programmes across the schools.

With complementary strands focusing on research and employability, our programme develops subject-based and transferable skills, while encouraging a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past.

Foundation year:	The Foundation Year will offer a broad, immersive experience for students within the Arts and Humanities. Students be supported by a central skills module and a subject specific skills development module. These modules will provide students with the knowledge, experience and study skills needed to succeed in a BA Programme in the Arts and Humanities.
Part 1:	Introduces you to the discipline through study of long-term historical change across the medieval, early modern and modern periods, also familiarising you with the sub-fields of political, intellectual and cultural history. It aims to develop the research, presentational, organisational and essay-writing skills required for the successful study of history at undergraduate level, while highlighting contrasts between academic and popular history, and the importance of strategic career planning. Optional modules allow you to sample a variety of more specialised historical topics.
Part 2:	Provides you with the opportunity to develop more specialised historical knowledge across a broad array of historical periods and geographical areas.

	Meanwhile, core modules enable you to engage with public history beyond academia, identify the wide range of transferable skills arising from the study of history at BA level, and develop additional skills directly relevant to successful job applications. You will be introduced to a variety of primary sources and research approaches to help you identify a topic for your Part 3 dissertation.
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity for more in-depth study: firstly, through supervised, independent research for your Dissertation; secondly in a Special Subject requiring close reading of primary sources relating to staff research interests, and thirdly via a further range of Options. To enhance personal career-development, we give you the opportunity to apply at Part 2 to replace one of your Part 3 Options with a selective module based on a professional work placement.

Module information			
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.			
Foundation modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0
Students must take one 20 credit subject specific skills module.			
Students must take two 40 credit modules from the School of Literature and Languages and the School of Humanities.			
International Students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.			
Part 1 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
HS1JH1	Journeys through History 1: Power and People	20	4
HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concepts'	20	4
HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20	4
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of History and modules from elsewhere in the University.			
Part 2 Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
HS2GPP	Going Public: Presenting the Past, Planning the Future	20	5
HS2HAD	Historical Approaches and My Dissertation	20	5
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of History and modules from elsewhere in the University, up to a maximum of 20 credits.			

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

DBS checks may be required for students taking a professional placement module.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
HS3HLD	Dissertation in History	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of History and modules from elsewhere in the University, up to a maximum of 20 credits.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework is submitted electronically.

A few optional modules may include study trips of up to 3 to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of transport and accommodation is not expected to exceed £350.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2020.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught mainly through lectures and seminars. Some History modules include group and one-to-one supervisions and/or study trips. History is a subject which frequently requires preparation for classes through reading and independent study. Formal classes, of whatever kind, are there to give you guidance over content and approaches, and to offer opportunities for different kinds of learning (listening/note-taking; discussions; formal and informal presentations; essay-writing; other kinds of writing) but the responsibility for study lies with you.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 156 hours, Part 2 - 324 hours, Part 3 - 312 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed mainly through a combination of written examinations and

coursework. Besides formal essays, shorter written exercises such as book reviews and source analyses, the programme includes an innovative range of coursework assignments such as reflective reports, placement logs, wikis, blogs, vlogs and online galleries. Some modules may be partly assessed by oral presentation, visual presentation and/or online exercises. In the case of placement modules, a placement provider's report on the student's performance on placement may form part of the assessment process.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Foundation Year:

- (i) an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0; with
- (ii) no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%; and
- (iii) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) at least 40% in the Academic Skills module and any specified 20 credit subject specific skills module.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Foundation Year qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain at least 40% in each compulsory module at Part 1 (HS1JH1, HS1JH2, HS1RSO).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits,

except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA History with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2021/22

30 July 2020

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