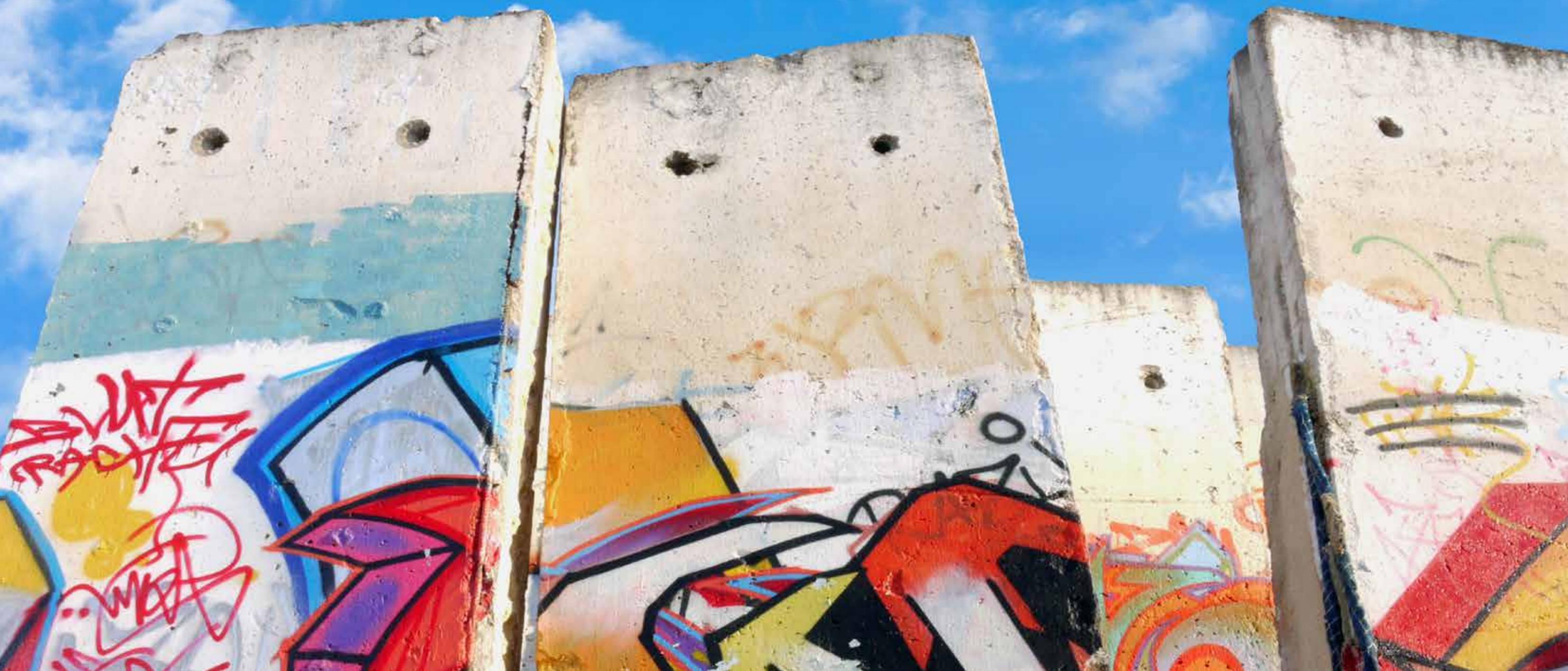


DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

LESSONS FROM THE PAST



“ Our societies, identities, cultures, values, languages, lifestyles and ethics all stem from our shared past. By studying this past, from medieval times to the modern day, we seek to understand how the world and humanity has reached where it is today, and then to go further. In a bid to shape our future, we must look back to enable us to move forward.



At Reading, we offer you the opportunity to unlock people, places and perspectives otherwise impossible to access in one lifetime. Join us on a journey around the globe, to learn about a diverse range of societies, cultures and individuals, through our wide range of modules, taught by passionate academics whose work is actively influencing today's world. You will also have the opportunity to shape your own degree, undertake employability modules and work placements, as well as to study abroad.

Join us not simply to study history, but to become an historian. ”

Professor Helen Parish

Head of the School of Humanities.

www.reading.ac.uk/history



PUNK POLITICS



**Professor
Matthew Worley**

Bands such as the Sex Pistols, The Clash and Crass inspired Matthew's teenage fascination with punk; today his passion continues through his research at the University of Reading into youth subcultures.

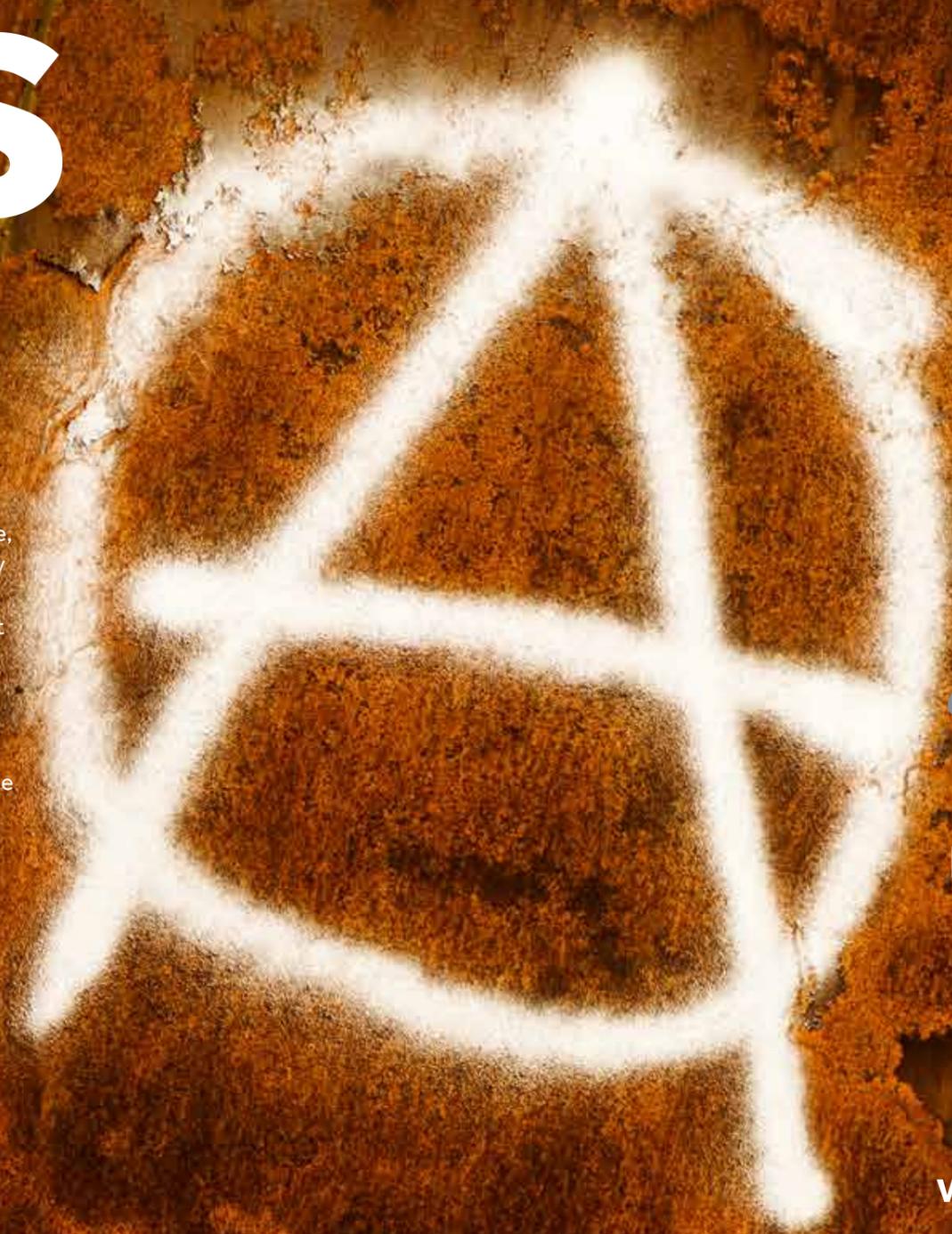
Matthew is changing perceptions of punk culture through his research and teaching on his undergraduate module "Anarchy in the UK". He believes that youth culture is more than just consumerism – punk offered a platform for young people to critique and engage with the world around them, to express themselves and their ideas.

Punk emerged at a politically important moment in Britain, and exposed the fault-lines and anxieties running through British culture and society during the 1970s and 1980s. Punk culture reflects and informs the wider historical context of the time:

Matthew uses the music, artwork and writings produced in the wake of punk's emergence in 1976 to study the breakdown of the post-war consensus, the emergence of Thatcherism and the reigniting of the Cold War.

His mission to change perceptions of punk culture is being realised through his teaching at Reading: Matthew's students might initially think punk is all mohawks and fashion, but soon realise that there's a lot more to it than that presented in the media. Punk culture was undoubtedly messy and contested. But what was so important was that it opened up a space that, for a brief moment in time, gave people a voice: they might've undermined and contradicted each other, but they all had something important to say.

Matthew recently designed an exciting free online course, 'Anarchy in the UK: A History of Punk from 1976-78' to draw attention to this almost unique feature of Reading's undergraduate History programme. Visit www.futurelearn.com/courses/anarchy-in-the-uk to join the course.



“ The adolescent period between being a child and becoming an adult is an important moment in everyone's life – it's formative. Youth culture is where that is given real expression. ”

TIME FOR CHANGE



Abbie Tibbott

Coming from a working class background and disillusioned by her school experience, Abbie Tibbott is the first to say that entering the world of academia was not something she expected to achieve for herself. Yet, her ambition of taking her education into her own hands led her to join The University of Reading and to become the first in her family to go to university.

Abbie chose Reading as she wanted to study topics that weren't taught in schools. From the broad range of modules on offer, she was

particularly impressed with the department's women's and gender history.

The welcome Abbie received from Reading's History department removed any hesitation she might have had about whether going to university was the right decision. The supportive environment enabled her to navigate her way into university life, while her Academic Tutor and lecturers helped to demystify what academia is.

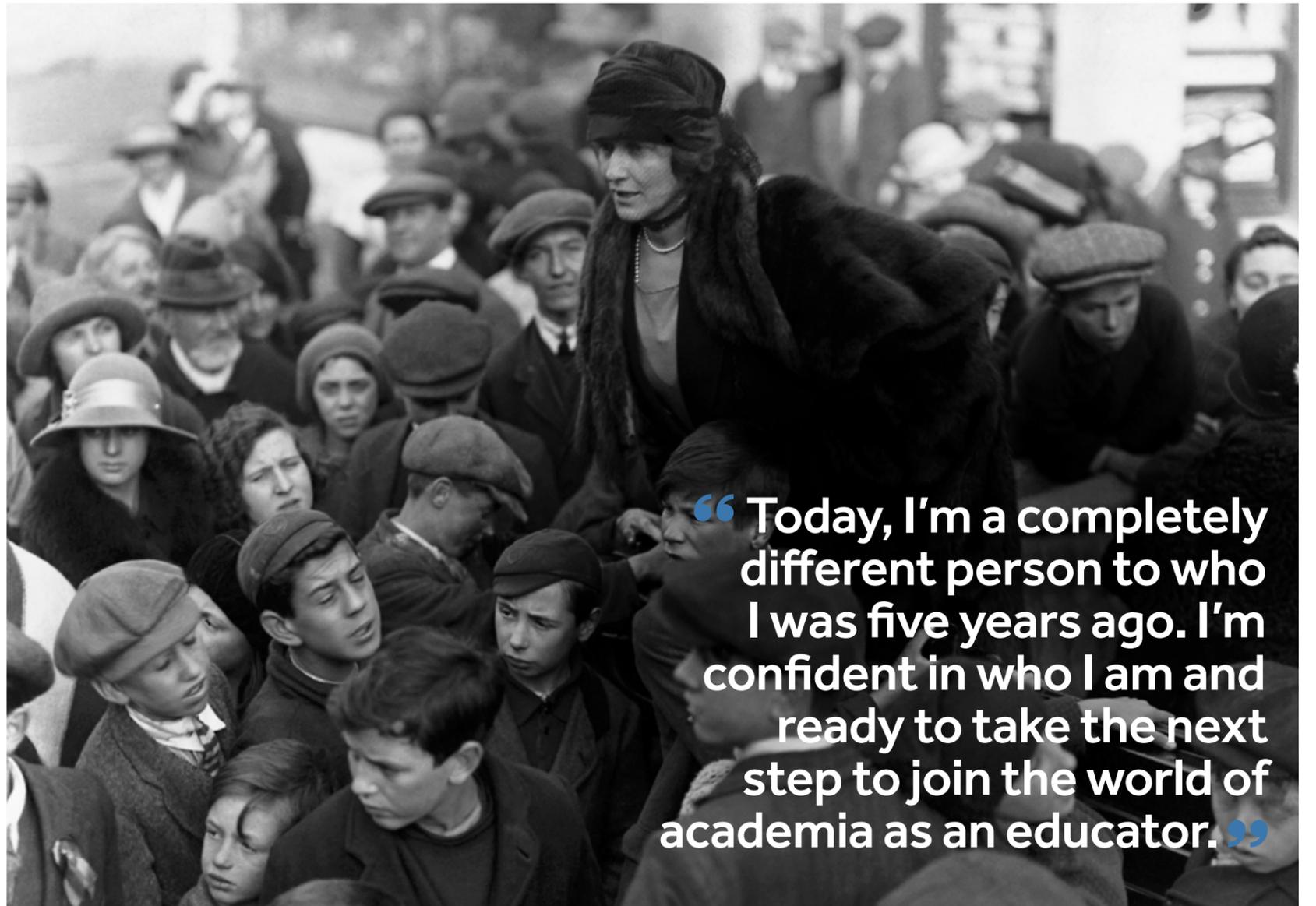
During her undergraduate degree, her choice of optional modules has enabled Abbie

to evolve her specialist area of women's history. Engaging with hands-on archive experiences further ignited her passion for this and material culture. Abbie immersed herself in women's history research during Vote100 in 2018, which celebrated the centenary of particular women being granted the vote in Britain. In her final year, Abbie chose a module about the first female MPs in Britain, which also explored the development of women's political rights and their place in society during the interwar period. A tour of the House of Lords enabled Abbie

to gain an otherwise unknown insight into political history.

Abbie's new-found passion for education and women's history saw her return to Reading to pursue her master's degree, working as a Historical Impact Assistant for the Astor 100 project, to celebrate the centenary of the first woman to take her seat in British Parliament. Abbie is now pursuing her PhD on Conservative Cabinet politics of the 1920s, with a focus on citizenship and women's voting rights.

Abbie recognises her achievements and the fact



“ Today, I'm a completely different person to who I was five years ago. I'm confident in who I am and ready to take the next step to join the world of academia as an educator. ”



that she was not defined by her school education. Her next ambition is to teach, using her own research and to become a mentor for young, working class students from educationally deprived backgrounds. She credits the university's History department with setting her on next journey to become Dr Tibbott.



**Dr Rohan
Deb Roy**

Historians of South Asia have examined the marginalisation of humans in the region's history – from women, to peasants, to the working class. Inspired to examine the voices of those previously silenced in history, Rohan has gone one step further: animals.

At the University of Reading, students have the opportunity to place animals at the centre of their research. For example, Rohan supervised one undergraduate dissertation which studied the interactions between imperialism and veterinary health in colonial India. Rohan believes that studying animal history helps his students push the boundaries of what they know.

Rohan believes that animals are fundamental to the politics of our past and are interwoven in historical themes, such as gender, religion, class and nationalism. For example, in India the cow is upheld as a religious icon by the ruling political party – nationalism – and is also seen as a symbol of the mother as it provides nourishment – gender.

Studying animal history pushes the frontiers of history, completely unsettling the notion that history is composed of humans alone and extending understanding of what it means to be a marginal voice. Rohan urges that we listen to the voices of all in history, of which animals are just one group;

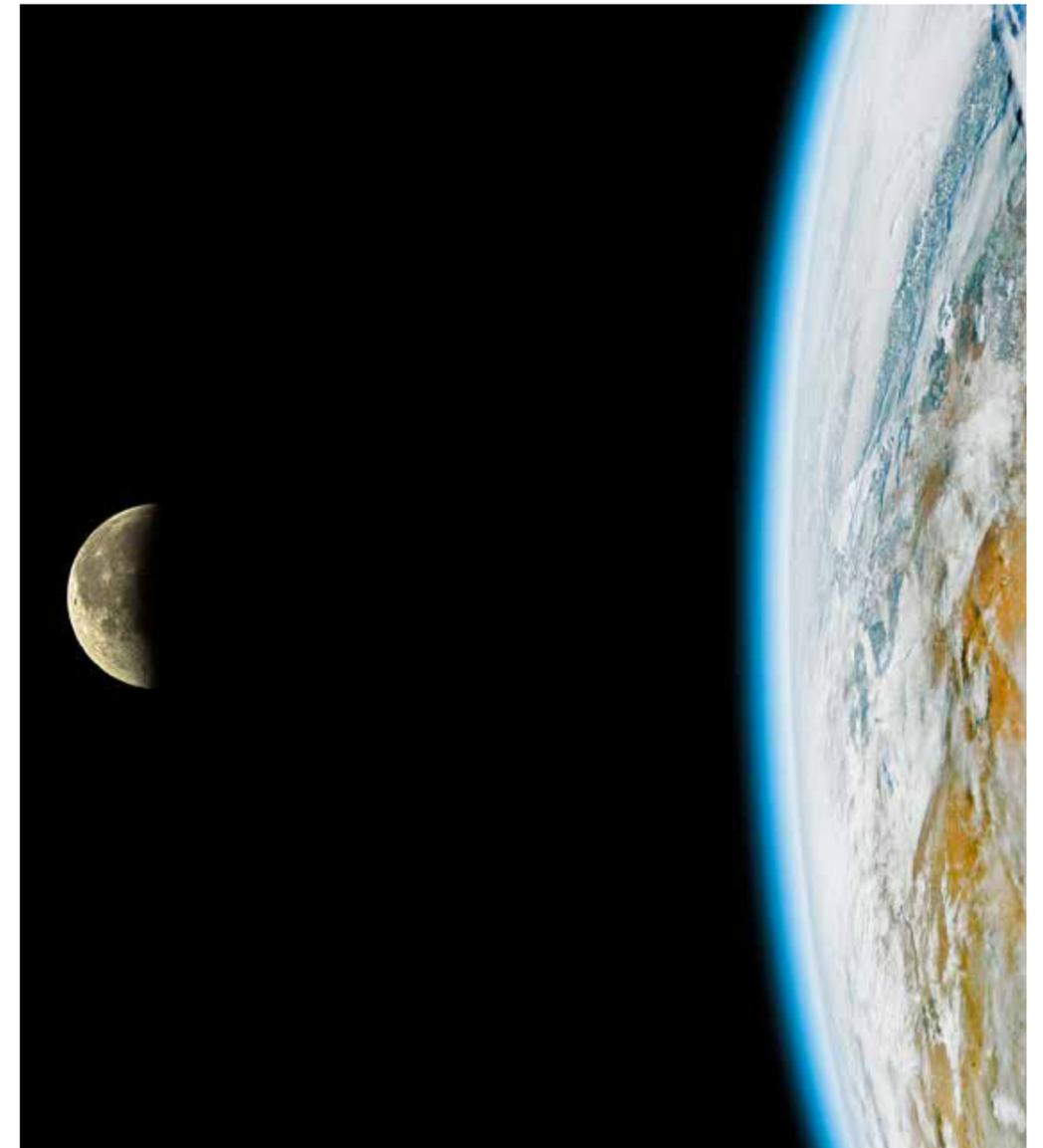
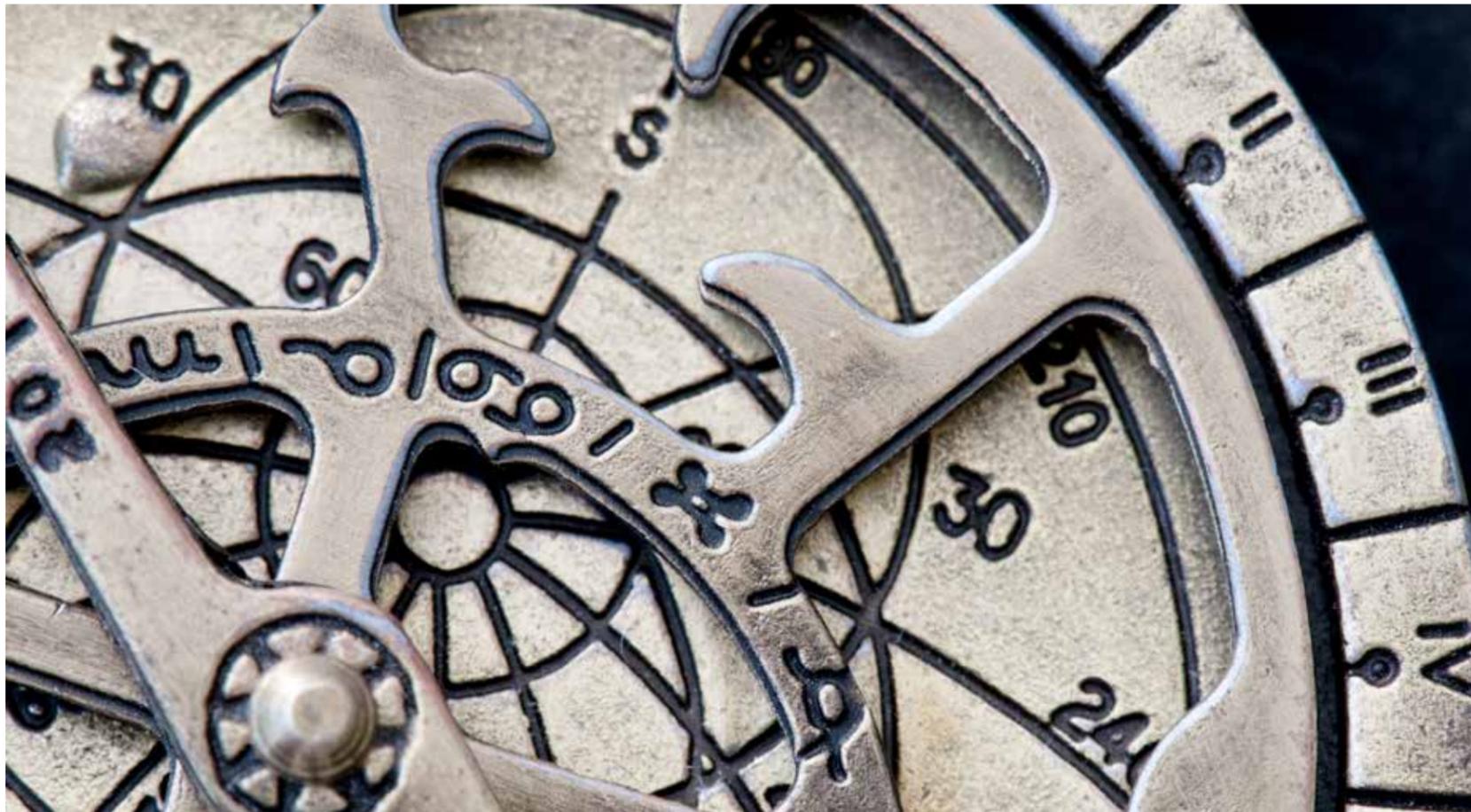
and in turn recognise how those marginalised groups have impacted history themselves.

“ I am inspired by histories from below. I hope to go beyond the traditional margins of history to address voices other than humans. ”

ANIMAL INSTINCTS



SORCERY?



Professor Anne Lawrence-Mathers

Anne's research centres on the interactions between medieval magic and science: she hopes to disprove the critics and demonstrate that medieval science and medieval scientific weather forecasting really did exist.

Anne's research influences her undergraduate teaching at all levels, with first-year lectures and supervisions on medieval science and magic, a second-year module on medieval women (including scientists and witches) and a third-year module on medieval magic. While Anne's teaching also covers the importance of religious belief in the medieval period, she is adamant that this shouldn't overshadow the scientific discoveries.

The interactions between magic and science can be seen in reactions to the belief that planets emitted powerful rays which came through the atmosphere onto Earth, interacting as the planets moved. Different combinations of rays caused different effects, which could be harnessed by both scientists and magicians. Some hoped to foretell the future or make themselves rich; but others developed new technologies for measuring the movements of the planets and understanding their effects.

A lot of the science we accept today was influenced by the medieval period. We use Arabic names for stars because of the discoveries of medieval Islamic scientists who made astronomy much more

scientifically accurate. Sophisticated lenses, and fundamental mathematical theories, were developed – as well as fascinating instruments like the astrolabe.

Medieval scientific weather forecasting has previously been ignored by historians; and many reject the idea of 'medieval science'. Anne argues that while the belief system of the Middle Ages may seem irrational to us now, in its own time it was purely rational, and the scientific observations of the time need to be taken seriously.

“ When discussing medieval magic it's really interesting to see how people who are new to this subject react. Our seminars are full of fascinating debate and lively exchanges of views. ”

UNCOVER THE WORLD'S SECRETS

Experience a variety of historical periods and themes, and pursue your own interests.

Our modules cover a global range including Britain, Europe, Africa, America, the Middle East and Asia, and explore a range of subjects including witchcraft, heresy, crusading, civil war, fascism, feminism, film history, punk politics and colonial insurrection.

Our wide range of modules enables you to shape your degree: experience a variety of history throughout, pursue your passions from your first year, or try new areas of history before making an informed choice as to where to focus your interests.

“ There is a really good selection of modules, especially when compared to other universities I looked at. I took a module on the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 – the opportunity to study African History, which I had never encountered before, was really exciting. The flexibility to choose what you study is a definite advantage. ”

You can also create your own pathway throughout your degree, choosing to study modules specifically related to your individual interests.

Explore another perspective

You can take modules in other subjects, either to complement or diversify your studies. Popular choices include politics, archaeology, ancient history or modern languages.

You can also choose to study another subject alongside history. If you decide at the end of your first year that a joint degree isn't for you, we will support your transition to a single subject degree. This flexibility and security enables you to explore your options without compromising your studies.



BECOME AN HISTORIAN

Be part of our dynamic and collaborative teaching environment, learning alongside experts and contributing to current academic debates.

Our teaching is informed by our academics' research, exposing you to current thinking across a wide range of historical fields.

Our research strengths are concentrated in gender history, black and non-western history and medical history including health humanities.

In particular, we focus on questions of political and religious ideology, social and gender history, and the histories of visual culture.

At Reading, learning is a two-way collaborative process and we aim to equip you with the confidence to develop your own theories and informed critical analyses. This creates independent and inquisitive individuals, who contribute their knowledge to the advancement of research.

In the National Student Survey 2021, 89% of our students agreed that the BA History course is intellectually stimulating and provided them with opportunities to explore ideas and concepts in depth.

“ It's incredibly exciting to learn from experts in the field – you are listening to the authority on that subject and often reading cutting-edge research. ”

Maya Badham, BA History graduate



WHERE CAN HISTORY TAKE YOU?

Join us on a journey of discovery and open the door to a variety of careers.

Our focus goes beyond your degree - we place a great deal of importance on preparing you to embark upon a successful career after you graduate. We are ranked 5th in the UK for graduate career prospects.*

We help you stand out in an increasingly competitive job market with relevant experience, transferable skills and expert guidance. Meet some of our graduates to see where their degrees have taken them.

“The History course at Reading taught me the value of working with colleagues from different background to achieve a task as well as the significance of creating an equal and open environment.”

Owen Kilby, BA History and Politics

“I am currently working as an Archive Assistant at The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre. This largely involves cataloguing accessions; conducting research and writing exhibition text for collections displays; answering public enquiries; carrying out elementary conservation checks and procedures; and managing social media channels. The 'Discovering Archives and Collections' module that I undertook in my third year acted as a catalyst for my career in the heritage sector, providing me with invaluable practical experience working in an archive.

My time at Reading taught me that education should not be a means to an end but a challenging and continuing experience. This approach has given me the confidence to actively pursue and say yes to different opportunities. In my current role this has led me to discover my passion for collections conservation and I look forward to beginning the next chapter of my education with an MA in Preventive Conservation.”

**Chloe Wilson,
BA History**

“I work as a Policy Advisor at the UK Home Office (part of the International Strategy, Engagement and Devolution Directorate). The majority of my modules were international and explored the implications of British colonial rule in South Asia, Southern Africa, and the Middle East. Many of these countries continue to require UK support and so I was naturally attracted to a role that focused on engaging with international partners to support foreign nationals. By learning about foreign policy and diplomacy, I was interested to join a role that would enable me to contribute to the UK's activity overseas.

The History course at Reading taught me the value of working with colleagues from different backgrounds to achieve a task as well as the significance of creating an equal and open environment. I also learnt how to summarise large amounts of information, as well as adjusting my writing depending on the audience. The opportunity to present to fellow students helped to build communication skills that I continue to develop today.”

**Owen Kilby,
BA History and Politics**

“My time at Reading taught me that education should not be a means to an end but a challenging and continuing experience.”

Chloe Wilson, BA History

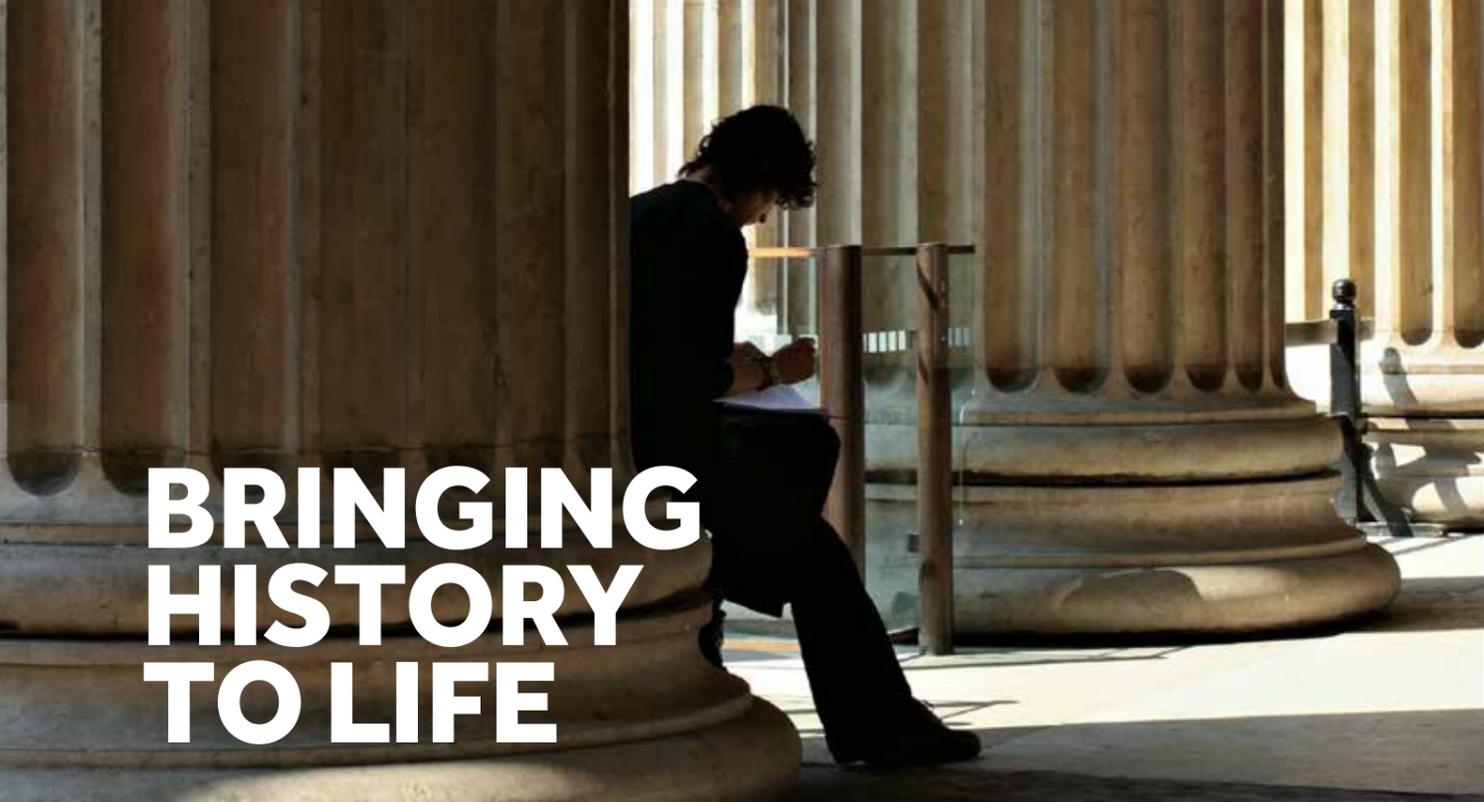
“The diverse range of topics available at Reading were incredibly appealing and stood out against other universities that I was interested in. I enjoyed doing topics such as 'Rebel Girls' and 'Battleaxes and Benchwarmers – Early Female MPs'.

I now work as a secondary school history teacher. I would like to believe I deliver my lessons with enthusiasm for the subject I teach. This enthusiasm comes from the incredible four years spent with the Department of History at Reading. It has allowed me to adapt my current school curriculum to ensure it covers a diverse range of topics.”

**Sean Atkinson,
BA History and MA History**

*Complete University Guide 2022





BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Stand out in an increasingly competitive job market with practical experience built into your degree.

Our innovative employability modules enable you to explore career options:

- “Going public” – work with an external organisation to present history to the public.
- “History education” – a two-week, history-focused placement in a secondary school, and structured training at our Institute of Education.
- “Discovering archives and collections” – a ten-day placement exploring a career in historical research, or the archive and heritage sectors.

You can also apply for a paid summer placement in our Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP), working with an academic on their research¹.

Professional placement year

Transfer to a 4-year programme and complete a professional placement year, gaining invaluable experience and putting your knowledge into practice¹. Our Placement Coordinators will support you throughout securing a placement, during the placement and while transitioning back to university.

Look to the past to unlock your future

91% of our History graduates are in work and/or study 15 months after the end of their course.² A history degree from Reading aims to equip you with strong transferable skills including the ability to think clearly and critically, communicate with confidence, efficient time-management skills, and the ability to work in teams.

Our previous history graduates have gone on to work in a variety of institutions, including the British Museum, Civil Service (including Fast Track), government, the NHS, KPMG, the Armed Forces, Barclays Bank, the National Trust, JPMorgan Chase & Co, Rhinegold Publishing, and various schools.

“The unique opportunity to work with, rather than for, archivists was amazing. The freedom given during the placement to pursue projects which were meaningful to me, meant I could utilise the time I had working with professionals.”

Nikita Rai, Placement at the Museum of English Rural Life and University of Reading’s Special Collections
BA History graduate



WE'RE ALL ABOUT YOU

Community is at the heart of our Department; together staff and students create a friendly and inclusive environment.

Our History department is a welcoming and lively environment where staff know their students’ names and career aspirations.

Our academics forge excellent student-staff relationships through our academic tutor system, small-group teaching, thriving Student-Staff Liaison Committee, and opportunities to participate in events, seminars and conferences. We are here to help you develop as historians and as individuals, and to support your aspirations for your studies and future career.

Creating memories

The history society is run by our students for our students, offering relaxed, informal social events, including trips abroad, an end-of-year formal, day trips and movie nights. Join the society to build great friendships and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Go global

Apply to study abroad as part of your degree, broadening your horizons, enhancing your studies and developing your skillset. You can study abroad for either a term or a year at a university in Europe, North America, Canada or Australia.

We also offer our week-long European Study Trip Abroad module, taking an in-depth look at one of our academics’ research. Past trips have included Berlin, Rome and Paris¹.

“The history society offers a great opportunity for all students to socialise in a relaxed, friendly environment. We run a range of events, and every year we also offer a trip abroad. It has been one of the most valuable and rewarding university experiences.”

Hannah Spraggs, History Society
BA History

¹ Subject to availability, see inside back cover
² Graduate Outcomes Survey 2018/19; First Degree responders from History.

¹ Subject to availability, see inside back cover

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

BA History Typical offer:
BBB, including grade B in A level History, Ancient History, or Classical Civilisation.

International Baccalaureate:
30 points overall including
5 in History at higher level.

BTEC Extended Diploma:
DDM (Modules taken must be comparable
to subject specific requirement)

OUR JOINT DEGREES

BA Ancient History and History
BA History and Politics
BA History and International Relations
BA History and English Literature
BA History and Economics
BA History and Philosophy
BA Classical and Medieval Studies
BA Archaeology and History
BA Modern Languages and History

COURSES

YEAR ONE

You will be introduced to the full range of history you can study at Reading. "Journeys through History" covers 1000 years of historical change, focusing on power, people and revolution, culture and ideas, while "Research skills" is an individually-supervised project on a topic of your choice.

You choose the rest of your modules from our options, or from outside the Department.

CORE MODULES

Journeys through history 1 and 2

Research skills and opportunities in history

OPTIONAL MODULES*

Choose up to six from a range which may include:

- Medieval antisemitism
- Warfare in early modern Europe
- Women in American history
- Hunger and famines in history
- The Rwanda genocide
- The origins of the War on Terror
- Orientalism: western imaginaries of the Middle East
- Revolutionary cities
- Merlin
- The Roaring 20s
- Doomsday Dystopias: Nuclear Disaster in the Cold War Imagination
- Birth Control in modern Britain: an intellectual history
- War, White Heat, and the Winds of Change: Britain's Twentieth Century

*These modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.

YEAR TWO

Your core modules focus on the research and employability strands of your degree: “Historical approaches” paves the way for a research proposal, and “Going public” offers you the opportunity to engage in a project or work placement.

The majority of your time is spent on your optional modules, and you can also apply for our week-long European Study Trip Abroad module.

CORE MODULES

Historical approaches and my dissertation

Going public: presenting the past, planning the future

OPTIONAL MODULES*

Choose four from a range which may include:

- Women and medieval history
- The Crusades
- Kingship and crisis in England, 1154–1330
- People, power and revolution in 17th-century England
- Religion, science and the supernatural c. 1400–1800
- Under the red flag: Labour and British politics 1880–1939
- The Colonial experience: Africa
- Rebel girls: radical women 1792–1919
- The making of modern South Asia, 1757–1947
- Reform and revolt in the modern Middle East
- Hollywood histories: film and the past
- Black Britain: race and migration in post-war Britain
- Sea Changes: Britain and the Maritime World, 1500–1800
- Medieval Medicine

*These modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.

YEAR THREE

Our third year options enable you to choose between diverse topics and approaches, or specialise in a particular area. The research skills you develop in your first and second years form the foundation for your final year dissertation. Special subject modules get you working hands-on with primary sources in a small group, and placement modules offer you the opportunity to explore potential careers.

CORE MODULES

Dissertation in history

OPTIONAL MODULES*

Topics

Choose four from a range which may include:

- Medieval magic and the origins of the witch craze
- Battleaxes and benchwarmers’: aftermath of suffragette and early female MPs 1919–1931
- Political ‘extremism’ in Britain between the wars
- Axis at war: life and death in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany
- ‘Race’, ethnicity and citizenship in America
- History education placement
- Discovering archives and collections placement
- Sexual Politics
- From Darwin to Death Camps? Evolution and eugenics in European society, 1859–1945

Special subject

Choose one from a range which may include:

- Health, Healthcare and Healing in the Middle Ages
- Church and the outcasts in the central middle ages
- Ritual, myth and magic in early modern Europe
- Political leaders and groups in the French Revolution
- Gender in Africa
- Slavery in America
- Victorian lives
- The countryside in English culture 1750–1939
- Anarchy in the UK: punk, politics and youth culture in Britain, 1976–1984

*These modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.



Disclaimer

This brochure was issued in 2021 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in Autumn 2022. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (Oct 2021).

However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study.

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

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Modules disclaimer

Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on each course. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules. Information is correct at the time of going to press (Oct 2021) but the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this list will definitely run. Teaching staff on specific courses or modules mentioned in this brochure may be subject to change.

For optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to students who may wish to take them, although the University will try to ensure that students are able to take optional modules in which they have expressed interest at the appropriate time during their course. Optional modules vary from year to year and entry to them will be at the discretion of the Course Director.

Joint courses disclaimer

Our joint courses may have extra requirements, including English language requirements. Please check the individual course pages on our website for further details.

Year abroad and placement fees

Some courses include an optional or compulsory year abroad or placement year. During this year you will only pay a partial fee which is currently set at 15% of the normal tuition fee. Check the website for the latest information: www.reading.ac.uk/fees-and-funding.

Placements disclaimer

Programmes with a Professional Placement Year (also known as 'Year in Industry' or 'Placement Year') are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunity, normally through a competitive recruitment process. The University provides dedicated career and application support for placement year students. Students who do not secure a placement or who are unable to complete the placement year due to extenuating circumstances, have the option to transfer to a three year variant of their programme with agreement from their school/department.

Study abroad disclaimer

The partnerships listed are correct at the time of publication (Oct 2021).

For up-to-date information on the University's partnerships contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk.

Where Study Abroad is not a compulsory part of the degree programme, the University of Reading cannot guarantee that every applicant who applies for the scheme will be successful. Whilst efforts are made to secure sufficient places at partner institutions, the number of places available and the University's partners can vary year-on-year. In all cases, the University cannot guarantee that it will be possible for applicants to choose to study abroad at a particular institution. Further, certain courses and/or institutions may require you to satisfy specific eligibility criteria. It can be a competitive process. For further information on the University's Study Abroad Scheme please contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk.



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Ask us a question
www.reading.ac.uk/question

