The MRes in Medieval Studies, run by the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies (GCMS), aims to provide a sound training in the skills required of medievalists in all disciplines. This interdisciplinary degree enables you to specialise in the areas which interest you, and which will be most beneficial to your research and your professional development.

The programme consists of five assessed modules:

**Researching the Middle Ages**

This module introduces you to new disciplines, such as manuscript studies, archaeology, text editing and iconographic analysis.

**Latin and palaeography**

This seminar-based module runs for two terms, and teaches you to recognise and read texts in both Latin and vernacular hands.

**OR**

**Advanced Study and Source Analysis**

This module enables you to engage in-depth with a selected piece of medieval evidence, working with an expert supervisor.

Two options

Each option runs for one term, and is assessed by appropriate coursework (usually an essay, but editions of texts, work with material evidence, projects in digital humanities, and reading in a foreign or vernacular language are also possible).

**Dissertation**

You will work closely with a supervisor to identify and develop an individual research project. This can build on work done in one option, or can be entirely independent.

Optional modules:

The list of options offered each academic year depends on staff availability. Recent options have included:

**History:** Medieval monasticism; Historical writing in twelfth-century England; The Crusades; The Hundred Years War; Medieval population; The French church in the 11th to the 13th centuries.

**Literature:** Medieval romance; The medieval lyric; Medieval drama; Warriors and heroes: the old French epic; Dante; Chaucer; Occitan culture, c.1100-c.1500.

**Medieval culture:** Medieval Christian spirituality; Architecture and pilgrimage in late medieval Italy; Manuscript production and collection in England; The archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England; Introduction to Byzantine archaeology; Architectural patronage in France in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The MA in History covers the period from 1500 up to today. It offers outstanding training in historical research and is ideal if you are planning to start your doctoral research, pursue a career in education, work in museums and archives, or are looking to fulfil your intellectual curiosity and follow your own research interests.

The programme consists of five assessed modules:

**History: theory, practice and themes**

This module concentrates on the theory and practice of history through a number of case studies designed to develop your awareness of different methodological and theoretical approaches.

**Historical skills and resources**

This module encourages you to gain hands-on experience by analysing historical objects, texts, and archival materials from our collections, with expert guidance. This module is run in cooperation with the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) and Special Collections.

Two options

In the autumn and spring terms, you choose two options, which each consist of a series of eight two-hour seminars. With the approval of the MA Director, you can replace one of your options with an independent study on a topic of your choice.

**Dissertation**

You will work closely with your supervisor on your research project. In the spring term, you can attend a series of workshops to help you develop skills useful for your dissertation, such as source criticism, project management and bibliographical skills.

Optional modules:

The list of options offered each academic year depends on staff availability. Options may include:

Architecture and the myths of Imperial Venice; Radicalism and republicanism in the English Revolution; Revolt, resistance and disorder in Early Modern Europe; Case studies in French history; Case studies in Italian history; Power, resistance and consciousness in slave society: The USA, 1820-1865; Malthus, Mill and Darwin: A new Jerusalem; Labour Party history to 1940; The twentieth-century countryside; Gender and slavery in the US South; From Berlin to Baghdad: the origins of the war on terror; Stalin’s Russia; Stalin's Russians, 1929-1953; Cold War cultures; The state of school history.
STUDYING AT READING

Our master’s programmes offer unique insights into the richness and variety of the human experience. When engaged in this exciting process of discovery, you will encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches to history while also having the opportunity to pursue your own enthusiasms.

Leading scholars will guide you through the latest developments in the discipline from the end of the ancient world to the new millennium. Thanks also to our close cooperation with historians based in other departments, we offer you a truly interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment.

We have a wide range of excellent resources available to you during your studies. The University Library holds over 1 million catalogued books and subscribes to around 35,000 e-journals. The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) houses one of the most comprehensive national collections of objects, books and archives. On campus, you will also find the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology and the University’s Special Collections.

The Berkshire Record Office and the BBC Written archives are just a short bus ride away from the University campus. The National Archives in Kew, the British Library in London and the Bodleian Library in Oxford are also in easy reach.

Programme information

Duration
- Full-time: 12 months
- Part-time: 24 months
- Modular part-time: Up to 5 years

Entry requirements
Applicants are expected to have achieved an upper-second Bachelor’s degree in a course with a substantial element of history. However the Department also invites applications from other graduates who can demonstrate suitable ability and commitment.