Postgraduate History at Reading
MA in History
MA & MRes in Medieval Studies
MA & MRes in Medieval Studies

The MA & MRes in Medieval Studies are aimed at providing a sound training in the skills required of medievalists in all disciplines. They are run by the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies (GCMS) and offer a truly interdisciplinary research environment.

The programmes allow students to specialise in what interests them most, what will be of most assistance for research plans and what supports their professional development.

The programmes consist of the following assessed modules:

**Researching the Middle Ages**
This module concentrates on introducing students to new disciplines, such as manuscript studies, archaeology, text-editing and iconographic analysis.

**Latin and Palaeography**
This module enables students to recognize and read medieval texts in both Latin and vernacular hands.

**Source study**
This module enables students to engage in depth with a selected piece of medieval evidence textual or material, working with an expert supervisor.

**Options**
Each option runs for one term, and is assessed by appropriate coursework (usually an essay, but e.g. editions of texts and work with material evidence, are also possible).

**Dissertation**
Students work closely with their 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.
MA in History

The MA in History covers the period from 1500 up to today within which students are able to study aspects of the past relating to British, European, Local and International History. It offers outstanding training in historical research and is ideal for any student planning to:

- Undertake doctoral research
- Pursue a career in education, or the museum or archive sectors
- Follow their intellectual curiosity and develop their 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 students’ awareness of different methodological and theoretical approaches.

**Historical skills and resources**
This module provides students with an opportunity to have the first hands-on experience of primary sources broadly defined.

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, students choose two options. Each option consists of a series of eight two-hour seminars. With the approval of the MA Director, students can replace one of the options with and independent study on a topic of their choice.

**Dissertation**
Students work closely with their supervisor on their research project. Students also attend a series of training sessions about academic writing, source criticism, project management skills, editing and publishing.

Optional modules:

The course options made available to students reflect the historical expertise of staff within the department and are designed to enable students to tailor research to their own particular interests. Topics covered encompass British, European, World and International History, we also welcome students with an interest in local history as well as social, political, intellectual and cultural issues. Options may include; Radicalism and Republicanism in the English revolution; The English countryside, 1500–1750; Case studies in French history; Case studies in Italian history; Violence and conflict in twentieth century Africa; American slavery; British intellectual history in the nineteenth century; British labour movement history; British rural history in the twentieth century; The Cultural Cold War; and so on. In addition, students can undertake independent study on subjects of their choosing, receiving expert supervision from the leading historians in their field.
Studying at Reading

Our MA programmes offer unique insights into the richness and variety of 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, our students benefit from a truly interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment.

Our students rely on a wide range of excellent resources. The University Library holds 1.2 million catalogued books and subscribes to over 17,000 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 Visual Resource Centre.

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.

Mode and 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 invite applications from other graduates who can demonstrate suitable ability and commitment.

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For more information
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