

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

## **Programme Specification**

BA (Hons) History with Foundation  
7229

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for  
September 2022

**1. BA**

**Programme title:** BA (Hons) History with Foundation

**Final award title:** BA (Hons) History

**Level 5 Intermediate award title(s):** Diploma in Higher Education

**Level 4 Intermediate award title(s):** Certificate in Higher Education

**UCAS code:** V101

**HECOS code:** 100302

**2. Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

**Teaching institution(s):** University of Plymouth

**3. Accrediting body(ies):** N/A

**Date of re-accreditation:** N/A

**4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

This programme offers:

- A foundation year that is designed to provide a supportive environment that promotes nonstandard entry students' transition into Higher Education with high academic and pastoral support levels. The programme's foundation year is specially designed to enable students to negotiate the discipline and build their knowledge and understanding across key areas while also developing the critical thinking, research, and transferable skills required to progress to level 4 study and beyond.
- The opportunity to study a wide range of periods and geographical contexts e.g. early modern history, military history, World and Imperial history, US history and art history, a breadth that is not always available in the departments of the 'new' universities.
- Progression across the degree programme to research-informed teaching and learning, with tutors who are specialists, publishing in their field. An open-door policy of staff-student contact with these staff, which includes a personal tutorial system that applies a student friendly approach; instant access to tutors if available; designated office hours; appointment by email or phone.

- Seminar work that is grounded in primary sources at all three levels of study, including sources at local records offices and at the National Archives at stages 2 and 3, and the use of web-based and electronic sources, culminating in the 12,000 word dissertation research project. There is also an opportunity for Year 3 students to use the archives of the Roosevelt Centre in the Netherlands.
- A close relationship with local community history through the Historical Association and Arts Institute activities.
- Opportunity for field visits as part of the curriculum and for one-year and one-semester exchanges with US and European universities.

## 5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmarks for [History](#) (2019).

## 6. Programme Structure

Level 3 (Foundation)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC301 Discovering Your Inner Academic 30 Credits	SSC302 Individual Project 30 Credits
SSC305 Imagining the Past 30 Credits	SSC306 Literature, History and Visual Cultures 30 Credits

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
HIS4001 What is History 20 Credits	HIS4006 History and Heritage 20 Credits
HIS4002 America from Settlement to Empire 20 Credits	HIS4004 Fractured Isles: Britain and Ireland 1640-1990 20 Credits
HIS4003 World History Since 1850 20 Credits	HIS4005 Fighting for Survival: Living and Dying in Early Modern Europe, 1450-1700 20 Credits

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits	
HIS5005 Research Methods in Visual and Oral History 20 Credits	HIS5008 Preparing for Dissertation Research 20 Credits

<b>Choose one from:</b>	<b>Choose one from:</b>
HIS5001 Heritage and Public History 20 Credits	HIS5010 America since 1900 20 Credits
HIS5002 Royal Navy in the Age of Sail, 1545 – 1815 20 Credits	HIS5011 Other Voices – Marginalisation in Early Modern Europe 20 Credits
HIS5003 The Longest War: Britain, Ireland & the Troubles 1949-2006 20 Credits	HIS5013 Culture and Society. Britain c. 1760-1914
HIS5006 First World War at Sea 20 Credits	HIS5012 Tudor and Stuart Britain 20 Credits
<b>Choose one:</b>	<b>Choose one:</b>
<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>	<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>

<b>Optional Placement Year</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
SSC600 School of Society and Culture Placement Year 0 Credits	

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
HIS6001 History Dissertation 40 Credits	
<b>Choose one from:</b>	<b>Choose two from:</b>
HIS6004 The French Wars of Religion 1558-1598 20 Credits	HIS6008 The Civil Rights Movements 20 Credits
HIS6005 Irish Revolution 1912-1937 20 Credits	HIS6012 Modern Japan: Transforming Empire and Identity at the Edge 20 Credits
HIS6007 Filth and the Victorians 20 Credits	HIS6009 From Unification to Reunification: Key Themes in Modern German History 20 Credits
HIS6003 African-American Experience 1890-1954 20 Credits	HIS6010 Elizabeth I: The Failure of a Dynasty? 20 Credits

<b>Choose one:</b>	
<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>	HIS6011 Inter-War Britain 1919-1940 20 Credits
	HIS6013 Anglo-American Relations in Maritime Perspective, 1775-1991 20 Credits

### Specialism Modules

All undergraduate programmes in the School of Society and Culture have been designed to enable students to personalise their degree through a wide assortment of optional modules. These allow students to study more topics related to their core degree or branch out and explore up to three modules from other disciplines across the School. This flexibility starts in the second year, with students being able to choose one module from within cross-school elective pools at level 5 semester 1, level 5 semester 2, and level 6 semester 1. These are marked by the term *Specialism Module* in the programme structure above.

Students can elect to take any combination of modules from the three cross-school elective pools, and options will always be available from their core degree subject. However, students who complete three modules from another discipline will have the choice of graduating with that discipline as a specialism on their certificate: BA (Hons) History with <specialism>. The School offers modules in the following areas:

- Acting
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama
- English
- History
- International Relations
- Law
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Politics
- Policing and Security Management
- Sociology

A list of available specialism modules and their associated learning outcomes can be found in the School of Society and Culture's Specialism Specification and on the programme's webpage.

## **7. Programme Aims**

This programme aims to:

### **For Level 3 (Foundation Year):**

- To foster a learning environment that facilitates students' success from a range of nonstandard backgrounds, offering bespoke support and skills training.
- To provide learners with academic and organisation skills within a supportive scaffold, enabling them to explore, interpret, and build informed opinions on key discipline areas.
- To develop students' confidence in their studies and to encourage and promote intellectual and creative curiosity.

### **For Levels 4-6:**

- To provide students with a knowledge and understanding of the history of a range of continents, power blocks, national and social groups, at different periods of time in the past.
- To provide students with an understanding of the sequence of events (chronology) and major historical trends in early modern, modern and contemporary history.
- To provide students with a detailed and systematic understanding of the theories underpinning historical interpretation and of the nature and function of historical controversy and argument (historiography).
- To enable students to reach independent judgements based on a consideration of conflicting historical interpretations.
- To enable students to undertake individual and independent research using primary and secondary sources.
- To provide students with an understanding of the methodology of the use of primary sources and the relationship between primary sources and historiography
- To enable students to approach historical problems from a range of multi-disciplinary perspectives: eg historical, literary, anthropological, sociological and gender-based.
- To provide students with the ability to communicate arguments and ideas in a range of written and verbal formats and thus with a range of skills appropriate to employment and lifelong learning.
- To foster values of critical enquire, tolerance and citizenship, appropriate to employment and lifelong learning.

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

The School of Society and Culture runs three foundation years covering the Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, and Performing Arts. These programmes' learning outcomes are designed to provide students with the academic writing, critical thinking, research, and interpersonal skills required to progress onto a wide variety of cognate degrees within the School. These are detailed in section 10 of this specification.

The School's three foundation years share two common modules, one in each semester, which introduce the foundation community to the core academic skills required for level 4 study. While these modules are school-wide, they include subject-specific seminars and assessments, allowing students to practice applying the delivered academic skills in the context of their chosen field of study. The remaining modules equip students with subject-specific skills in the broad areas of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, and Performing Arts.

### **For Level 3 (Foundation Year):**

#### **F.1. Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. An understanding of key ideas and debates in the Humanities with an ability to interpret these from a range of theoretical, historical, and textual perspectives.
2. A broad understanding of the key methods of enquiry used to study the Humanities and how to select and deploy these appropriately.

#### **F.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Approach and solve problems by reviewing and selecting appropriate solutions, drawing on their knowledge base and research skills to make informed decisions.
2. Evaluate information and opinions from divergent perspectives to form conclusions.

#### **F.3. Key and transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Take responsibility for their learning and be able to self-manage their workload.
2. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms to different audiences.

#### **F.4. Employment related skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Exercise personal responsibility and decision-making with an appropriate level of confidence.
2. Seek out and undertake further training to develop existing skills and acquire new competencies.

### **F.5. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Use computers and information technologies competently.
2. Work individually and collaboratively.

**For Levels 4-6:**

### **8.1. Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Demonstrate a detailed and specialist knowledge of the history of a range of continents, power blocs, nations and social groups.
2. Develop specialisation in depth of some of the histories of different continents, power blocs, nations and social groups.
3. Demonstrate a detailed and systematic understanding of theories underpinning historical interpretation, in particular causes of change over time, and the importance of temporal and geographical context for historical events and processes.
4. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the function of historical controversy and argument in developing historical understanding.
5. Show a detailed understanding of the methodology of the nature and uses of primary sources.
6. Show a detailed understanding of the relationship between primary sources and historiography.
7. Analyse critically ethical questions in a specialist historical context.
8. Understanding of how societies and cultures change over time, enabling individuals to understand how institutions develop and evolve.

### **8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Evaluate critically a range of historical opinions and to show knowledge of their development over time.
2. Evaluate critically divergent theories, models and interpretations within a broad framework of historical explanation.
3. Apply knowledge between different historical topics.
4. Synthesise and critically evaluate information and present the results in sophisticated written form and oral communications.

5. Challenge received conclusions.
6. Identify, use and evaluate critically a wide range of primary sources and develop appropriate methodologies for their analysis, in particular to demonstrate the ability to synthesise data, highlighting gaps in the available data and sources.

### **8.3. Key and transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Organise own learning through self-management.
2. Organise a factual answer to a historical question in written form.
3. Give an oral presentation, speaking to a limited brief, as part of a group.
4. Work effectively with others as a member of a group and meet obligations to others.
5. Use information media such as libraries and computer network.
6. Review the effectiveness of their own approach in a range of important tasks, for example note taking, essay planning and the presentation of footnotes/bibliographies.

### **8.4. Employment related skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. Ability to plan and execute a self-directed research project.
2. Ability to interact effectively within a team, providing leadership where necessary.
3. Ability to engage effectively in debate and discussion in a professional manner.
4. Capacity to make oral presentations, using appropriate media for a target audience.
5. Capacity to make written presentations using appropriate language for a target audience.
6. Confidence and flexibility in identifying and defining complex problems.

### **8.5. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the skills to:

1. Plan and execute a self-directed research project.
2. Identify and use with critical awareness a wide range of learning resources.
3. Interact effectively within a team, providing leadership where necessary.
4. Manage own learning using full the full range of available resources.
5. Demonstrate self-evaluation skills, making good use of feedback.
6. Engage effectively in debate in a professional manner.
7. Be confident and flexible in identifying and defining complex problems.

## 9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the grading system until 2017).

<b>Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) History with Foundation</b>	
A-level/AS-level	32-48
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	PPP - MMP in any subject. All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subjects with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor.
Scottish Qualifications Authority	32-48 points at Advanced Highers.
Irish Leaving Certificate	H5 H5 H5 H5 H5.
International Baccalaureate	24 overall. If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.
Proficiency in English	If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

## 10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

<b>Progression Routes from Foundation Year</b>	<p>Students are required to pass all modules of Level 3 (Foundation Year) to progress directly onto Level 4 of one of the following degree programmes in the School of Society and Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BA (Hons) Anthropology</li> <li>• BA (Hons) Art History</li> <li>• BA (Hons) Creative Writing</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Criminology</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology</li> <li>• BA (Hons) English</li> <li>• BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing</li> <li>• BA (Hons) History</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) International Relations</li> <li>• LLB (Hons) Law</li> </ul>
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LLB (Hons) Law and Criminology</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Politics</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Sociology</li> <li>• BSc (Hons) Professional Policing</li> </ul> <p>Requests to change programmes at the end of the Foundation Year will be considered only within the normal University regulations.</p>
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4.
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
<b>BA (Hons) History</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

## 11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

## 12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

### Appendices

#### Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules

**Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes**  
**CORE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. I**

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)										Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills		Key & transferable skills		Employment related skills		Practical skills			
		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2		
Level 3	SSC301			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	C1 100%
	SSC302	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	C1 100%
	SSC305	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	N	C1 100%
	SSC306	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	N	C1 100%
Level 3 LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Confirmed Award LOs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																												Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical				
		Knowledge & understanding							Cognitive & intellectual skills						Key & transferable skills						Employment related skills						Practical skills								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2			3	4	5	6
Level 4	HIS4001			x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x				x				x		x	x	x	x	Y	E1 50%, C1 50%
	HIS4002		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x			Y	C1 100%	
	HIS4003	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
	HIS4004		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x		x	x		x	x	x			Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	HIS4005	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		Y	C1 100%
	HIS4006			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
Level 4 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
L5	HIS5008	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x		x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS5005			x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
Level 5 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
L6	HIS6001	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	N	C1 100%	
Level 6 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			
Confirmed Award LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			

**ELECTIVE MODULES:** tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Elective Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																												Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical					
		Knowledge & understanding								Cognitive & intellectual skills						Key & transferable skills						Employment related skills						Practical skills								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2			3	4	5	6	7
Level 5	HIS5010		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
	HIS5001			x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS5002		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS5011	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x			x	x		x		x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
	HIS5003	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
	HIS5012		x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
	HIS5013	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS5006	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
Level 5 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Level 6	HIS6003	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS6008	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS6004	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS6005	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			x		x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%
	HIS6009	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS6010	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS6011	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
	HIS6012	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%		
	HIS6013	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	Y	C1 100%	
HIS6007	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x			x		x		x		x	x		x		x	x	x	Y	C1 100%		
Level 6 LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Confirmed Award LOs		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		