

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business

School of Society and Culture

Programme Specification

MA Maritime History

September intake: 6922

January intake: 7012

Definitive Document Approved: 19.2.20

Implementation Date: September 2020

Revised: May 2020 (incorporation of January intake)

Amended by Minor Change: 25.11.20, 17.12.21 & 21.02.22

1. MA Maritime History

Final award title: MA Maritime History

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s) PGCert
[Upon successful achievement of 60 level 7 credits]

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s) PGDip
[Upon successful achievement of 120 level 7 credits]

UCAS code: N/A

HECOS code: 100302

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth
Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

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

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

The programme has the following distinctive features:

- It enables students to study Maritime History in Britain's Ocean City and explore more than five centuries of fascinating maritime history. Topics will range from exploration and piracy in the early modern period to questions around sea power and Anglo-American relations.
- It allows students to work with world leading experts in maritime history from 1500 to the present day to develop your interests and research. A particular strength of this programme will be the international and global aspects of maritime history that students will study
- Students will be part of a community of maritime historians who are shaping the future of the field with cutting edge research and publications. Students will be part of a vibrant community of history postgraduates working in the University of Plymouth. They will participate in the active research and social life of the history unit.
- Students will develop analytical skills with our exciting range of maritime and naval history modules. In particular students will gain digital research skills and practical skills that will enhance their employability prospects.
- Students will showcase their maritime history research skills with a dissertation on a maritime history topic of their choice. This independent study

will demonstrate their use of a range of research techniques and methods in the field of maritime history

- Students will utilise the excellent maritime history resources and partners in the University Library, The Box and wider city of Plymouth and region. Working with our local, national and international partners will be a central feature of this degree for all students
- Students on this course will develop an in-depth and advanced knowledge of maritime history that is informed by the best current practice, scholarship and research

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

This programme aligns to the QAA Benchmark Statements for History and the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement.

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-history.pdf?sfvrsn=49e2cb81_4

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10

6. Programme Structure

The programme structure for 2022-23 is as follows:

MA Maritime History: full time route

Please note that for the September in-take, students will start with Semester 1 modules followed by Semester 2 modules and the Dissertation. For the January in-take, students will start with Semester 2 modules followed by Semester 1 modules and the Dissertation.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Core 30 credits MAHI700 Key Debates and Research Methods in History	Core 30 credits MAHI730 Key Research Methods and Skills in Maritime History	Core 60 credits MAH702
Option 30 credits students choose 1 module from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAHI704 Piracy and Privateering, 1560-1816 • MAHI729 Sea power in History • MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History • MAEH702 Coastal Cultures: Environmental and Maritime Anthropology 	Option 30 credits students choose 1 module from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAHI727 Anglo-American Relations in Maritime Perspective, 1775-1991 • MAHI728 Maritime Explorations and Encounters • MAHI738 Remembering the Past, Talking History: Oral History & Memory Studies • MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History 	MA History Dissertation

Please note that the number and availability of option modules may vary from year to year (details of all modules are provided on the DMRs, supplied separately). The programme team will liaise with the Senior Administrator (Programmes) over the capping of option modules, with the intention that places will be reserved on such modules for level 7 students, with those students who have previously studied any given module at level 6 not being permitted to study these at level 7.

An optional module entitled 'Independent Research Project in History' gives flexibility to allow students in these circumstances (where they have studied a module at Level 6), or with timetabling issues, to study other topics, subject to staff availability.

The pattern for full-time mode will be as follows:

Semester 1:

- Core module: MAHI700 Key Debates and Research Methods in History (MAHI700)
- One option module (from MAHI704 Piracy and Privateering or MAHI729 Sea power in History or MAEH702 Coastal Cultures: Environmental and Maritime Anthropology or MAHI718 Independent Study Module)

Semester 2:

Core module: MAHI7730 Key Research Methods and Skills in Maritime History'

- One option module (from MAHI727 Anglo-American Relations in Maritime Perspective, 1775-1991; MAHI728 Maritime Explorations and Encounters
- Or MAHI738 Remembering the Past, Talking History: Oral History & Memory Studies or MAHI718 Independent Study Module)

Summer (Semester 3):

MA History Dissertation (MAHI702)

Dissertation preparation begins in semester 1, with supervision starting semester 1 but primarily in semester 2 and with cut off point for tutorials in late July.

Each taught module is 30 Masters level credits. The Dissertation is 60 Masters level credits.

MA Maritime History: part time route Year 1

Please note that for the September in-take, students will start with Semester 1 modules followed by Semester 2 modules. For the January in-take, students will start with Semester 2 modules followed by Semester 1 modules.

Semester 1 (Sept – Jan)	Semester 2 (Jan – May)
Core 30 credits MAHI700 Key Debates and Research Methods in History	Core 30 credits MAHI730 Key Research Methods and Skills in Maritime History

MA Maritime History: part time route Year 2

Please note that for the September in-take, students will start with Semester 1 modules followed by Semester 2 and the Dissertation. For the January in-take, students will start with Semester 2 modules followed by Semester 1 modules and the Dissertation.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Option 30 credits students choose 1 module from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAHI704 Piracy and Privateering, 1560-1816 • MAHI729 Sea power in History • MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History • MAEH702 Coastal Cultures: Environmental and Maritime Anthropology 	Option 30 credits students choose 1 module from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAHI727 Anglo-American Relations in Maritime Perspective, 1775-1991 • MAHI728 Maritime Explorations and Encounters • MAHI738 Remembering the Past, Talking History: Oral History & Memory Studies • MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History 	Core 60 credits MAH702 MA History Dissertation

7. Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- Provide students with a deep and systematic understanding of maritime historical knowledge.
- Enable the acquisition of an advanced understanding of the methodology of maritime history.
- Provide students with 'experience presenting maritime history to public audiences.
- Provide students with skills to undertake independent and original research in maritime history, preparing them for the dissertation and for future PhD study.
- Encourage originality in the application of knowledge and understanding of how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) A thorough understanding of historical knowledge within the field of history under scrutiny.
- 2) A rigorous understanding of theories underpinning historical interpretation; processes and causes of change over time; and the importance of temporal and geographical context for historical processes and events.
- 3) A deep and systematic understanding of the methodology of historical study, both in relation to the nature and uses of primary sources.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) Skills of synthesis and critical evaluation of research and scholarship relevant to the historical topics being studied.
- 2) Appropriate methodologies for the analysis of primary sources and be able to evaluate critically such sources.
- 3) Expertise in different methodologies; and be able to apply and adapt these to a wide range of issues and problems.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Engage independently with complex historical sources and interpretative ideas and approaches to maritime historical writing.
- 2) Communicate confidently and accurately in different written formats.

- 3) Apply and adapt expertise in different methodologies to a wide range of issues and problems.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) Confidence and accuracy in communication in different written formats.
- 2) Use IT to access sources and information, and to prepare written work.
- 3) Prepare oral communications such as presentations.
- 4) Time-management, the ability to schedule tasks in order of importance.
- 5) Self-awareness, of strengths and weaknesses.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in independent research.
- 2) The ability to exercise digital skills and project management in research.
- 3) The ability to work with and develop new projects with external and internal partners.

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

An honours degree in history or a related subject, or a professional qualification recognised as being equivalent to a degree.

Graduates from other disciplines will be considered on an individual basis.
References from previous university, employer or similar

Accreditation of Prior Learning will be considered, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis and in line with the University's [Academic Regulations](#).

[English language requirements](#). We welcome applicants with international qualifications. To view other accepted qualifications please refer to our [tariff glossary](#).

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

- A Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate modules worth at least 60 credits, of which at least 50 credits must be at level 7.
- A student will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate with Merit provided that s/he has achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 60% or above across all the modules.
- A student will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction provided that s/he has achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 70% or above across all the modules.

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)

- A Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate modules worth at least 120 credits, of which at least 100 credits must be at level 7.
- A student will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma with Merit provided that s/he has achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 60% or above across all the modules.
- A student will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction provided that s/he has achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 70% or above across all the modules.

Masters Degree

- A Masters degree will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate modules worth a minimum of 180 credits, all of which must be at Level 7, and must include the dissertation/major project module.
- A student will be awarded a Masters degree with Merit provided that s/he has achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 60% or above across all modules (including the dissertation/major project), and provided that the mark for the dissertation/major project is not less than 50%.
- A student will be awarded a Masters degree with Distinction provided that s/he has achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 70% or above across all

modules (including the dissertation/major project), and provided that the mark for the dissertation/major project module is not less than 60%.

11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

12. Transitional Arrangements

N/A

Appendices

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)

