

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business

School of Society and Culture

## **Programme Specification**

MA in History

4479

Amended by Minor Change:  
4/12/19, 11/5/20, 20/5/20, 25/11/20 & 12/12/21

## 1. MA History

**Final award title: MA History**

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

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

**UCAS code:** N/A

**HECOS code:** 100310

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 draws from, and is based upon, considerable staff research expertise. The teaching team are all actively engaged in research relating to the MA, contributing to a range of publications in their respective areas of expertise.
- It is designed to appeal to a variety of audiences, including recent Plymouth graduates, teachers looking to enhance professional qualifications and those in the local community with a long-standing enthusiasm and passion for history.
- It will enable students to develop expertise in a variety of forms and periods of history, ranging from early modern religious, social and cultural history to twentieth-century military and political history.
- It has links, notably through the core module 'Public History', with local record offices and archives and in the process provides opportunities to develop expertise in the local and regional history of Plymouth and the south west.
- It will provide training and transferable skills, notably through the core modules of 'Key Debates' and 'Public History', that will be of value either in employment or in conducting further research, such as proceeding to registration for an MPhil/PhD.
- It will take place in a supportive pastoral environment (described by the external examiner for the predecessor MA programme as an excellent feature of History practice in successive annual reports).
- It provides flexibility for those wishing to achieve a PGCert or PGDip rather than completing the whole MA programme.

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

N/A

There are currently no QAA M-level benchmarks for any Arts & Humanities subject (see <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/masters-degree-subjects> ).

It is assumed that students will continue to develop, refine and apply the skills gained at Honours degree level in History or a related subject (see QAA Subject Benchmark statement for History <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-history-14.pdf> ).

## 6. Programme Structure

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: Key Debates and Research Methods in History (MAHI700)
- One option module (from MAHI704, MAHI709, MAHI710, MAHI716, MAHI718, MAHI723, MAHI729)

### Semester 2:

- Core module: Public History (MAHI701)
- One option module (from IRL716, MAHI706, MAHI718, MAHI721, MAHI722, MAHI726, MAHI727, MAHI728, MAHI734, MAHI738)

### 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.

## Mode of study

Please refer to the programme structure diagram (below) for full-time and part-time students.

Full-time study: lasts one year (12 months.) Students complete the requisite core, option and dissertation modules within this time.

Part-time study: lasts two years (24 months.) Students may take between 60 and 90 credits in year one.

## MA History Programme Structure

An outline programme structure and features, modules, credit and award requirements are as follows:

The programme structure for 2022-23 is as follows:

### MA History: full time route

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
MAHI700 Key Debates and Research Methods in History	MAHI701 Public History	MAH702 MA History Dissertation
<b>Options</b>	<b>Options</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MAHI704 Piracy and Privateering, 1560-1816</li><li>MAHI709 The French Wars of Religion 1558-1598</li><li>MAHI710 The Irish Revolution 1912-37</li><li>MAHI716 America and the United Nations 1945 to the present</li><li>MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History</li><li>MAHI723 Key Debates in Modern Japanese History</li><li>MAHI729 Sea Power in History</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IRL716 International Relations in the Middle East: A Critical Approach</li><li>MAHI706 Civil Rights Movement</li><li>MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History</li><li>MAHI721 From Unification to Reunification: Key Themes in Modern German History</li><li>MAHI722 Elizabeth I Failure of a Dynasty</li><li>MAHI726 Filth and the Victorians</li><li>MAHI727 Anglo-American Relations in Maritime Perspective</li><li>MAHI728 Maritime Explorations and Encounters</li><li>MAHI734 Palaeography</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MAHI738 Remembering the Past, Talking History: Oral History &amp; Memory Studies</li> </ul>	
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MAHI700 is mandatory in Semester 1;

MAHI701 is mandatory in Semester 2.

Students will take option modules drawn from MAHI704 – MAHI738 (and IRL716 from outside History), subject to availability.

MAHI702 is mandatory in the Summer (Semester 3)

### MA History: part-time route – Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
MAHI700 Key Debates and Research Methods in History	MAHI701 Public History

MAHI700 is mandatory in Semester 1; MAHI701 is mandatory in Semester 2.

### MA History: part-time route – Year 2 (2022-23)

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Option Module (from IRL716-MAHI738)	Option Module (from IRL716-MAHI738)	MAHI702 MA History Dissertation

\* Option modules drawn from IRL 706 -MAHI704–MAHI738 are subject to availability in 2023-24 (e.g., due to staff on sabbaticals). MAHI702 is mandatory in the Summer.

Option modules (all, except MAHI718, MAHI728, MAHI729, MAHI734 and MAHI738 co-taught with 3rd year BA modules) available in 2022–23 are as follows:

#### Semester 1

MAHI704 Piracy and Privateering, 1560-1816

MAHI709 The French Wars of Religion 1558-1598

MAHI710 The Irish Revolution 1912-37

MAHI716 America and the United Nations 1945 to the present

MAHI718 Independent Research Project in History

MAHI723 Key Debates in Modern Japanese History

MAHI729 Sea Power in History

#### Semester 2

IRL716 International Relations in the Middle East: A Critical Approach

MAHI706 Civil Rights Movement

MAHI718 Independent Research Project

MAHI721 From Unification to Reunification: Key Themes in Modern German History

MAHI722 Elizabeth I Failure of a Dynasty  
MAHI726 Filth and the Victorians  
MAHI727 Anglo-American Relations in Maritime Perspective  
MAHI728 Maritime Explorations and Encounters  
MAHI734 Palaeography  
MAHI738 Remembering the Past, Talking History: Oral History & Memory Studies

Palaeography: NOTE only on offer if ARCHI module taken by a full time ARCHI students

Each 'taught' core module is worth 30 credits and is delivered via two-hour weekly sessions. Optional modules are in three-hour weekly sessions in class (some of the options may be divided into a 2 hour seminar + 1 hour lecture), with an additional 1-hour weekly meeting with the module tutor. The exceptions are MAHI718, MAHI728, MAHI729, MAHI734 and MAHI738 which are not co-taught. As well as issuing individual module guides when first meeting groups, tutors for each module will specify the format of sessions they will be operating and will outline the amount and type of reading required on a week-by-week basis. The Programme Leader will organise an introductory session for MAHI718 and oversee this module.

MAHI702 History Dissertation is a 60-credit module, taught via individual supervision with a member of the programme team at times of mutual agreement. The Dissertation requires the submission of a project of 15–20,000 words in length, including footnotes and bibliography. For full-time students the dissertation must be completed by September in the year of first enrolment; for part-time students the dissertation must be completed by September in the second year following first enrolment.

## **7. Programme Aims**

The programme is intended to:

- Provide students with a deep and systematic understanding of historical knowledge.
- Enable the acquisition of an advanced understanding of the methodology of historical study.
- Provide students with 'work facing experience, notably by exploring the theory and practice of how the past is presented to public audiences.
- Provide students with skills to undertake independent and original research, 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 and to the ...

## **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 historical writing (e.g., postmodernism).
- 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) Self-awareness, of strengths and weaknesses.
- 5) Time-management, the ability to schedule tasks in order of importance.

## **8.5. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility in independent research.

## **9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements**

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above.

A good honours degree in History or a related subject, or a professional qualification, recognised as being equivalent to degree standard.

An ordinary degree, foundation degree, higher national diploma, or university diploma, accompanied by substantial experience in an appropriate field.

For overseas qualifications comparability with the UK equivalent can be checked through UK NARIC, who provide an advisory service.

#### **10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards**

Upon successful achievement of 60 level 7 credits, students can achieve a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) award

Upon successful achievement of 120 level 7 credits, students can achieve a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) award

Upon successful achievement of 180 level 7 credits, students can achieve an MA award.

To achieve a 'Pass' award, students must achieve an average of between 50-59% on aggregate and, additionally, in the case of MA awards, for the Dissertation module. To achieve an award with 'Merit', students must achieve an average of between 60-69% on aggregate and, additionally, in the case of MA awards, for the Dissertation module. To achieve an award with 'Distinction', students must achieve an average of between 70%+ on aggregate and, additionally, in the case of MA awards, for the Dissertation module.

#### **11. Non Standard Regulations**

N/A

#### **12. Transitional Arrangements**

N/A

### **Appendices**

#### **Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)**

#### **Operational Specification: mapping of Award Learning Outcomes**



**Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (PGT): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes**  
 Tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes.

Module	Credits	C core E elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																	Com pens ation 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		1	2	3		1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	1									
MAHI700	30	C	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								C1
MAHI701	30	C	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI704	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI706	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI709	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI710	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI716	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI718	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI721	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI723	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI726	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI727	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI728	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI729	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI733	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
MAHI734	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							T1 50% C1 50%
MAHI738	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
IRL716	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
<b>Learning Outcomes 60 credits</b>																												
MAHI702	60	C	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							C1
<b>Learning Outcomes 120 credits</b>																												
<b>Learning Outcomes 180 credits</b>																												
<b>Confirmed Award LOs</b>																												

**Operational Specification: mapping of Award Learning Outcomes.**

Module Code	Level	Credits	C - core E - elective	Award Learning Outcomes (for more information see Section 8 of the Programme Specification) Please map where a module does one or more of the following:  <b>I – ALO is introduced</b> <b>P – ALO is practised</b> (e.g. formative assessment and feedback; basis of tutorial or workshop) <b>A – ALO is assessed</b>																				
				8.1 Knowledge & understanding				8.2 Cognitive & intellectual skills				8.3 Key & transferable skills				8.4 Employment related skills					8.5 Practical skills			
				1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	1			
MAHI700	7	30	C	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI701	7	30	C	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI702	7	60	C	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI704	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI706	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI709	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI710	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI716	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI718	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI721	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI723	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI726	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI727	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI728	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI729	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI733	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI734	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
MAHI738	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
IRL716	7	30	E	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			