University of Sheffield

Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	History		
2. Award type	Master of Arts		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 7	**Mode of Study:** Full time Part time	**Duration:** 1 year 2 years
4. Faculty	Faculty of Arts and Humanities		
5. School	**Owning:** School of History, Philosophy and Digital Humanities		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 100302 **Percentage:** 100	**Code:** **Percentage:**	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code (internal use)	HPHT001 (Full time) HPHT002 (Part time)		

9. Programme aims

The programme aims to:	
A1	To offer students an advanced programme that is qualitatively different from undergraduate level study by maximising opportunities for independent study, developing critical thinking, source analysis, and project management skills, as well as self-reflection and reflexive practice.
A2	To focus on transferable research, learning and presentational skills that are applicable both within the academic discipline of History and in other professional settings.
A3	To equip students with public and digital history skills as well as high-quality work-related learning to enhance their employability skills.
A4	To foster critical thought, intellectual curiosity and an appreciation of the value of History.
A5	To prepare students for professional careers or a further research degree (and equip them with the necessary skills for such further research degrees).

10. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	
K1	History as a discipline, of the sources available to those writing it, the ways it is disseminated to wider audiences through public and digital history, and of the academic debates that inform the area of study.
K2	The historiography that defines the discipline, the development of distinct historiographical approaches, and of how this relates to students' own research interests.
K3	The distinctiveness of History as a discipline, its role in public debate in the digital age, and an ability to reflect on how other disciplines have influenced the development of the historical method.
K4	The intellectual concepts that inform History, to enable writing and to undertake detailed source-criticism.
K5	Whether or not the learner possesses the ability, motivation and interest to pursue further postgraduate study in History.
Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:	
S1	Reflect deeply on historical knowledge and to demonstrate an awareness of current historical debates as well as the role and dissemination of historical knowledge in public debate.
S2	Develop employability skills centred on independent project management and to gain practical experience in a digital history project.

S3	Gain digital literacy and use a wide range of bibliographical tools to locate and critically appropriate sources and materials for the advanced study of history.
S4	Formulate and sustain independent historical arguments in good English (showing an awareness of History as a literary discipline), to provide appropriate evidence to support them (including quantitative and visual evidence), and to reference the sources of the evidence used.
S5	Demonstrate transferable skills in written and oral communication, independent and collaborative working, and the digital environment.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

History shapes our society, culture, politics, and economy as well as who we are. Our MA History at Sheffield offers you the opportunity to work with world leading experts on topics covering a wide temporal and geographical range to uncover those histories. Under their guidance, you can pursue interests in medieval, early modern, modern and contemporary history.

You'll study various approaches to history, the importance of public history, and the expanding field of digital history that have transformed the ways in which historians work. At the heart of the MA programme is a digital history project that you develop under the guidance of experts from the Digital Humanities Institute (DHI), the UK's leading centre for digital humanities. The degree culminates in the completion of your own research project, developed with the support of a specialist in the field. The MA History is designed so that it can be taken as a free-standing degree giving you the opportunity to study history at an advanced level and further develop your critical thinking skills based on in-depth source work. You will also learn key-transferrable academic research skills, how to translate and apply historical knowledge to your studies and beyond, acquire digital capabilities, and enhance your interpersonal skills in collaborative work. Studying the significance of history for society will thus support your personal development and prepare you for your future career. The MA History also provides you with the skills and knowledge necessary to continue to a PhD.

You'll be taught in small seminar groups that allow you to expand your historical knowledge, engage in advanced scholarly debate, and acquire the skills necessary to pursue advanced historical study at postgraduate level. Seminars encompass group discussion, collaborative work, and individual assignments such as essays, small projects, and source work—all designed to prepare you for further academic study or a range of professional paths.

The MA History also offers you dedicated pathways to enhance your education beyond the classroom. You have the option to develop practical skills as part of a work placement or a public history project. We work with a range of partners within Sheffield in museums and cultural institutions through which you can gain real-world work experience.

As an MA student, you'll have the opportunity to join the vibrant research culture within the School of History, Philosophy, and Digital Humanities. Our Research Centres and Research Hubs invite you to engage with the work of fellow postgraduate students and staff. We actively support our postgraduate students to run their own research groups: these give you the opportunity to work with fellow students, and staff, to create your own programme of speakers and research events. You might also want to get involved with our student-led History Postgraduate Forum which is a great way to meet other students and get involved in a host of social and research events. Throughout your postgraduate studies, you'll develop the skills, experience and knowledge needed to thrive in a range of professional careers or academic research.

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

The MA History includes a range of assessment methods to support your learning. They allow you to develop your skills in accessible writing, analysing a variety of historical material, and verbal communication. The core modules provide a spine throughout the degree and build on each other. They teach you core historical skills you need to develop your research project. Assignments range from source analysis to the development of a research proposal, as well as the ability to communicate your project ideas to others in an oral presentation to receive constructive peer feedback. These tasks are designed to build your confidence, sharpen your analytical skills, and prepare you for advanced research and communication. Core modules also include opportunities to reflect on your personal development, identify skills you want to enhance, and think about the value of your research for future career paths. Optional modules allow you to pursue innovative and creative assessment forms such as small project assignments, for example as part of digital and public history modules, alongside traditional forms of assessment such as essays. Your research project gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to design and complete an independent piece of work that showcases all the skills you practiced throughout the degree and highlights core transferable skills such as time- and project-management.

You will receive formal structured feedback throughout the degree on all your assignments to help you improve your work. You also have access to an academic tutor to discuss any work-related or professional development questions throughout the year. For your dissertation research, you will receive individual tutorial guidance from a supervisor who is an expert in your chosen field, helping you refine your ideas, structure your argument and shape your project. We also encourage you to seek informal feedback to develop your ideas in seminars and student hours.

Version Number:	**Purpose / Change:**	**Cohort affected: (academic year and level)**	**Date change approved:**
1			January 2024
2	Major Amendment	26/27 - Year 1	October 2025

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