

Information about humanities teaching at Brighton

Teaching and research in the Humanities takes place across a range of degrees in the University but the core of the provision is in the interdisciplinary, academic skills-based Humanities Programme. The closure of this Programme would entail the ending of philosophy, cultural studies and history at the University.

The Humanities Programme at Brighton has operated since 1988. The educational principles on which it was founded are these:

- the development of an analytical grasp of contemporary political and ethical issues required more than a detailed knowledge of one disciplinary area, or even a close acquaintance with more than one discipline (history, cultural studies, philosophy), but rather requires an interdisciplinary approach;
- in addition to the core skills of analysis and synthesis, and of the ability to relate theory and practice, the second-order communication skills that a degree in the Humanities requires includes the development of oral as well as written competence, and this should be assessed through seminars and a final project presentation.
- the appreciation of complex problems in philosophical, historical, literary and other work is best attained in the active deployment of ideas rather than their passive reception, and thus the core of teaching provision should be based on small-group seminar discussions.

The Programme has been highly successful, as attested by successive cohorts of appreciative students, the reports of External Examiners and graduates' employment successes.

The loss of the Programme would denude the University of Brighton of an element of teaching and scholarly research that are centrally important in the very definition of a university – as well as losing a resource of significant value across the institution.