History
Undergraduate study
Courses

Single Honours BA History
three years V100
MArts History with Innovation
four years V104

Why study history at Bristol?

A shared enthusiasm for doing history is at the core of our syllabus, which is oriented towards independent research. Our students engage in active, primary source based research throughout their studies. We offer a wide range of unit choices, which allows you to develop your own pathway through the degree.

We believe that our research should be shared and enjoyed with a wider public and encourage our students to think likewise. Our staff and students have worked in partnership with organisations such as English Heritage, Bristol City Museum and Gallery, the SS Great Britain, Bristol Zoo and the BBC, as well as local schools and community organisations, festivals and exhibitions.

You will also have the opportunity to develop your interests through varied teaching formats, choosing from a large and diverse range of units reflecting our diverse range of interests stretching from the medieval to the modern, and from Britain and Europe to Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Americas.

Besides the core focus on history you will also have the opportunity during your time here to contextualise your studies by taking options beyond your department. You may choose to take units in related or broader subject areas or in a foreign language. You will also take part in the Bristol Futures programme, which builds knowledge and experience in the fields of innovation and enterprise, global citizenship and sustainable development. You may also choose to spend one semester living and studying abroad, an experience which broadens horizons and which employers value highly.

Become an arts student at Bristol and you will be joining a diverse group of staff, students and subjects united by a fascination in exploring how humans express their experiences. From 2018 we are offering you even greater opportunities to explore subjects beyond your core studies and an average of ten or more contact hours per week. Through our innovative curriculum we ensure you develop the key skills and attributes employers seek while receiving a first-class education.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2018. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2017). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.
When you join the Department of History, you will be on the way to becoming a historian, not just a student of history. You won’t just be storing up historical knowledge, you will actively engage in exploring and interpreting the past. What distinguishes our students is that they want to investigate for themselves what happened and why, rather than merely being told about events by someone else.

As our teaching is led by our research, you could find yourself exploring the very latest thinking on topics ranging from the history of witchcraft, to mass media in the British Empire, to modern China. Real historians are united by their passion to explore the past through the material produced by those we study (primary sources) and the writings of other historians (secondary sources).

As historians we know that communicating findings to others is the key to our work, helping us refine our ideas and advance historical debates. As an undergraduate at Bristol, you will be given the skills to communicate your work clearly and vividly with a wide range of audiences, and the skills to undertake your own original research. This culminates in a 10,000-word dissertation in your final year, based on extensive engagement with primary sources. Because of the emphasis on exploring a variety of sources, the environment of lively discussion, and the encouragement we give you to follow your own passions in history, the dissertations produced are often highly original pieces of work that make significant contributions to historical debates.

Each year, the Department of History publishes the best of the annual dissertations produced by our final-year undergraduates and awards a ‘best dissertation of the year’ prize in recognition of the excellent research work being undertaken by our students. As a department, we are committed to the advancement of historical knowledge and understanding, and to research of the highest order – our undergraduates are part of that endeavour.

‘I loved studying history at Bristol. The Department of History opened my mind to fresh, new thinking from the outset and I remember having some amazing discussions with the tutors. Lots of the units are so new that there may not even be published works available. Instead, you are dealing with original source material, such as articles, photographs or graphics.’

Isabel (BA History 2011)
The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are now, more than ever, valued in every part of the employment market. In the Department of History our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the topic they study – commerce, tech start-ups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, to name just a few. Our graduates also go on to work in sectors perhaps not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

To ensure history graduates continue to be appealing to employers, the Bristol Skills Framework enables students to recognise their development in areas such as academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

The skills developed by our history degree, which include the ability to think independently, to critically assess information, and present complex ideas under pressure, are highly valued by employers. This degree will develop your marketable, transferable skills, underpinned by the reputation of one of the top universities in the country, as well as providing a highly rewarding and memorable learning experience.

Careers and graduate destinations

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

Making your application

Typical offer for BA History
Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-history for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels AAA (ABB contextual†) including A in History.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32†) to include 18 points at Higher Level (contextual 16†) including 6 in Higher Level History.

English Language Profile B††

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application. We may interview mature applicants and applicants with non-standard qualifications.

Deferred entry Considered but places are limited to ensure fairness to applicants applying the following year.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Further information
Find out more about the Department of History: bristol.ac.uk/history.
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

Accommodation Office
Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640
Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services
Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444
Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

Student Funding Office
Tel +44 (0)117 331 7972
Email student-funding@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding

University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

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Liz Eve (Fotohaus), Patrick Metcalfe, Dan Rowley, Nick Smith
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