

History



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BA History

three years V100

MArts History with Innovation

four years V104

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). 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.

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 the wider public and encourage our students to think likewise.

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

Besides the core focus on history you will 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.

'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 in these areas. Instead, you are dealing with original source material, such as articles, photographs or graphics.'

Isobel (BA History)

What will you study?

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.

As historians, we know that communicating our 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 gain the skills to communicate your work clearly and vividly to 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.

Ranked in the UK top ten for History.

[Complete University Guide 2019](#)

Teaching methods and assessment

Our teaching is geared to an education at the forefront of the subject and is closely integrated with the acquisition of the key skills and attributes sought by employers for a wide range of careers. Our diverse range of assessments ensures that you gain a thorough training in advanced research, source analysis and sharing your findings in a number of ways. We ensure that you graduate with experience in formal writing and the ability to present knowledge, ideas and arguments in various forms of media. You will be experienced in working individually and in groups and in making connections with and communicating to audiences beyond the University.

Our teaching includes a mix of small and medium-sized seminars, lectures, tutorial-supported research and group projects. We place a particular emphasis on small-group seminar teaching to promote student discussion and support the development of students' research. You will be expected to spend longer periods of time on independent study as the course progresses.

Assessment is by coursework essays, dissertations and research projects as well as written exams and oral presentations. You will be allocated a personal tutor who will follow your progress and give you advice throughout your time at Bristol.



'I have enjoyed the opportunity to conduct my own research as part of my course. I have been well supported by the academic staff, who hold consultation hours and group meetings to help discuss our ideas and build upon them. The chance to engage in collaborative learning has been a strong advantage to the course.'

Grace (BA History)



Careers and graduate destinations

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 topics 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, 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.

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 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

Making your application

Typical offer for BA History*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-history for other qualifications.

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

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

English Language profile B^{††}

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

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

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*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 2018); 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

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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.

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University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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