Hands-on history
Our degrees are research oriented and enable you to progress and become capable of conducting independent, original research. You will undertake source-based research projects in all three years of your degree, culminating in your final-year dissertation.

Breadth of choice
You have the freedom to follow your own interests throughout the degree, choosing from a wide range of thematic and research-oriented units – from ancient British Paganism to the geopolitics of modern Antarctica.

International perspective
All our courses include a diverse choice of global history units, and single honours students have the chance to spend a semester studying history in Australia, the US or Europe. You can also study a four-year degree with a modern language and spend your third year abroad.
Why study history at Bristol?

Bristol students ‘do’ history as well as read history through a mix of core units and a choice of primary source-based optional units. We place particular emphasis on undergraduate research.

In the first year you will study themes in medieval, early modern and modern history. You will then pursue your own pathway through the degree, choosing from a wide range of units. Choice and small-group teaching are embedded in the degree at every level. You will undertake one substantial piece of independent research each year.

In your final year, you will produce a 10,000-word dissertation based on extensive engagement with primary sources. You might choose to make this practice-based, combining a written report with a creative or public-facing output such as a walking tour, exhibition or podcast.

You will have the opportunity to contextualise your studies by taking options beyond the Department of History. Alternatively, you can choose to study history with a modern language, with English, or with innovation.

Sample units may include:
- Aftermath: The Wake of War, 1945-1949
- Aztecs, Incas and Evangelisers
- Kingship and Crisis during the Wars of the Roses
- Red Power and Beyond: Postwar American Indian Ideology and Protest
- Picturing the 20th Century
- Teenage Kicks: Youth and Subcultures in Britain since 1918.

‘Being able to choose my own modules and investigate areas of history that I have never considered before has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding. Staff encourage you to grow as a person and pursue your own interests.’

Rosie (BA History)

Find out more
Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-history

The department’s dynamic research culture feeds into all our courses. Research-active staff have links with the University’s Centre for Medieval Studies, Institute for Migration and Mobility Studies and Centre for Environmental Humanities.

The city of Bristol has a long and complex history, stretching back over 1,000 years. Explore the city’s past with optional units like Bristol and Slavery or The Smugglers’ City.

In 2019, Bristol appointed Professor Olivette Otele as its first Professor of the History of Slavery, to explore the University’s relationship with the slave trade.

To extend your historical studies you can attend a variety of exciting events, such as the History Showcase lunchtime lecture series, research seminars, and fascinating talks with guest lecturers.
Courses

BA History
BA English and History
BA History and French / German / Italian / Portuguese / Russian / Spanish
MArts History with Innovation

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). 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. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

Connect with the Department of History

@UoBrisHistory

Photography
Dan Rowley, Nick Riddle
© University of Bristol