

# History

## Essentials

### Taught programmes

#### MA degrees

Contemporary History  
Intellectual History  
Modern European History  
Writing History

#### Research programmes

MPhil, PhD History  
MPhil, PhD Intellectual History

#### Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

#### MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in history or another humanities or social science subject

#### MPhil and PhD

A Masters degree in history or a related discipline, or an equivalent qualification

#### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

#### Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

#### Further information

School of History, Art History and Philosophy,  
PG Admissions,

University of Sussex, Falmer,  
Brighton BN1 9QN, UK

T + 44 (0)1273 678001

E [hahp@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:hahp@sussex.ac.uk)

[www.sussex.ac.uk/history](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history)

- Rated 15th in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 90 per cent of our research was rated as internationally recognised or higher, with 65 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher, and a quarter rated as world leading. Sussex is ranked in the top 15 in the UK for history in *The Times Good University Guide 2012* and *The Complete University Guide 2011-12*, and in the top 20 in the UK in *The Guardian University Guide 2012*.

- History is a vibrant, ambitious and highly research-active department with major strengths in modern and contemporary history. Cultural, intellectual, social and economic history are particularly well represented.

- History is home to a number of innovative research centres, including the Centre for German-Jewish Studies; the Centre for Intellectual History; the Centre for Modern European Cultural History; the Centre for War and Society; and the Marcus Cunliffe Centre for the Study of the American South. Sussex historians also play leading roles in cross-departmental Centres for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, and Early Modern Studies.

- Sussex students have access to an impressive range of archives including the internationally renowned Mass Observation Archive, which is housed in the University Library.

## Taught programmes

### Teaching methods

Most courses are taught in weekly small-group seminars, for which you prepare written work and oral presentations. Lectures, workshops and conferences organised by the History Department give you further access to the latest historical research and debate.

Taught courses provide training in appropriate research techniques, including the development of skills in using concepts and sources likely to play a part in the research project for the dissertation. Teaching is also available, where required, in languages, palaeography, statistics and computing.

You may, on certain programmes and subject to the approval of the programme convenor, write any or all of your assessment exercises in a language other than English. Please note that all teaching is in English.

For further information, contact the programme convenor at the address given in Essentials.

The range of options may vary depending on demand and the availability of faculty.

### MA in Contemporary History 1 year full time/2 years part time

Sussex has a long-established reputation for cutting-edge historical research in contemporary history. Our MA in Contemporary History is different in scope from those available in other universities. Its distinctiveness lies in the emphasis on social and economic, as well as political, history, and in providing opportunities to study important aspects of the contemporary history of Asia, Africa and North America, as well as Britain.

This programme aims to provide you with the knowledge, understanding and conceptual, intellectual and subject-specific skills to analyse problems of importance in the contemporary world historically, ie in their long-run context as distinct from the necessarily shorter focus of the contemporary social sciences. There is a strong emphasis upon the comparative study of different countries or regions.

This MA draws on our expertise in modern British, North American, Asian and African history to offer a carefully constructed programme of study which can, if you choose so, follow a defined pathway. Each possible pathway through the programme is linked to an interdisciplinary research centre at Sussex:

- the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures ([www.sussex.ac.uk/ccps](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ccps))
- the Centre for War and Society ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cws](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cws)).

### Career opportunities

Many of our graduates have gone on to careers such as teaching and research; others have gone on to further study.



**Programme structure**

The options listed below are an example of courses that may be available. You take four courses during the MA.

Autumn term: Historical Skills and Methods  
• The People's Century, Britain 1900-2000.

Spring term: you take two from Empire, Science and the Environment • Germany, France and the Making of 20th-Century Europe • Race, Religion and Modern America.

Summer term and vacation: you work on a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice, agreed with your supervisor. Part-time students are expected to begin background reading for the dissertation in their first summer term.

*Note that courses may be subject to change or withdrawal. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/history](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history) and [www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg)*

**Assessment**

Historical Skills and Methods is assessed by a portfolio consisting of a group submission, an individual essay and a research proposal. Each other course is assessed by a 5,000-word term paper, each paper to be written in the vacation following the end of the course in question. All students write a 20,000-word dissertation, which is submitted towards the end of the summer vacation.

**MA in Intellectual History  
1 year full time/2 years part time**

Sussex has been one of the main contributors to the flourishing of intellectual history in Britain and is today a leading centre in the field, both in scholarship and teaching. It was one of the first universities in Britain to create a degree programme in intellectual history and it remains one of the few to offer graduate degrees specifically in this exciting discipline.

This MA gives you the opportunity to acquire a thorough knowledge of the interrelations between philosophy, political thought, science and religion in the early modern and modern period across Britain and Europe. You study the major transformations of the reflective and intellectual life of both thinkers and doers, whose ideas are approached through their literary texts as well as their practical contexts.

In addition, the MA's aim is to prepare you for more advanced study. To this end, and to put the whole course of study into broader perspective, you take an intensive pro-seminar in methods and approaches to intellectual history. This provides methodological research training in addition to detailed knowledge of the major research areas of intellectual history as it is currently practised internationally.

The MA is based in the Department of History and you benefit from the activities of the Centre for Intellectual History (visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/cih](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cih)). The Centre arranges seminars and symposia on the latest research and is home to significant research projects, editorial projects (including 'The Newton Project' [www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk](http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk) and 'Natural Law and Enlightenment Classics'), and two leading academic journals (*History of European Ideas* and *History of Science*).



**Taking it easy? Design and material culture are studied in their historical, social and political context**

**Career opportunities**

A number of our graduates opt to undertake further study.

**Programme structure**

Autumn term: Religion and Enlightenment

- Toleration and Persecution.

Spring term: Democracy and Human Rights

- War and Empire.

Summer term and vacation: you work on a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice, agreed with your supervisor. Part-time students are expected to begin background reading for the dissertation in their first summer term.

*Note that courses may be subject to change or withdrawal. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/history](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history) and [www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg)*

**Assessment**

Each course is assessed by a 5,000-word term paper, each paper to be written in the vacation following the end of the course in question. All students write a 20,000-word dissertation, which is submitted towards the end of the summer vacation.

**MA in Modern European History  
1 year full time/2 years part time**

The field of modern European history has undergone a fundamental transformation in the last generation. Where much of the emphasis once fell on political and social history, recent scholarship has moved in new directions.

Most notable is the amount of scholarly attention devoted to what is broadly known as 'cultural history'. Cultural studies has, of course, been a presence across the humanities for some time now, but what distinguishes cultural history is its effort to widen the scope and source-base of historical inquiry, integrating the insights and conceptual tools of neighbouring disciplines in the humanities to study the past, such as anthropology, art history, literary criticism, the history of science and media studies.

The beneficial effects of this intermarriage of disciplinary scholarship has clearly been manifest in the burgeoning historical subfields of memory, everyday life studies and material culture, but can also be seen in the field's effort to recast intellectual history as more than simply a history of intellectuals.

Our MA is linked to the Centre for Modern European Cultural History ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cmech](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cmech)) and has close ties with other departments and research centres at Sussex, such as the Centre for German-Jewish Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs)), the Centre for War and Society ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cws](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cws)), as well as institutions like the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Imperial War Museum.

Drawing on faculty interdisciplinary research interests across Western and Central Europe, this MA invites you to approach the study of modern Europe from new perspectives, where serious cultural history can be pursued and presented irrespective of traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Our University Library also houses extensive holdings and library archives, for example the World War I; Paris Commune; May 1968; and Matusow collections.

**Career opportunities**

Our graduates have gone on to careers in teaching and roles such as project administrator for the Holocaust Education Trust.

**Programme structure**

The options listed below are an example of courses that may be available. You take four courses during your studies.

Autumn term: Historical Skills and Methods  
• Human Rights in History.

Spring term: Genocide in Comparative Perspective • Germany, France and the Making of 20th-Century Europe.

Summer term and vacation: you work on a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice, agreed with your supervisor. Part-time students are expected to begin background reading for the dissertation in their first summer term.

*Note that courses may be subject to change or withdrawal. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/history](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history) and [www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg)*

**Assessment**

Historical Skills and Methods is assessed by a portfolio consisting of a group submission, an individual essay and a research proposal. Each other course is assessed by a 5,000-word term paper, each paper to be written in the vacation following the end of the course in question. All students submit a 20,000-word dissertation, which is submitted towards the end of the summer vacation.



## MA in Writing History

### 1 year full time/2 years part time

History is more popular than ever before. On this MA, you learn how historians imagine, structure and present their work to publishing houses, production companies and the reading and viewing public. This MA provides a unique forum in which you develop commercial skills and projects. It offers training in the creative writing of all types of history – gripping narrative, military and adventure, biographies and bodice rippers, private and everyday life, and epochal.

The programme encourages Masters-level critical thinking in history but the focus is on the acquisition of skills in designing and developing popular histories. Professional development, mentoring from editors, agents and producers form central elements of this programme. You graduate with the MA qualification and a closely mentored first draft of your own specific project.

#### Teaching methods

A distinctive feature of this programme is the collaboration between academic and commercial expertise. You are taught both by internationally acclaimed Sussex faculty and by external experts, including popular historians, successful practitioners, and agents and publishers. The programme is taught through a series of masterclasses and seminars, and intensive, personally tailored individual supervision. Each component is taught through a series of four day-schools. The courses are bespoke to the programme and we offer an inclusive package including lunch, refreshments, access to additional speaker events and research trips.

#### Career opportunities

As an MA in Writing History graduate, you will be able to communicate your research to specialist and, crucially, non-specialist audiences clearly and creatively, including historical documentary writing for TV and radio, historical novels, popular history, and writing for various forms of film. You will develop transferable skills in the exercise of initiative and the capacity for independent learning, which will greatly enhance your employability within the commercial history sector.

#### Programme structure

Autumn term: Successful Historians  
• Successful Histories.

Spring term: Beyond the Written Word  
• Selling the Self.

Summer term and vacation: you focus on drafting, style and editing. You concentrate on your personal projects under intensive supervision and participate in a series of work-in-progress seminars.

*Note that courses may be subject to change or withdrawal. For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/history](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history) and [www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg)*

#### Assessment

Assessment methods for the core courses complement and facilitate specific skill development. They include thematic book reviews, extended essays, treatments and personal web pages. An extended chapter of the personal project with contextualising commentary (20,000 words in total) takes the place of a more traditional dissertation.



**Mods and rockers rioting in Brighton, Easter 1964: a number of Sussex historians have research interests in youth and popular culture**

#### Research programmes

We invite research proposals in all aspects of contemporary history, in modern European history, in British history since 1700, in American history, in intellectual history, in rural history and in the history of science. The History Department lays particular emphasis on social, cultural, political and economic history of the 19th and 20th centuries; intellectual and religious history; and gender and women's history. For individual areas of research and potential supervisors, refer to Faculty research interests on page 106.

All research is individually supervised by members of the History Department, and a weekly work-in-progress seminar gives a platform for Sussex historians, visiting speakers and research students to present their ideas and scholarship (refer to Academic activities on page 106).

Intensive language courses in the major European languages are available. For more information, visit the Sussex Centre for Language Studies at [www.sussex.ac.uk/languages](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages)

#### Library and archives

The University Library is rich in contemporary publications, periodicals and newspapers and has a large documentary section. The Library also subscribes to a range of electronic resources, including Early English Books Online (EEBO), which provides access to over 100,000 titles published between 1475 and 1700, in facsimile form.

Its Special Collections contain the internationally renowned Mass Observation Archive (1937-present), on which numerous theses and books, written at Sussex and elsewhere, have been based, and which has its own publications list; the important Paris Commune collection of books, posters, illustrations and newspapers of 1871; literary and political manuscripts of the 20th century including the Rudyard Kipling papers, Bloomsbury Group papers, the *New Statesman* archive and Kingsley Martin papers; and the History and Popularisation of Science collection including the JG Crowther papers. For full details, visit the Special Collections website [www.sussex.ac.uk/library/speccoll](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/speccoll)

Archival sources for local history are stored at the East Sussex County Record Office in nearby Lewes and at the West Sussex Record Office in Chichester. There is the Design Archive at the neighbouring University of Brighton, and most research students regularly use the British Library and the Public Record Office in London.

#### Coursework

Most research students will have successfully completed an MA with research training skills and will therefore not be required to take any compulsory coursework. Where it is thought advisable, first-year research students may otherwise be required to participate in the Historical Skills and Methods course, or the Historiography and Intellectual History course during the autumn term.

**Recent thesis titles**

*Exile, identity and memory: representations of Spanish republicans in the south west of France*

*The formation of the public image of the Balkans in Britain between 1912 and 1945*

*The political thought of the Cordeliers Club*

*The roots of solidarity: race, religion and the foundations of British anti-apartheid activism, 1946-58*

*Young women, employment and the family in interwar England*

**Career opportunities**

Our graduates hold posts such as archivist, historical researcher, and teacher (schools, tertiary colleges, universities, and teaching English as a foreign language). Some have gone on to careers in museum work, business, government, journalism, media (film and radio), publishing, and social services.

**Academic activities**

The History Department runs a weekly work-in-progress seminar throughout the academic year, to which visiting historians, research students and faculty contribute. All postgraduate students are expected to attend as an intrinsic part of their studies. Sussex history research students have in recent years organised a highly successful annual postgraduate conference, 'Fresh Perspectives'. Our graduate students also run the well-established *University of Sussex Journal of Contemporary History*, an innovative online journal of creative and interdisciplinary historical research by members of the postgraduate and early postdoctoral community.

History at Sussex has a thriving and animated research culture, with regular seminars, workshops and conferences on interdisciplinary research, and specific courses on research methods and skills.

Postgraduate students play an active role in the vibrant research centres that exist within the History Department and throughout the University. These Centres organise seminars and conferences among other activities and include:

- the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/ccps](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ccps))
- the Centre for Early Modern Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cems](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cems))
- the Centre for German-Jewish Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs))
- the Centre for Intellectual History ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cih](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cih))
- the Centre for War and Society ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cws](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cws))
- the Marcus Cunliffe Centre for the Study of the American South ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cunliffe](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cunliffe)).

**Faculty research interests**

Research interests are briefly described below and on the right. For more detailed information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/history](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history)

**Hester Barron** 20th-century British social history, labour history, the history of the working classes. Doctoral thesis on the miners' lockout of 1926 is currently being prepared for publication.

**Paul Betts** 20th-century Germany, and modern European intellectual and cultural history. Joint editor of *German History*. Co-Director of the Centre for Modern European Cultural History.

**Stephen Burman** Refer to the American studies subject entry on page 39.

**Robert Cook** Refer to the American studies subject entry on page 39.

**Professor Matthew Cragoe** Victorian Britain, social history of religion, cultural history of politics. Conducting an AHRC-funded project on parliamentary enclosure, 1700-1900.

**Vinita Damodaran** Modern India, popular protest and nationalism during the final stages of British imperial rule. How environmental change shapes social and cultural protest.

**Professor Saul Dubow** Foundations of modern South Africa. Chair of the Board of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* and Co-Director of the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies.

**Professor Carol Dyhouse** 19th- and 20th-century British social history; feminism; gender.

**Jim Endersby** The history of science, the impact of empire on 19th-century Britain and the reception of Darwinism.

**Richard Follett** Refer to the American studies subject entry on page 39.

**Ian Gazeley** British history in the 20th century; living standards and poverty; and employment and unemployment. Co-Director of the Centre for War, Representation and Society.

**Professor Knud Haakonssen** The history of early modern philosophy. History of human rights in the early modern period.

**Professor Robert Iliffe** The history of science and the Newton Project ([www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk](http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk)), an international undertaking to publish a critical scholarly edition of all of Sir Isaac Newton's writings.

**Claire Langhamer** 20th-century British history, specialising in gender, life histories and mass observation. History of love and commitment across the period c1930-1970.

**James Livesey** The cultural history of France and the British Isles, especially Ireland, 1640-1900, focusing on the growth of democratic values in society, economics, and politics.

**Lucy Robinson** Contemporary British history: the British left, counter-culture and youth culture.

**Jarod Roll** Refer to the American studies subject entry on page 39.

**David Rudling** Multi-period landscape archaeology, late Iron-Age and Roman Britain. Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa Project.

**Darrow Schecter** Refer to the Social and political thought subject entry on page 148.

**Professor Dorothy Sheridan** British 20th-century social history; women's history. Archivist of the Mass Observation Archive and Director of a project documenting 1990s life in Britain.

**Nicola Verdon** Economic and social history of the British countryside in the 19th- and 20th-centuries, with a particular focus on gender and the workforce, the family economy and the farm family.

**Chris Warne** Modern French history, with particular interests in youth and its representation, and the cultures of everyday life.

**Professor Clive Webb** Race and ethnic relations in the 19th and 20th centuries; civil rights movement. Author of *Rabble Rousers: The American Far Right in the Civil Rights Era* (2010).

**Richard Whatmore** 18th- and 19th-century French and British intellectual history; British radicalism in the 1790s.

**Christian Wiese** Modern German-Jewish history and the Director of the Centre for German-Jewish History.