School of History
FACULTY OF ARTS

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
School of History

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Please check this website before making any decisions. The University’s contract with its students (following an acceptance by a student of any offer of a place) does not confer third-party benefits for the purposes of the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.


**Studying History**  
**The past as future**

Welcome to the School of History at the University of Leeds. Whether you are already sure of your intention to study history at University, or whether you are still thinking about your options, we hope that this booklet will give you more information about studying history here, and the opportunities and benefits you can gain.

"The range of different topics offered by the School of History is phenomenal and I have engaged with subjects that I had never even considered before. Leeds is a great University and History a respected degree, now approaching graduation, I feel like I have the world at my fingertips!"

Vikram Jones, BA History

**Why study history?**

History is so much more than the study of the past. The world and society we see around us today have all been fundamentally shaped by what has gone before. Social change, political upheaval, religious clefs, military conflicts, intellectual advances, transformations in culture, commerce and business, are all the product of decades – even centuries and millennia – of historical development.

Understanding the past is vital if we are to explain the present and improve the future. Studying history provides strong foundations in the knowledge and understanding of earlier times. It develops the analytical and intellectual tools to interpret periods, themes and events of the past in relation to our present. It helps you acquire a wide range of skills and attributes which are essential both for the academic experience of studying history at University, and also for the competitive demands of graduate recruitment in the future.

Studying history is a rich, varied and rewarding choice, and the aim of this booklet is to explain why the School of History at the University of Leeds is an excellent place to study. We offer two Single Honours degree courses spanning almost two thousand years of history and a wide range of historical themes. We offer history in a broad array of Joint Honours degree combinations, allowing you to maintain your academic interests in multiple subject areas if you wish to do so. We have an excellent range of facilities and provisions for our students, and our teaching and research is highly regarded. We encourage students to build their academic potential but also to focus on their professional development, and our graduates are very successful in the graduate employment market. And we have the benefit of an easily accessible location, in a vibrant city, close to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and in proximity to Yorkshire's heritage coast, providing an exciting and stimulating backdrop to your studies and endless opportunities for exploration and relaxation. You will find more details about all of these aspects as you read on.
The School of History is one of the largest of its kind in the country. The University of Leeds is one of the leading universities in the United Kingdom for studying history and is consistently placed highly in national and international rankings.

We have nearly forty members of academic staff, with historical interests ranging chronologically from the early medieval period to the present, and across themes such as social, political, cultural, intellectual, religious, military, diplomatic and economic history. Geographically we cover the history of Britain, Europe, Russia, South Asia, the Far East, the Americas and Africa.

We admit around three hundred undergraduate students per year split between our Single and Joint Honours degree programmes. Our students take a full part in the life of the School. Alongside their academic studies, they can be involved in how the department is run, they participate in research seminars and networks, they may hold paid internships from the School, and many act as ambassadors for the School at a wide range of events.

Students also organise and run the very successful History Society (HistSoc), promoting social, sporting, cultural, employment and academic opportunities across the history student population, and providing an immediate network of fellow historians from the moment you arrive in Leeds.

We have an extensive support staff available to offer help with all aspects of student life.

Our research
Our academic staff members are leading researchers in their fields, internationally regarded for their expertise. Our research quality underpins the range of our teaching, and provides the best opportunities to develop your interests and skills as a historian. This ensures that what we teach remains relevant and up to date, and continues to reflect advances in historical knowledge. Academic staff are keen to share their knowledge and to challenge you, encouraging and enabling you to develop your own historical knowledge and skills throughout your studies.

Our teaching
We offer almost one hundred different modules across the undergraduate degree programmes each year. This is possible because of the size of our staff, the diversity of their research interests, and the strength of our student population. It means that you can explore new areas or build on particular interests throughout your degree programme, subject to the requirements of your course (see pages 6-8). You can find more information about the range of modules currently offered at www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/historymodules

“I was really impressed at how approachable all of the academic staff were, which greatly enhanced the quality of my learning experience. They were knowledgeable, passionate, enthusiastic and committed to their students. This was particularly relevant during my dissertation, where my supervisor’s guidance and support was invaluable.”

Hannah Collett, BA International History and Politics

Top 60 University for Arts and Humanities in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-15

Top 100 University overall in the QS World University Rankings 2014-15

University of the Year runner-up (Sunday Times 2014)
Most modules are taught by a combination of lectures and seminars. A smaller number might be taught entirely by seminars, or they might involve your completion of an extended piece of research and writing with the support and supervision of an academic member of staff. Some modules such as History Students into Schools require you to be involved directly with the local community (again with our support and supervision).

Reading and preparation
As a history student, whether Single or Joint Honours, you might find that there seem to be relatively few hours on your weekly timetable. This is because you need to read widely to prepare for your seminars, and the best place to do that is in one of our libraries. The Edward Boyle Library and the new £26million Laidlaw Library are the principal undergraduate teaching libraries, designed specifically with the needs of undergraduate students in mind. The Brotherton Library is the main research library on campus, with one of the largest History collections in the country. Various of its Special Collections have been awarded national collection status for their rarity and value.

Assessment
Modules are usually assessed by a combination of exams, assessed essays and other exercises such as presentations. This means that we can help you to develop a wide range of academic and communications skills over your time in Leeds. Bear in mind that your first year will be a transitional year. The marks you gain in this year will not count towards your final degree, although you do have to pass the year itself. The marks you gain in your second and third years do count towards your final degree classification.

Supporting students
All our students have a personal tutor throughout their time in Leeds. The personal tutor is responsible for supporting students with any academic or pastoral concerns that might arise. Personal tutors will also help students to think about how they develop their experiences, skills and employability over the course of their studies, using the University’s Leeds for Life programme for guidance and opportunities. More support is available from the School of History’s designated Student Support Officer, as well as from a wide range of other specialist support services across the University and within the Students’ Union.

“My three years at Leeds left me with a balanced and varied skillset; the importance of seminars in the course made me a confident public speaker, always willing to voice ideas and opinions. Since graduating I have made great use of these skills and pursued a career in sports media; I spent several months working as a web editor for Europe’s largest extreme sports site, before moving onto a job at an international sports news agency. I also work as a programme producer for an educational podcasts on a range of topics, from Bitcoin and economics to African politics.”

Alex Burd, BA International History and Politics
BA History
(UCAS Code V100)

BA History at Leeds presents the opportunity to study a broad variety of historical topics across a wide range of chronological periods and historical approaches. Modules span the time period from the early medieval world to the twentieth century, across the continents of Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia, including political, social, religious and economic history among their specialisms.

The structure of the degree programme
In the first year (Level 1) you will study two core foundation modules, Medieval and Renaissance Europe, and The Modern World. These provide a valuable introduction to topics available at higher levels, especially those which might not already be familiar. You also study skills-based modules, Historiography and Historical Skills, and Primary Sources for the Historian. These provide a grounding in the subject-specific analytical skills needed throughout the course. In addition you take further history modules and/or Discovery Modules from another field of study.*

In the second year (Level 2) you have the opportunity to tailor your studies to suit your interests. Usually you will select six modules, including at least two in Medieval and Early Modern History, and two in Modern History, from our extensive list of choices. You will explore topics in more depth, and continue to develop your historical skills at a more advanced level. At Level 2 you may choose your preferred modules from an extensive list, exploring subjects in more depth with the aim to develop your own historical interests. You can continue to choose Discovery Modules outside the School if you wish.

In the third year (Level 3) your studies become very specialised, focusing on a Special Subject and Dissertation of your choice. Typically the School of History offers around thirty special subjects each year, across the range of research specialisms of the academic staff. You can also choose option modules or Discovery Modules to complement your studies and interests. You can find out more about the range of modules available at www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/historymodules

"The history department at Leeds is a big department by the standards of most other universities. As such we had at our disposal a broad array of expertise, providing not just an interesting range of different topics from which to choose modules but also an intellectually stimulating environment in which to study."

Josh Gibson, BA History

* Discovery Modules can be chosen from a huge range on offer across the University. They are available from all departments, so you can take modules in subjects other than History if you wish to (common choices include language options, or related subjects such as History and Philosophy of Science, English Literature or Theology, but students often choose something completely different). Discovery Modules are grouped within ten Discovery Themes – including for example ‘Media, Culture and Creativity’, ‘Power and Conflict’ or ‘Personal and Professional Development’ – so that you can develop key areas of interest beyond your core subject, across all levels, if you choose.
BA International History and Politics
(UCAS Code VL22)

BA International History and Politics (IHP) is a unique, integrated Single Honours degree programme with no precise parallel at any other university in the country. Its focus is on the most modern and contemporary history of international affairs and relations between states, in the period from the nineteenth century into the twenty-first century. IHP is distinctive for its in-depth coverage of the ‘long twentieth century’ and its focus on contemporary issues in world politics.

The structure of the degree programme
In the first year (Level 1) you will study core modules including Skills and Concepts in International History, International History 1919-89: Conflict, Cooperation and Change; and Consensus and Contention: Investigations in International History. You will also take a compulsory module in International Politics. In addition you can take two Discovery Modules from another field of study.*

In the second year (Level 2) you will take core modules in Documents and Debates (based on the use of primary sources to investigate key issues in contemporary international history), and the IHP Long Essay (a supervised independent research project leading to completion of a 6,000 word essay). You will also choose three from a range of modules on twentieth- and twenty-first century international history. You can choose an option or Discovery Module to complete your studies at Level 2.

In the third year (Level 3) your studies become very specialised, focusing on a Special Subject and Dissertation of your choice from a selection with specific relevance to international history. Most of the staff within the International History and Politics section of the School of History offer special subjects in their own areas of expertise, and other special subjects from across the School are available to you as long as they have an international history component. You can also choose option modules or Discovery Modules to complement your studies and interests.

You can find out more about the range of modules available at www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/historymodules

“ It was the broad academic menu offered by the International History and Politics course, covering a wide range of topics all within my very specific area of interest, which really appealed to me. The prospect of studying this wonderful programme at a prestigious Russell Group university in such a large, vibrant city, proved to be an irresistible combination.”

Ollie Buxton, BA International History and Politics
While you might have a strong interest in history, you might want to study other subjects alongside it too. Our Joint Honours programmes with history give you an excellent opportunity to supplement your historical interests with other academic disciplines. With a broad range of combinations to choose from you are sure to find a degree programme tailored to your interests.

Although you will study fewer history modules than a student on a Single Honours programme, the same principles of establishing skills at Level 1 and entrenching them at Levels 2 and 3 as you progress to more in-depth and specialised knowledge still apply. The subject combinations are very carefully implemented, so the level of your degree education overall will be the same but you have the benefit of pursuing your other academic interest in equal depth.

The structure of the degree programmes

Precise details of Joint Honours combinations will vary according to the subject and we encourage you to research the many possible combinations through [www.leeds.ac.uk/coursefinder](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/coursefinder) (make sure you select ‘Joint Honours’).

As a Joint Honours student the minimum history modules you study would include Historiography and Historical Skills, and another specified History module, in the first year; one module in Medieval and Early Modern History, and one in Modern History in the second year; and a special subject and an extended research project in the third year. You can also choose option modules or Discovery Modules* to complement your studies and interests in history if you choose.

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* Discovery Modules can be chosen from a huge range on offer across the University. They are available from all departments, so you can take modules in subjects other than History if you wish to (common choices include language options, or related subjects such as History and Philosophy of Science, English Literature or Theology, but students often choose something completely different). Discovery Modules are grouped within ten Discovery Themes – including for example ‘Media, Culture and Creativity’, ‘Power and Conflict’ or ‘Personal and Professional Development’ – so that you can develop key areas of interest beyond your core subject, across all levels, if you choose.

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“Doing another subject has given me variety in my academic life, and more choice over what I can study. Bringing the perspective of another subject into history is interesting, and can lead to rewarding results.”

Mark Whittaker, BA Geography and History
Making the most of your studies

Alongside your degree studies, the School of History offers many other opportunities to help you to get the most out of your time in Leeds. These can help to broaden your academic horizons, to see more of the world, and to develop and improve your employability as a graduate after you leave the University.

A year of study abroad

It’s worth remembering that if you are thinking of taking history as a Joint Honours combination with a foreign language, you will spend an academic year abroad as part of your degree studies. This opportunity is available to all students in the School, as long as you meet the academic criteria to apply. The University of Leeds has extensive links with universities in Europe, as well as much further afield including the USA and Canada, South America, Australia, and the Far East. You can find more destinations and practical details at studyabroad.leeds.ac.uk

A year of work placement

Alternatively, you might prefer to think about a year of work experience. The University Careers Service can help you to find and secure a work placement giving all the benefits of experience in the employment marketplace. On completing their work placement, many students have found that it has given them a different perspective on their academic studies, as well as a distinct advantage in applying for graduate jobs for after they leave university.

Paid internships

If work experience sounds good, but you don’t want to take a year away from studies, the School of History offers a range of paid student internships each year. These include careers internships, marketing and recruitment internships, induction and alumni internships, and more besides. Our students make significant contributions to the life of the School; their initiative, energy and creativity help us to improve our School community every year.

Getting involved in the School

You can also get more out of your time in Leeds by getting involved in the whole range of departmental activity. You can attend research seminars and hear internationally-renowned historians. Recent speakers have included Professor Sir Ian Kershaw, Professor David Stevenson and Dominic Sandbrook. You can contribute to community research and engagement through collaborative research projects with community groups across Leeds. Maybe you would like to be involved with teaching history in a local school. You can write for the student paper, or be an ambassador at our events, or take part in the social life of the department. Or you can join the staff-student committee and help directly to enhance the School of History and its activities for the benefits of all students, present and future.

“For my year abroad I went to the USA to study at the University of South Carolina. I have a passion for American history, and really benefitted from the opportunity to study history from a completely new perspective, which enriched my degree and understanding of key historical events. Studying abroad was a fantastic experience; I’d recommend it to anyone!”

Georgina Bakes,
BA International History and Politics (International)

The University of Leeds is a Top 10 University in the High Fliers Graduate Recruitment Report, 2014-2015

History and Historical Studies are in the Top 10 degree subjects for getting a job according to the most recent Telegraph report (2013)

University of Leeds student Andrew Barney at False Creek in Vancouver, Canada. Image courtesy of Andrew Barney.
Life in Leeds

The University
The University of Leeds is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive universities. We are a large university with over 30,000 undergraduate students. At the heart of campus activity is our active and well-organised student community, and the award-winning Students’ Union. You can find out more about the Students’ Union at www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk

Extra-curricular facilities, activities and opportunities are excellent. Our sports centre, The Edge, is state of the art and our sports teams compete up to the highest levels. There is more detail at sport.leeds.ac.uk Alongside sports there are over 300 student clubs, societies and voluntary groups across a huge range of activities, so there is never a shortage of opportunity to try new activities, meet new people, build networks and develop broader skills and interests.

Accommodation
Where you live is very important, and many students choose to live in University accommodation especially in the first year. The University of Leeds guarantees all first year undergraduates a place in our University accommodation. We have a wide range of catered and self-catered halls and flats either on campus or within easy walking distance. Living in University accommodation in your first year enables you to make friends quickly and easily and can help with managing your finances too as you know your costs are fixed – there are no ‘hidden extras’. Take a look at the Accommodation Office website - accommodation.leeds.ac.uk - for more on the range of accommodation we offer, and the facilities we provide.

The City and Region
Leeds is an exciting and diverse city, easily reached by all forms of transport. It is a great place to be a student, with lots of clubs, sport, entertainment, shopping, culture and more. Leeds is surrounded by beautiful countryside, with the outstanding Yorkshire Dales National Park and stunning Yorkshire Heritage Coast only a little further afield. Discover more about Leeds and Yorkshire at www.yorkshire.com and www.visityorkshire.com

International Students
The University is a vibrant and cosmopolitan community with students and staff of many backgrounds, nationalities and cultures. Our student population alone is drawn from over 140 countries, and we provide specialist advice if you are thinking of studying at Leeds as an international student. You can find out more at www.leeds.ac.uk/international

Our guarantee of University accommodation equally applies to single international students. For those with families, we have a number of family properties available although it is not possible to guarantee availability in this category. The Accommodation Office can give you more information at accommodation.leeds.ac.uk

The School of History offers up to four International Student Scholarships annually, in the form of a contribution to international student fees. No separate application is necessary; all international applicants will be automatically considered on the strength of their academic performance. Please contact us for more details.

The University of Leeds is ranked first among participating Russell Group universities for international student satisfaction in the International Student Barometer, 2014.

“Leeds is a vibrant city of which students form a major part. There’s a real community feel as all the students live in the same area and the city is affordable meaning you can do something every night. The city has great restaurants, nightlife and character.”

Katherine McCamley, BA International History and Politics
Entry requirements
For BA History (V100) and BA International History and Politics (VL22) the standard entry requirements are AAA at A-level, including an A in History if you are taking it. If you are not taking A-levels we accept equivalent qualifications.

For full details of our entry requirements, see www.leeds.ac.uk/coursefinder

Joint Honours entry requirements vary by programme. Again, you can find details at www.leeds.ac.uk/coursefinder

We welcome applications from mature students, or those with non-standard educational backgrounds. We are very happy to discuss your interests and aptitudes before you apply. Please get in touch with us through our undergraduate admissions enquiry email address historyug@leeds.ac.uk

Access to Leeds
Access to Leeds is the University of Leeds’ alternative entry scheme. It guarantees special consideration for applicants whose personal circumstances may affect their ability to demonstrate their full potential through grades alone.

Successful applicants receive an alternative offer alongside a standard offer. For more information on the Access to Leeds Scheme, including eligibility criteria, see www.leeds.ac.uk/A2L

Fees and Finance
The School of History, and the University of Leeds, are committed to encouraging students from all backgrounds to apply to us. We offer a wide range of financial support, and we expect one in three of our students to be eligible for financial help from us. Our range of funding includes awards based on academic achievement, as well as awards which take into account household income. Financial support from the University does not need to be repaid.

Information about fees and finance is available on the University web site at www.leeds.ac.uk/yourfinances

How do I apply?
All applications must be made through UCAS by 15 January for admission the following September. Your school or college will give you the forms, or you can visit UCAS online www.ucas.com

We welcome applications for entry in the subsequent academic year from students planning to take a gap year between school and university.

Contact us
You can email us at any time if you have queries about our degree programmes or any other aspect of studying at Leeds: historyug@leeds.ac.uk