Institute for Medieval Studies
Postgraduate Study

The Institute of Medieval Studies, part of the School of History at the University of Leeds, provides a unique environment for teaching and research in the Middle Ages. At our heart is a hundred-strong community of postgraduate students, staff, and associated specialists. Our interdisciplinary MA in Medieval Studies programme has run for over forty years, and offers modules which span 1,300 years and enable you to study either a closely interrelated set of subjects or to spread your interests.

In doctoral research we have numerous specialisms across the disciplines. The IMS also includes the International Medieval Bibliography, the leading bibliography of Medieval Studies, and the International Medieval Congress, the largest regular gathering of medievalists in Europe.

What are the benefits of studying Medieval Studies at Leeds?

The Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) offers the unparalleled opportunity for truly interdisciplinary study in an environment enriched by the presence of the International Medieval Congress, Europe’s largest annual gathering of medievalists, and the International Medieval Bibliography, the world’s leading interdisciplinary bibliography of the Middle Ages. Together, these unique enterprises will enable you to gain practical as well as academic experience, whilst links with publishers, museums, and research projects provide opportunities for internships and work experience.

Our research and teaching are enriched by collaboration with various local and national museums, including the Royal Armouries, Britain’s oldest museum and national collection of arms and armour, the Landscape Research Centre, which undertakes primary field research into landscape archaeology, ecology and landscape history, and Leeds City Museum. For students and lovers of landscape and architecture, Yorkshire’s matchless countryside, medieval castles, churches and abbeys are near to hand. Kirkstall Abbey is a short bus ride from the University and other significant historical sites such as Bolton Abbey, Fountains Abbey, Ripley Castle and Ripon Cathedral make for excellent days out in and around Yorkshire.

As the Institute is part of the School of History, you will be able to access all of the School’s facilities, events and opportunities, as well as those organised or offered by the Institute.

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Legal
For current information on courses, fees and entry requirements please visit our website at leeds.ac.uk/postgraduate.

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The International Medieval Congress

The International Medieval Congress (IMC) is an annual gathering of experts from across the world presenting their latest research findings into the European Middle Ages, c. 300-1500. Each year, nearly 2,000 medievalists – from eminent scholars to postgraduate students – descend on Leeds, from over 50 countries. The IMC is organised and administered by staff of the Institute. First started in 1994, it has now become a staple in academic calendars worldwide.

The main aim of the Congress is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for discussion on all aspects of medieval studies. Each year’s IMC has one special thematic strand that focusses on an area of interdisciplinary study in a wider context. However, this special thematic strand is not exclusive, and alongside it the IMC provides a platform for debate in all areas of medieval research.

The Congress is a flagship event for Leeds and the University, providing the opportunity to meet scholars from across the world, and to learn about their research first-hand.

Did you know...

- The IMC is the largest conference of its kind in Europe
- More than 1,500 papers are presented at each Congress, selected by an international Programming Committee with 35 members
- Around 20% of Congress delegates each year are postgraduates
- Around 30% of delegates are new to the Congress each year
- The Congress features a world-class main book fair with more than 80 stands, and a number of small fairs, including a second-hand and antiquarian book fair and a crafts fair
- Alongside the academic programme there are a wide variety of events, excursions, and workshops related to medieval studies

Student Profile

Rory Sellgren
MA Medieval Studies (2010)
PhD Medieval Studies

I completed my BA in English and Theology from Alvernia College, Reading, PA (2005), MA in New Testament Theology from Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA (2009) and MA in Medieval Studies from University of Leeds (2010).

I decided to apply for the MA here because I was attracted to the Centre for Dante Studies and working on the theology of Dante’s Commedia with Dr Matthew Treherne. The interdisciplinary approach in the Institute allowed me to draw on my literary and theological background in my studies of history. My PhD is by nature interdisciplinary so I feel I was prepared very well to approach my research. I feel that the MA course prepared me very well for the PhD level.

A PhD through the IMS grants you so many opportunities for interdisciplinary research as well as access to a number of events in the IMS, School of History, and other departments. I feel that I belong to three communities within the University, which allows me to network with a larger number of people. I look forward to the IMC where I can widen that network.

2014 was the first time I presented at the International Medieval Congress. After the 2014 IMC I will have three opportunities to present my current stage of research to three different groups. I am very glad for the opportunities to attend IMS and Medieval History seminars, and IMS Open Lectures, to learn different styles of presentations, as well as pick up tips on how to improve. Outside of the IMS, the Centre for Dante Studies gives students opportunities to meet other research students outside the University and discuss various research projects.

The best feature of the IMS is the variety of topics and approaches available for student research. Currently there is very little overlap in topics. Students in the IMS aren’t competing with each other which allows for a more relaxed and sociable atmosphere. I’ve heard this makes the IMS very unique within the University and amongst other medieval programs in the UK.
Institute for Medieval Studies
Postgraduate Study

Facilities within the Institute and University

The Institute’s dedicated facilities for postgraduates are extensive and include:

- The Medieval Group is the oldest medieval studies related association at the University, dating back to the 1950s, and is run by a committee of volunteers from among the staff, PhD and MA students. It is open to all members of staff and postgraduate students who are interested in medieval studies. Every year in October there is a ‘Medieval Research Afternoon’ which showcases the range of current research in medieval studies across the university and includes presentations from museum curators and archivists about research opportunities, volunteering and internships in the Leeds area. Throughout the year the Group runs a seminar series with a broad range of speakers (archaeologists, curators and where possible, by IMS PhD students that help to develop presentation skills and to provide constructive feedback in a supportive environment.
- Leeds University Student Union Medieval Society organised and run by the students organises a lively programme of events including medieval film evenings, workshops and field trips, www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/groups/18129.
- Postgraduate community organises reading and discussion groups;
- Access to the Postgraduate Fund: all postgraduate students can apply for up to £300 per academic year towards the cost of attending conferences, travelling to archives, external training, and other related activities;
- A dedicated postgraduate student space, the Le Patourel Room, which includes networked computers and printing facilities.

Research Seminars

The Institute runs an annual Open Lecture Series, delivered by a wide range of high-profile interdisciplinary guest speakers. Additionally, the School of History runs a Medieval Research Seminar Series, which includes staff, student and invited academic speakers. All events are free and open to the public, and are advertised on the Institute’s website www.leeds.ac.uk/ims.

You will also be able to take advantage of other events organised by the Institute for Medieval Studies, the School of History, and the Faculty of Arts and the University in general. Details of Faculty-wide events can be found at www.leeds.ac.uk/arts.

The University’s Libraries

Leeds University Library is a world class research library with over 2.8 million books and publications, and a wealth of manuscript, archive and early printed material in its Special Collections. The Library is ranked as one of the top libraries within the UK for provision of electronic books, journals and databases. There are nearly 700 computer workstations in the Library, and all library buildings are wireless enabled and the Edward Boyle library also has laptop lockers. There are quiet study areas, and group work facilities, plus an excellent Library training programme to help you exploit all the resources on offer. The new Laidlaw Library will provide additional PCs and study space for individuals and groups – more information is available at www.library.leeds.ac.uk/

The Brotherton Collection, a celebration of rare books and manuscripts. Its nucleus is the private library of Lord Brotherton, presented to the University after his death in 1930 together with funds to finance its growth.

There are important collections of medieval manuscripts and incunabula, to which additions continue to be made. For more information, see the Special Collection Website www.library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections

The Melsteth Icelandic Collection, a collection of some 13,000 volumes and pamphlets made by Mr Bogi Melsteth and since augmented by many gifts from Iceland. It is one of the finest collections of Icelandic material in the world.

The Archives of the Dean & Chapter of Ripon. The Library has on long-term deposit both the old library of Ripon Cathedral, especially rich in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century theological works, and the Archives of the Dean and Chapter of Ripon. Both collections contain medieval manuscripts and documents.

The Roth Collection, containing post-Biblical Judaica, including manuscripts from the fourteenth century onwards, collected by the late Dr Cecil Roth.

Selected notable individual collections include:

The Oriental Manuscript Collection forms part of the University Library holdings. It contains over 500 manuscripts, some of which are medieval. Most of the manuscripts are Arabic and Persian and there are also several in other oriental languages, such as Syriac, Hebrew and Turkish.

The Rigby Collection contains 3500 glass slides taken in 1940-51. It covers all aspects of medieval ecclesiastical architecture in the UK and mainland Europe. The slides are of cathedrals, abbeys and 500 parish churches. Also of note are the 800 that cover important French churches.

The University possesses a unique collection of nineteenth-century slides of medieval buildings. The majority of these slides are from the Godfrey Bingley Collection and the West Riding Collection, which provide a remarkable set of photographs of ancient monuments, churches, castles and domestic architecture that they were before restoration.

The archive collection of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society will soon be deposited in the Brotherton Library and available for consultation in 2015. You can take a closer look at the Library, including taking a Special Collections virtual tour, and finding out more about the specific library support available for medieval studies, at www.library.leeds.ac.uk.
Postgraduate opportunities

Internships
We have three paid internships which run for a year or more and offer you the opportunity to learn various skills, all of which enhance your employability.

- IMS Lectures and IMC Support Internship
  The holder of this internship will work within the team that organises the IMC. You will gain marketing experience in your promotion of the IMS Lecture series, and events organisation experience as you assist the IMC organising team with the day-to-day running of the Congress.

- IMS Editorial Internship (IMB)
  This internship offers the opportunity to gain experience working in the teams which produce the International Medieval Bibliography. You will acquire specialist transferable skills and training, and your tasks will include assisting with the editing and production of the ‘Bulletin of International Medieval Research’.

- IMS Website Internship
  The holder of this internship will gain extremely valuable work experience developing and updating the Institute’s website with a particular remit for Medieval studies online. Please note that training will be offered as part of this internship.

Presenting at the IMC
IMS students are encouraged to propose a paper or organise a session for the Congress. It should be noted, however, that all proposals will be vetted by the Programming Committee in the standard fashion, and only those deemed to be of the required quality will be approved.

Employment at the IMC
Each year the IMC employs up to 40 students from the across the University to assist in various tasks in preparation of the annual International Medieval Congress, mainly in the run up to, and during the Congress, but also at other times throughout the year. These tasks range from manual work preparing and clearing the sites, staffing the registration desk, event and excursion stewarding, filling registration packs to selling tickets and souvenirs.

Mentor Support
The Leeds Network gives you the opportunity to pair up with an experienced mentor from the world of work to receive personalised support. You explore career options, gain tips on entry into specific careers and receive supportive advice on developing your career plans.

leedsnetwork.leeds.ac.uk

Faculty of Arts Careers events
The Faculty of Arts, IMS and the School of History host a number of careers events, workshops, taster sessions and fairs which attract leading graduate employers.

Careers
Undertaking postgraduate study at Leeds enhances your career prospects. Through its programmes the Institute fosters sought-after skills such as knowledge of languages, data analysis, qualitative research skills and effective communication skills. The Institute facilitates internships and research opportunities within national and local museums, publishers and heritage organisations. Experienced academics within the Institute provide specialist advice about professional development, and advice on future careers.

The employability of IMS graduates is reflected in the spread of areas in which they now work: university teaching and research, archives and libraries, museums and galleries, conference organisation, heritage industry, media, publishing, travel, and many parts of the commercial sector.

All IMS students have access to the award-winning University Careers Centre which offers advice, information and guidance to help with career decisions.

See careersweb.leeds.ac.uk

Regional Libraries and Archives
Beyond what our own libraries offer, there are a number of other collections within easy reach. The British Library has a Document Supply Centre in Boston Spa, a short bus ride away. The West Yorkshire Archives (in Leeds, Wakefield, Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield) contain extensive records of the city and region. The nearby Royal Armouries Museum has extensive medieval collections.

Language training
The University’s Language Centre hosts facilities for the study of a wide range of languages, including all the main European languages and also Hindi, Hebrew, Hungarian, Serbo-Croat and Swahili. Students may start to learn a new language or improve on previous knowledge.

An Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded collaborative doctoral studentship involving not only the Institute but also the Royal Armories Museum was the main reason for applying to Leeds.

There were various seminars, teaching opportunities, and work-in-progress presentations, as well as the International Medieval Congress to take part in during my studies. I also joined various societies and clubs and great University traditions such as the Oiley Run costume pub-crawl. The greatest facility at Leeds was the excellent expertise of the staff and the most surprising thing was the international makeup of the student body.

Alumnus Profile
Dr Ralph Moffat
Doctorate in Medieval Studies (2010) Curator of European Arms & Armour at Glasgow Museums

After studying at Edinburgh University and most enjoying the medieval aspects of historical study and having had a lifelong interest in arms and armour I hoped to pursue this in more depth. An Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded collaborative doctoral studentship involving not only the Institute but also the Royal Armories Museum was the main reason for applying to Leeds.

Presenting at the IMC
IMS students are encouraged to propose a paper or organise a session for the Congress. It should be noted, however, that all proposals will be vetted by the Programming Committee in the standard fashion, and only those deemed to be of the required quality will be approved.

Posting at the IMC
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The Leeds Network gives you the opportunity to pair up with an experienced mentor from the world of work to receive personalised support. You explore career options, gain tips on entry into specific careers and receive supportive advice on developing your career plans.

See careersweb.leeds.ac.uk

The world-class IMC main book fair
MA in Medieval Studies

(12 months full-time; 24 months part-time)

The MA in Medieval Studies will enable you to develop a European and interdisciplinary perspective on the Middle Ages; to acquire reading knowledge of at least one of the languages read or spoken internationally in medieval Europe (Latin, Old Norse, Old and Middle English, Old French and Medieval German, Greek, Hebrew and Arabic); and to acquire the technical, palaeographical, bibliographical and other skills necessary to produce high-level research. All students write a supervised dissertation on a subject of their choice.

Course structure
- An MA consists of 180 credits. The distribution of credits in the MA varies according to student module choice and the level of Latin on entry and vernacular language training (if chosen).
- Credits should be balanced as evenly as possible across semesters 1 and 2.

Full Time MA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of module</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Skills modules (compulsory)</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Bibliography 15 credits</td>
<td>Palaeography 15 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval Languages (of which Latin is compulsory)</td>
<td>Latin compulsory (at least 30 credits if additional language, otherwise 60 credits) or Advanced Latin 30 credits</td>
<td>Additional 30 credit language modules (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional modules 30-90 credits</td>
<td>At least one optional module of 30 credits</td>
<td>At least one optional module of 30 credits (unless choosing additional languages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation 30 credits (compulsory)</td>
<td>10,000 word Dissertation</td>
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Course content

Core Modules:
- All students take two core modules designed to provide them with necessary technical skills.
  1) Research Methods and Bibliography: This module gives students practical training in finding resources and relevant bibliographies. Students will be trained in referencing and presentation of academic work, use of style-sheets, proof-reading and correction; editorial principles; as well as introductions to codicology, elements of digital humanities, different types of medieval sources, the Bible, numismatics, and medieval weights and measures.
  2) Palaeography: Reading Medieval Manuscripts: This module focuses on hands-on palaeographical training, familiarising students with a range of scripts used in different types of documents from Carolingian to the late medieval period. Examples include formal European and English book hands, a variety of cursive documentary hands, and cursive book hands.

Medieval Language modules:
- Anyone with a strong command of medieval Latin can be introduced to another of the medieval languages. Otherwise, each student chooses one of the two Latin modules: Introduction to Medieval Latin and Intermediate Medieval Latin, their choice being governed by the level of Latin on entry and future research plans.

The MA in Medieval Studies will enable you to develop a European and interdisciplinary perspective on the Middle Ages.

Student Profile

Suzanne Paul
MA Medieval Studies (part-time) 1998
Medieval Manuscripts Specialist at Cambridge University Library

What I enjoyed the most about the MA was the sense of community among the medievalists in Leeds, both staff and students. I learned so much from hearing about other people's research. Within the actual MA course, I really enjoyed the palaeography and manuscript studies. There's a real joy alongside all the intellectual enquiry of the MA in learning the practical skill of how to read manuscripts. Now, as a manuscripts librarian, I get to use that skill every day – and I still enjoy it!

Introduction to Medieval Latin (30 credits, semester 1) is for beginners or near-beginners who wish to gain a basic ability in reading and translating moderately easy medieval texts. It concentrates on the acquisition of Latin grammar (except for certain complex sentence forms) and vocabulary. Students who wish to read complex Latin texts for their research element or future doctoral study should follow this module with Medieval Latin module in semester 2.

Medieval Latin (30 credits, semester 2). Students complete the acquisition of Latin grammar and medieval orthography, and gain reading and translating ability across the various genres of medieval literary Latin for use in their research and future studies. (Prerequisite: Introduction to Medieval Latin or placement test).

Advanced Medieval Latin (30 credits) is for those who have already done a substantial amount of Latin and would like to be able to read difficult texts in a wide range of genres.

Optional modules:
- All students choose from a list of options run by the Institute or by other Schools at the University.
- These optional modules offer the opportunity to concentrate on similar topics by taking linked themes in different semesters or to widen the scope of interests.

Examples include:
- Men Writing Women: Women in Medieval Literature
- Vikings, Saxons, and Heretic Culture
- Warfare in the Age of the Crusades (1095-1204)
- The Bible in the Medieval World
- Debaters: Portia, Dante and Medieval Theology
- Religious Communities and the Individual Experience of Religions, 1200-1600
- Medieval Bodies
- Preaching History: Understanding Sermons as Literature and Historical Source
- Worlds in Time: Writing about the Past in Medieval Cultures, 12th-15th Centuries
- Old and New Beliefs in Medieval Icelandic Literature
- From Pagan to Christian
- Christian Society and the Crusades
- Lifecycles: Birth, Illness, and Death
- The Medieval Tournament

Instead of one option you may choose additional language modules (Old or Middle English, Old Norse, Old French or Medieval German).

Please note that this is an indicative module list; our modules change regularly and a different selection is available every year. For a complete listing of available modules see the website www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/ims_taught_degrees

Dissertation: All students will complete a dissertation on a subject of their choice supervised by a specialist. It will involve the detailed analysis of a defined topic and makes excellent preparation for future doctoral study.

Teaching and assessment
- Medieval Latin and Advanced Medieval Latin are assessed through class tests and an exam; vernacular languages are assessed by translation portfolio or exam.
- Research Methods and Bibliography is assessed by two class assignments and an exam.
- Palaeography: Reading Medieval Manuscripts is assessed through three written assignments, involving transcription of documents.
- Optional modules are generally assessed with the submission of two 3,000-word essays, but may also include other forms of assessment, such as source commentary;
- The dissertation is 10,000 words in length, to be submitted at the end of the academic year.
MA in Medieval History

(12 months full-time; 24 months part-time)

The MA in Medieval History will enable you to develop an in-depth historical understanding of the Middle Ages; to acquire reading knowledge of Latin, and to acquire the technical, palaeographical, bibliographical and other skills necessary to produce high-level research. All students write a supervised dissertation on a subject of their choice.

Course structure

- An MA consists of 180 credits. The distribution of credits in the MA varies according to student module choice and the level of Latin on entry and vernacular language training (if chosen).
- Credits should be balanced as evenly as possible across semesters 1 and 2.

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<tr>
<td>Medieval Latin 30-60 credits</td>
<td>Introduction to Medieval Latin (30) (under SEM. 1)</td>
<td>Intermediate Medieval Latin (30 credits) (under SEM. 2)</td>
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Course content

Core Modules:

All students take two core modules designed to provide them with the necessary technical skills.

1. Research Methods and Bibliography: This module gives students practical training in finding resources and relevant bibliographies referencing and the presentation of academic work, use of style-sheets, proof-reading and correction; editorial principles; as well as introductions to codicology; elements of digital humanities; different types of medieval sources, the Bible, numismatics; and medieval weights and measures.

2. Palaeography: Reading Medieval Manuscripts: This module focuses on hands-on palaeographical training, familiarizing students with a range of scripts used in different kinds of documents from Carolingian to the late medieval period. Examples include formal European and English book-hands, a variety of cursive documentary hands, and cursive book-hands.

Medieval Language modules

Each student follows two Latin modules: Introduction to Medieval Latin and Intermediate Medieval Latin, their choice being governed by the level of Latin on entry.

1. Introduction to Medieval Latin (30 credits): is for beginners or near-beginners who wish to gain a basic ability in reading and translating moderately easy medieval texts. It concentrates on the acquisition of Latin grammar (except for certain complex sentence forms) and vocabulary.

2. Medieval Latin (30 credits): Students complete the acquisition of Latin grammar and medieval orthography, and gain reading and translating ability across the various genres of medieval literary Latin for use in their research and future studies. (Prerequisite: Introduction to Medieval Latin or placement test).

3. Advanced Medieval Latin (30 credits): is for those who have already done a substantial amount of Latin and would like to be able to read difficult texts in a wide range of genres.

Optional modules:

- Students may choose from a list of options run by the Institute or by other Schools in the University. Our optional modules enable you to either to concentrate on similar topics by taking linked themes in different semesters or to spread your interests.

Examples include:

- Warfare in the Age of the Crusades (1095-1204)
- The Bible in the Medieval World
- Religious Communities and the Individual Experience of Religion, 1200-1500
- Medieval Bodies
- Preaching History: Understanding Sermons as Literature and Historical Source
- Worlds in Time: Writing about the Past in Medieval Cultures, 12th-15th Centuries
- The Holy Land under the Franks: The Kingdom of Jerusalem and its Enemies, 1099-1187
- Christian Society and the Crusades
- Lifecycles: Birth, Illness, and Death
- The Medieval Tournament

Please note that this is an indicative module list; our modules change regularly and a different selection is available every year. For a complete listing of available modules see the website www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/ims_teaching
degrees

Dissertation: You will complete a dissertation on a subject of your choice supervised by a specialist. It will involve the detailed analysis of a defined topic and makes excellent preparation for future doctoral study.
PhD in Medieval Studies

Our expertise/your research topic
You may already have a clear idea for your thesis topic; if so, you can look at our list of academic staff and their research interests, to see who you may be interested in working with. Alternatively, we can match your interests to a supervisor, discuss your options with you if you haven’t yet chosen a topic and answer any general questions you may have. Interdisciplinary projects are particularly welcome as this is one of our key strengths.

Our team of staff and associated researchers have research interests that are broad and diverse, and we hope to be able to offer you supervision in almost any topic relating to medieval studies. Particular areas of expertise include (but are not limited to):

- Art and Iconography
- Crusades and the Latin East
- Warfare, tournaments and chivalry
- Arms and armour
- Bible exegesis and theology
- Early medieval European history and culture
- Church history, monasticism and the papacy
- Religious culture
- Italian literature
- Latin literature
- Old and Middle English literature
- Medicine
- Old Norse literature and mythology
- Music and liturgy
- Politics and society of the British Isles, France, Germany, Italy and the Baltic region
- Gender studies

Course structure
Subject-specific training
There are a number of taught modules that PhD students may be required to attend during their first year. Following assessments of your abilities in various areas, you can acquire key research skills through attendance at ‘Research Methods and Bibliography’ (for more information see page 10). If you have not already studied the medieval and/or modern languages that are relevant for your research project, you will also attend modules in either/both of these.

Your supervision
You will usually have two co-supervisors, who will help to shape your project and give you feedback and methodological guidance.

Assessment
PhD students are examined exclusively by a thesis of 100,000 words, with a viva voce examination.

Postgraduate Research student specific facilities, opportunities and events

Faculty of Arts Graduate School
The Faculty of Arts Graduate School, housed in the Leeds Humanities Research Institute (LHRI), was established in 2007 to bring together postgraduates working across the Faculty.

They provide social space and seminar rooms for postgraduates to mix and exchange ideas, as well as providing funding for graduate-led workshops and conferences, and coordinate the Professionalisation programme. Courses offered under this programme include: doing interdisciplinary research; research ethics in the arts and humanities; getting published; the REF and applying for research funding. Other courses also provide guidance on applying for your first academic job. Further information can be found at: leeds.ac.uk/arts/graduate_school

IMS Colloquium
The IMS postgraduate students organise an annual colloquium, with a wide range of local and international postgraduate speakers and high-profile keynote presenters. For the students involved in the organising committee it is a great opportunity to gain organisational skills, including fundraising from external sources, publicity, chairing and moderating sessions. For those presenting their research, it is a very useful platform for development and feedback.

Work-in-Progress seminars
Every IMS PhD student will give a 20 minute paper on the topic of their PhD project in the Work-in-Progress seminars each year, to which all IMS staff and students are invited. This provides a great opportunity to receive detailed feedback on the research content and presentation skills.

Staff and Departmental Development Unit (SDDU)
The SDDU offers a range of training opportunities for postgraduate research students, under the umbrella headings of: research degree process; managing research projects; presenting research; writing and publishing; academic integrity. For more information, see their website: sddu.leeds.ac.uk.

The LEAP researcher training hub, based in SDDU, provides access to transferable skills training and development opportunities for Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Students and Early Career Research Staff. Courses cover a wide range of topics and skills for example in the areas of Professionalisation, Communications Skills, Research Methodologies, Networking, PhD Process and Career Management skills.

Further information can be found at: leaptraining.leeds.ac.uk

Teaching opportunities
We offer our PhD students the opportunity to teach undergraduates wherever possible. This experience provides valuable skills whether you go on to an academic career or pursue employment paths where the ability to communicate ideas, inspire creativity and direct group work are marketable assets. No experience is required and we aim to fit teaching in with your research specialisms. Current postgraduate student teachers are paid per class, and usually teach two classes per year. Full training is provided both within the IMS and by the SDDU.
Scholarships, Funding and Admissions

How to apply
You can apply for all our degrees online. For further information see: leeds.ac.uk/ims/

What you need to provide with your application
For the MA in Medieval Studies and the MA in Medieval History you should submit:
- copies of previous degree transcripts (if you have not yet finished your degree, please send details of your courses and marks so far)
in additional, for the MA in Medieval Studies:
- two academic references
- an IMS PG application form (this can be downloaded from the website: www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/ims_downloads)
n an example of your written work (approximately 3,000 words), such as an undergraduate assessed essay, preferably on a medieval topic; please supply the module name and level on the work
Research degree applicants must also include:
- a detailed research proposal on your intended topic.
- guidance on the preparation of your proposal can be found on the IMS website

English Language Requirements
If you are an international student, you will also need to provide your TOEFL or IELTS English Language scores. The IMS English Language minimum requirements for those whose first language is not English are:
- IELTS score of 6.5, with at least a 6.0 in all components.
- TOEFL scores of:
  - 92 (internet-based test) with a 21 in listening and reading, 22 in writing and 23 in speaking.

Entry Requirements

Taught MA
A good honours degree (1st or 2:1) or equivalent. Previous specialisation in some aspect of Medieval Studies is an advantage.

PhD
Applicants should have an MA either in Medieval Studies or in a programme which has a strong medieval component, but we are aware that circumstances can vary, so do get in touch with us if you need clarification of your own particular position. Please note that you may also be invited for an interview as part of the application process. In exceptional circumstances we will consider PhD applications from students with an undergraduate degree only, provided you have sufficient previous specialisation in Medieval Studies and research skills.
If at all possible, please contact us for informal discussion before you make your application. We can help by offering advice in the early stages of your application, when your PhD topic is taking shape, so that you end up with a proposal that sets the agenda for beginning your work on the PhD. This helps us put together the most effective supervision team for you and your project, and gives you a proposal that can be adapted for use in funding applications.

Postgraduate Scholarships and funding
There are three categories of Scholarships available to IMS students.
- University of Leeds Scholarships
- Institute for Medieval Studies Scholarships*
- External Scholarships
A complete list of all the awards available this year can be found at: www.scholarships.leeds.ac.uk.
The University offers a wide range of Taught and Research Postgraduate Scholarships to all students. IMS students are encouraged to apply for a Scholarship from the University.
Both the School of History and Institute for Medieval Studies offer a variety of scholarships, some paying full home/EU fees, and some paying fees plus a matching maintenance contribution.* School scholarship awards are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee on an annual basis and are subject to change. Applicants are advised to check the website regularly for the most current information and criteria.
The major external scholarship providers outside the University are the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), although there are other less frequent funders such as the Wellcome Trust. All awards pay full fees (for home/EU students only) and a substantial maintenance payment (home students only).
Please email us if you would like to discuss your situation.

What next?
We aim to process your application for a place on a course as soon as possible which is usually within 2-4 weeks of receipt. However, during our busiest times (April–June), this process can take up to 6 weeks. We will contact you when a decision has been made on your application.

Open days
We hold two open evenings a year: a taught MA event, usually in November, and a research degree event, usually in February. Information about our open evenings can be found on the IMS website. If you have missed the open evening, or are unable to make the date, we would be very happy to arrange an informal visit. The University hosts an annual University-wide open day which allows visitors to explore the campus, attend funding talks, meet academics and explore the facilities at Leeds.

Contact us
Institute for Medieval Studies
University of Leeds
LS2 9JT
tel: +44 (0) 113 343 3610
e: medieval-studies@leeds.ac.uk

International Students

Half of our current postgraduates are from overseas. Some of the reasons they have chosen us are:
- Small seminar groups and one-to-one supervisions with leading international scholars
- Collegiate postgraduate community and vibrant research culture
- Guaranteed university accommodation for the duration of your course (application deadlines apply)
- Economical tuition fees (for details of this year’s fees, see www.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduate)
- Graduation after one year as a full time MA student
- The presence and stimulation of the world-renowned International Medieval Congress and International Medieval Bibliography

Leeds is one of the most cost-effective university towns in which to study in the UK.

The support available through our International Office, who provide extensive information and advice to help you adjust to living and studying at Leeds. The team also helps with immigration and visa matters; visit their website for further information:

www.internationalstudent.support.leeds.ac.uk/
In order to facilitate high-quality learning, teaching and research, our students have access to outstanding resources including modern well-equipped lecture theatres, seminar rooms, and computer clusters. The library is one of the largest university libraries in the UK, with a stock of over 2.8 million items, a wide range of databases, electronic journals and full-text electronic resources that are available campus-wide and many are accessible remotely by members of the University. The University also provides first-class leisure facilities. Extensive sports amenities offer sporting activities at all levels, from recreational fun to support for top athletes.

The Students’ Union is one of the largest and most active in the country, with a shopping mall, bars, games complex, concert venue and award winning nightclub.

Leeds hosted the 2014 Tour de France ‘Grand Depart’, with the route taking in the country’s beautiful countryside and historic cities, putting Yorkshire firmly on the map of Europe’s great sporting regions.

The City of Leeds
As a postgraduate student at the University of Leeds you will be part of a vibrant student community situated in the heart of a cosmopolitan and student-friendly city located in the centre of the UK, which offers a diversity to suit all budgets.

Leeds, home to 702,000 people, is the capital of the Yorkshire and Humber region, and the social and cultural hub of the North. The city’s roots lie firmly in the textile industry but more recently it has become a centre for trade and commerce, and one of Britain’s most important financial, banking and legal centres outside of London. Leeds has all you can expect from a major city yet is surrounded by the beautiful and accessible Yorkshire Dales. The city centre is a mere 10-minute walk from the campus with fast and frequent transport links to all other major UK cities.

Leeds is unrivalled in the north of England as a major shopping destination and centre for entertainment, nightlife, the arts and leisure. The city boasts stunning Victorian and Edwardian arcades and more than a thousand commercial outlets and a new shopping and leisure complex, Trinity Leeds. People from around the region regularly visit Leeds to shop in a centre, which includes everything from designer boutiques to the historic Kirkgate market for local produce. The city offers an extensive choice of places to eat and drink no matter what your taste or budget.

Nightlife in and around the city is well known for its diversity and popularity. Numerous bars, clubs, and venues in Leeds offer a sophisticated and relaxed experience with a variety of music to suit all tastes. Leeds Arena is a 13,500 capacity purpose built entertainment venue in the heart of the city, hosting live music, comedy, sporting events and a wide mix of entertainment shows. Leeds also offers a unique selection of commercial and independent cinemas, hosting the annual Leeds International Film Festival. Leeds is also home to Opera North, Northern Ballet, the Henry Moore Institute, the Royal Armouries, and Leeds City Museums and Galleries.