



History

Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Welcome



Welcome! Could there be a better time to study history? The study of History ensures that the past remains alive, dynamic, controversial, and ever relevant. It is the study of justice and injustice, innovation and continuity, freedom and oppression, race and religion, ideas and ideologies, exploration and discovery, health and illness, sex and death, architecture and art, literature and music. History shows us how our own world came into being, but

it also brings to life worlds that have long since disappeared and so stretches our imaginations about possibilities in the present and in the future. “The past is a foreign country”, as L. P. Hartley wrote in *The Go-Between* (1953), “they do things differently there.”

To be a historian is to be curious and imaginative: ready to question, to challenge and to learn. It is these qualities which we hope you will develop during your time at Royal Holloway. You will graduate with a degree in a respected academic discipline and a repertoire of key skills in critical thinking, interpretation, and communication. Come and join our community of staff and students in a department with an international reputation for its research and teaching. Far from being backward-looking or rooted in the past, studying history is the ultimate passport to the future.

## **Dr Daniel Beer**

Head of Department



## Contact details

### Course enquiries


Dr Stella Moss

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### Connect with us

 @RHULHistory

 history.royal.holloway

 rhu\_history

[royalholloway.ac.uk/history](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/history)

# History at Royal Holloway

- **A degree to suit your interests**

We offer an exciting range of single and joint honours degree programmes, each offering a remarkable breadth and diversity of historical subjects.

- **Outstanding teaching**

We have an overall satisfaction score of 95%. 94% of students say that our course is intellectually stimulating and staff have made the subject interesting (NSS, 2019)

- **Small class sizes**

You will be taught in classes with world-leading academics right from the start of your degree. We keep our seminar and tutorial group sizes small, to ensure that you receive personalised and dedicated attention from your tutors.

- **Our research-led teaching**

What we teach comes directly from our research. You will benefit from outstanding academics bringing cutting-edge historical research into the classroom and share in the excitement of original discoveries and interpretations.

- **Our public profile**

As the home to the London Centre for Public History, we are experts in communicating history across a variety of media and you will regularly find your tutors and lecturers appearing on TV and radio. Many of us also work in an advisory capacity to national governments on topical issues.

- **An international approach**

Turn your studies into a four-year degree with a wide range of study abroad opportunities on offer. You can study at one of our world-leading partner universities in Europe and around the world, including the USA, Australia and Japan.



“With access to fantastic resources and one-to-one feedback and guidance from the academic staff, I have been able to grow as a historian and approach challenges with a more effective work ethic. But more importantly, I felt part of a welcoming, vibrant community from the first week of my undergraduate degree.”

**Louisa**  
BA History

- **University of London**

You have the option to take a huge range of modules at other University of London colleges, such as UCL or King’s College, opening up a range of History modules unbeaten at any UK university. You will also graduate with a University of London degree, that is valued worldwide.

# Choosing your degree

A History degree at Royal Holloway offers among the widest chronological, geographical and topical range of modules in the UK, giving you the opportunity to study the history of ancient Greece and Rome, all the way through to contemporary global terrorism. We will give you the flexibility to identify and pursue your own historical interests and decide the kind of historian you want to be, while being on hand to help you to construct a coherent degree programme which provides a sense of the development of nations, institutions and cultures over time.

Students studying single honours degrees, BA History and BA Modern and Contemporary History, will follow the programme described below, while joint honours students will take elements of single honours programme alongside modules in our partner department. We value the combination of students specialising in history alongside those bringing insight from other disciplines.



Seminar with Dr Alex Windscheffel

First year modules introduce you to degree level study. We will encourage you to experiment with periods and topics that you may not have explored before. Foundation courses initiate you into the skills and methods of a professional historian, while Gateway options introduce broad historical themes and fascinating new periods and cultures.

In your second year, you will study a combination of Survey Subject modules which survey a wide chronological span in a particular country or region; and a Further Subject, where the emphasis is on tracing a more detailed theme across a narrower period of time. We will also support you to conduct research into a topic of your own choosing for a supervised 5,000 word research essay.

In the final year you will study another Further Subject alongside your Special Subject, the high point of your degree. You work with tutors who will have undertaken their own research and historical writing in the chosen field and will tighten your focus to explore in depth a particular historical period, issue or theme through the use of selected primary sources. This culminates in a dissertation based on your own original research.

For a full and up-to-date list of our modules please see the Course Directory on the departmental website [royalholloway.ac.uk/history](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/history)

## DEGREE PROGRAMMES

BA History

UCAS  
code

V100

BA History with Integrated Foundation Year

V10F

BA Modern and Contemporary History

V140

## JOINT DEGREES

BA Ancient & Medieval History

VV19

BA English & History

QV31

BA History & Music

VW13

BA History & Philosophy

VV51

BA History, Politics and International Relations

VLN1

BA Modern Languages & History

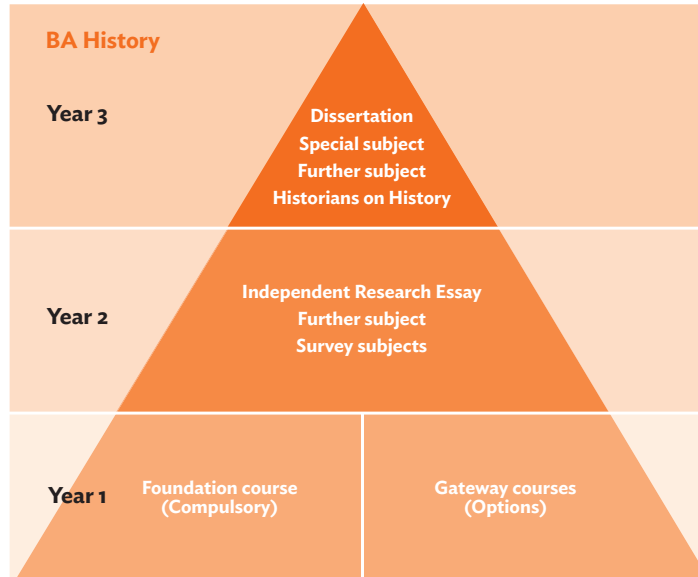
RV91

# Studying here

## Teaching and assessment

While we tailor teaching to the subject matter, courses are typically taught through a combination of lectures, offering an overview of important themes, and weekly seminars, where you will be encouraged to present and debate your ideas.

Throughout your degree we vary the method of assessment including examinations, coursework, research essays and dissertations and oral assessment. A key element of any History degree, your writing will



be developed through coursework essays with your tutors providing comment and feedback. As a student of History at Royal Holloway, you will become well versed in constructing written argument as well as verbal presentation – reflecting the important we place on such skills.

## Resources

As a History student at Royal Holloway you have access to some of the best resources to conduct your own research in the UK. The International Building, home to the Department of History, is a short walk to our new library in the Emily Wilding Davison Building, named after the famous Royal Holloway suffragette alumna.

## College archives

The archives chart the history of Royal Holloway, from the foundation of Bedford College in 1849 and also plot more broadly the progression of higher education for women. There are official records created by the colleges, including student registers, photographs and architectural drawings, as well as collections of personal papers deposited by former students and members of staff. Closely linked is the Bedford Centre for the History of Women.

## University of London

The University of London has over 240 researching and teaching historians; and a worldwide reputation as a leading centre of historical study. As a student at Royal Holloway, you will have the option (subject to availability) of choosing from some of the modules run at other colleges such as King's and UCL. You will also be able to use the University of London's library Senate House library in central London and have access the libraries of other University of London colleges, including borrowing rights if you are studying an intercollegiate module there.

# Student life

## Supporting you

We pride ourselves on the personal and individual attention that we give to every one of our students. On starting at Royal Holloway, you will have a Personal Tutor for the duration of your studies, who provides academic and pastoral support, including guidance on course choices and advice on personal and practical matters. All staff have weekly office hours as well as an open door policy if you have anything you want to talk about. There is also a lively student-staff committee which meets every term to discuss matters of importance to our department's community.

## Social environment

As a historian, you will be part of a large, lively and diverse community of undergraduates, postgraduates and lecturers. The department organises an exciting events programme, including the annual David Cesarani

**8<sup>th</sup>** IN THE UK FOR  
**GRADUATE  
PROSPECTS  
ON TRACK**

*(Complete University Guide 2022)*

Holocaust Memorial Lecture and Hayes-Robinson Lecture, given by internationally famous historians: previous lecturers have included Simon Schama, David Cannadine and Linda Colley. We also have an award-winning student-led History Society that organises a range of social activities and invites visiting speakers.



“My research interests are focused around the history of terrorism, radicalisation, and new media. This has led me to act in an advisory capacity to a number of bodies and governments, including the United Nations, the UK Parliament, the US State Department, and the Council of Europe. I try to help students make sense of the frightening and violent world they see around them by placing current events in a broader historical and political perspective. I’m a firm believer in research-led teaching, and not only do I use my current research in my undergraduate teaching, but my students often also end up contributing to my research projects.”

**Dr Akil Awan**

# Your future career

## What can I do with a History degree?

As a student of History an exciting future awaits you. During your degree, you will learn critical evaluation, information analysis and prioritisation in your independent study. You will have opportunities to debate and deliver seminar presentations, develop projects for public audiences, build confidence and communication skills, and engage in teamwork. There is substantial demand for History graduates precisely because a History degree develops the flexible skills and qualities for which employers are looking. You will graduate with the ability to operate successfully in a fast-changing and increasingly globalised and multicultural environment.

Recent employers for our graduates include the Department of Education, BNP Paribas, the Home Office, Accenture, Teach First, Penguin Books, The Guardian, National Geographic, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Channel 4 and Classic FM.



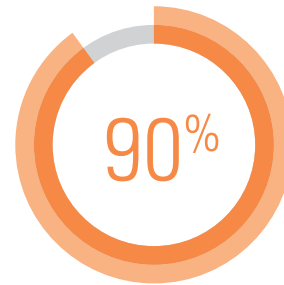
Living history at the Royal Holloway Festival of History

## Postgraduate opportunity

We have a thriving postgraduate environment if you decide to continue your historical studies further after graduation. We have a variety of specialist MA courses which build upon undergraduate study or introduce you to new areas

## Tailor-made careers advice for historians

For the past few years we have held an annual careers day offering our students an insight into the range of jobs that recent graduates of the History department have chosen to pursue. The History department also works in partnership with Royal Holloway's dedicated Careers Service. We offer a series of tailored sessions preparing you for work experience, job interviews and writing your CV.



of our graduates are  
**employed or go  
on to further study**  
within six months  
of graduating.

*(Destinations of Leavers from  
Higher Education, 2018)*

This brochure was produced in September 2020 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



## Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

### Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at [royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)