



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Online course revisits romance and tragedy of Jacobite cause**

The true story of exile, rebellion and the battle for three kingdoms is to feature in a new free online programme.

The saga of the Jacobites – loyal followers of the deposed house of Stuart – will be the focus of the course by the University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland.

Participants will cover a turbulent period of European history. They will study the Jacobite campaigns from the flight to France of James II of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1688 to the defeat of his grandson Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

The three-week course – called *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* – will explore objects and paintings associated with kings, queens, princes and politicians during this time of dynastic conflict.

Experts will examine the cultural legacy of the Jacobite risings, from Sir Walter Scott's novels in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the contemporary phenomenon, *Outlander*.

The new Massive Open-access Online Course – or MOOC – has been developed by art historians from the University and senior National Museums Scotland curators.

The course is inspired by the exhibition *Bonnie Prince Charlie & the Jacobites*, which runs at the National Museum of Scotland until 12 November.

Academic lead Professor Vicky Coltman said: “You don't need any prior knowledge to sign up. The course promises a fascinating mix of academic research and curatorial expertise. By teaching the history of the Jacobites through a rich array of objects from the period, we hope to bring this fascinating era to life.”

David Forsyth, curator of the Jacobites exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland said: “One of the key aims of our exhibition is very much to encourage and inspire people to explore further for themselves this fascinating and complex period in Scottish, British and European history.

“We're delighted to be working with the University of Edinburgh to develop this resource which will both enable that and also let people from all over the world who are unable to see the exhibition in person to view and appreciate some of the wonderful objects and the insights they can reveal.”

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Beginning on 18 September, the MOOC is available through the Future Learn platform at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/jacobites>. Participants can sign up now.

For further information please contact:

Edd McCracken, Press and PR Office, tel 07979 446 209; email [press.office@ed.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@ed.ac.uk)

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