



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
School of History, Classics  
and Archaeology

SEPTEMBER 2019 ENTRY

Undergraduate opportunities



History at Edinburgh

Study at one of the world's leading universities  
and get a degree tailored to your interests  
and ambitions.

## Why study History?

History enables us to understand how the world has become what it is today.

A degree in History will give you a deep understanding of the past and the processes of change within it which have led to the present. Without history we would lack the insights we need to make sense of our own age. We would not understand the reasons why particular events occur – why wars begin, why governments change, why economic growth and depression occur. History also helps us to understand the rich diversity of the human experience and the reasons why societies and cultures can be so different from each other in terms of their ideas, beliefs, institutions, and practices.

Beyond this core knowledge and understanding, a degree in History will give you the skills and graduate attributes that many employers expect. You will learn to research and assess evidence and conflicting interpretations critically; to argue cogently; and to present your findings effectively, both orally and in writing. You will hone your analytical, debating and communication skills and become an individual with empathy who can consider problems and situations from multiple perspectives.

Not only is history a fascinating subject, it will also teach you to be adaptable and flexible, allowing you to develop a strong CV and present yourself effectively to many different kinds of employers.





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# Why Edinburgh?

Join one of the UK's largest and most international departments of History where you will be part of a vibrant culture of inquiry and debate led by our dedicated team of staff.

## **A historic city**

Edinburgh is a modern, thriving, and cosmopolitan city, but also a historic one where the earliest human habitation is traced back to a Mesolithic campsite dated to c. 8500 BC. Since then, the city has seen the rise and fall of kings and queens. It has witnessed wars, rebellions, plagues, and the flowering of the Enlightenment.

As a student here, you will walk through cobbled streets that have been home to some of the most famous figures of our past and present, including Mary Queen of Scots, Adam Smith, Alexander Graham Bell, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle and, more recently, JK Rowling. You will be based in the heart of the city, next to the Old Town and Edinburgh Castle.

Edinburgh's rich historical resources and archives also feature prominently in our teaching. This will help you become acquainted with the city you are studying in. It will also allow you to use the events that have happened here to enhance your general understanding of history.

## **A world-leading university**

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently ranked among the top 50 best universities in the world, and we attract some of the world's brightest staff and students.

History at Edinburgh is ranked 17th among all history departments in the world (QS World University Rankings 2018) and ranked 3rd in the UK for research power (combined quality and volume) based on the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (Research Fortnightly, Overall Ranking of Institutions). Our historians have won many international prizes, produce award-winning publications, and are often quoted in the media as experts on a wide range of issues.

Join us, and you will experience the best in teaching, working alongside world-leading academics whose research directly informs their teaching.

## **Flexibility and choice**

We are one of the largest departments of History in the UK, covering an enormous range of subjects: from Charlemagne to Gandhi, from the Industrial Revolution to the Chinese economic miracle, from Scotland to the Caribbean, and from political radicalism to the history of financial crises.

By taking one of our four-year degrees, you will have the flexibility to study subjects outside of History in years 1 and 2. These may complement your History courses, or be something completely different. This flexibility ensures you are adaptable and allows you to develop a wide variety of skills attractive to future employers.

### **A degree with employability at its core**

A History degree at Edinburgh is not just about studying the past. It's about combining academic study with employability to develop the skills you need, both to become a successful historian and to excel in any career after you graduate.

We offer skills courses in each year of study to support your successful progress through your degree and help you hone the transferable skills that employers value. Our Careers Service is involved in some of these courses, maintaining a clear focus on careers from the very beginning of your studies.

### **Unique facilities**

Our School is located in the heart of the city, in the Old Medical School dating from 1874. Here we combine study spaces and informal learning areas with research collections, exhibition areas, and an undergraduate common room. Many of our students also access the vast collections held at the National Library of Scotland, the National Museum of Scotland, and the National Records of Scotland.

### **A supportive environment**

We want you to feel supported throughout your time with us at Edinburgh and a wide range of services is available. You will be allocated a Personal Tutor who will guide you through university life. Further support and advice are provided by the School's Student Support Office and Peer Support.



# Our degree programmes

We offer more than 20 degree programmes, both single honours degrees and joint honours degrees where history is combined with another subject.

## History degree programmes

We offer four degree programmes that focus on history:

- MA Ancient and Medieval History
- MA History
- MA Economic History
- MA History and Scottish History

### MA History

This is one of our most popular degrees. The courses available cover a wide range of different periods, from early medieval history to the contemporary world. You will have the opportunity to choose from a broad range of historical themes, including political history, cultural history, economic and social history, gender history, intellectual history, and environmental history.

Whichever path you choose, you'll be able to deepen your understanding of subject areas that you have studied previously and will have the opportunity to explore something completely new.

## Joint honours degree programmes with other subjects

You can also combine the study of history with a number of other subject areas in a joint honours degree programme. This gives you the benefit of academic breadth and allows you to study history with a complementary subject area, enabling you to gain a fuller understanding of both subject areas.

### Joint honours degrees with History

- MA History and Archaeology
- MA History and Classics
- MA History and Economics
- MA History and History of Art
- MA History and Politics
- MA English Literature and History
- LLB Law and History
- MA Scottish Literature and History

You can also combine the study of history with a language:

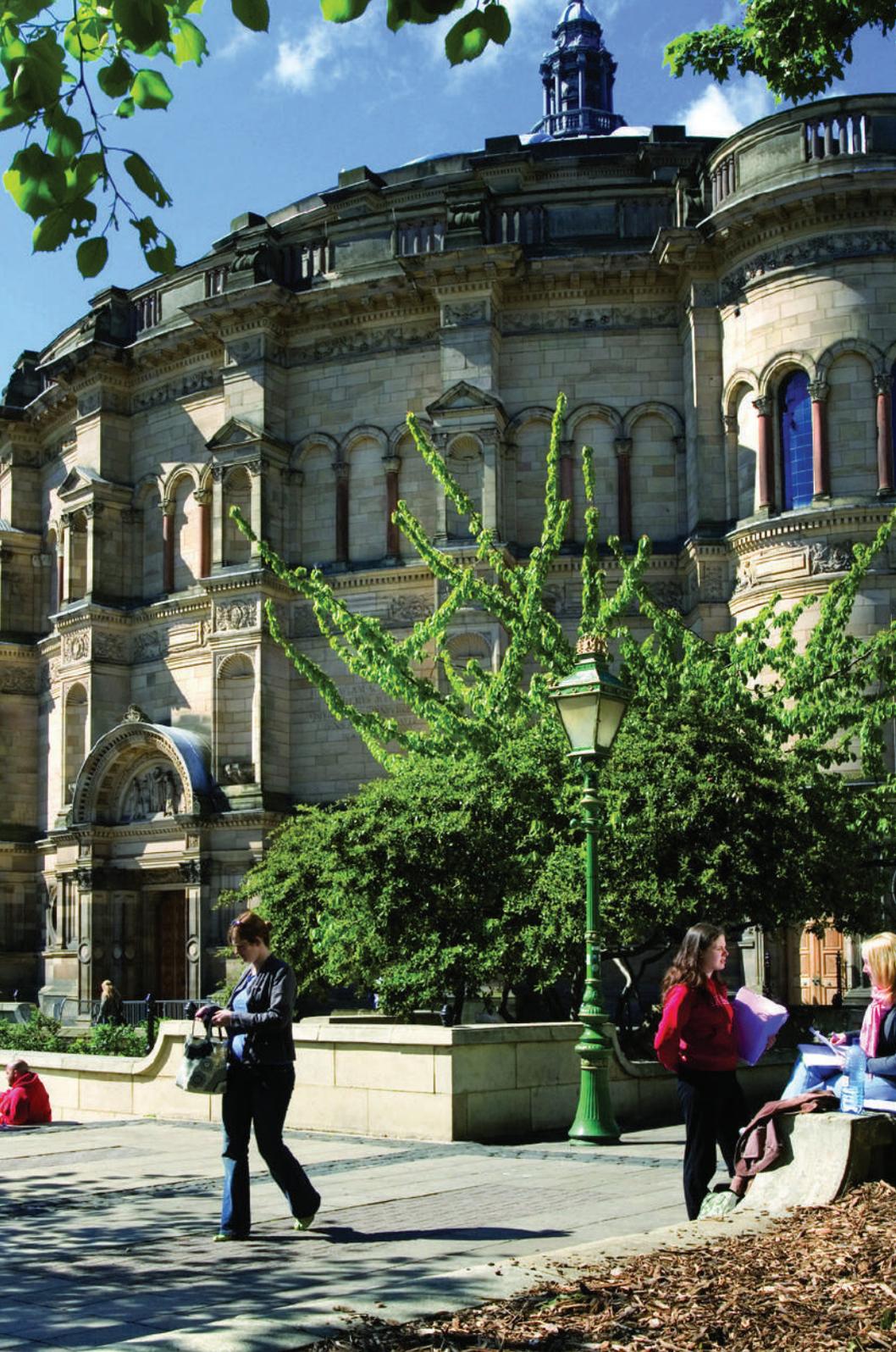
- MA Arabic and History
- MA Chinese and History
- MA French and History
- MA German and History
- MA Italian and History
- MA Portuguese and History
- MA Russian Studies and History
- MA Scandinavian Studies and History
- MA Spanish and History

### Joint honours degrees with Scottish History

- MA Celtic and Scottish History
- MA Scottish Ethnology and Scottish History
- MA Scottish Literature and Scottish History

For descriptions and structures of all of our degree programmes, please visit:

[www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate)



## What you will study

At Edinburgh, we have been teaching students since 1583. Today, we are one of Europe's leading centres for the study of the human past.



## Breadth and depth of study

Our academic staff are at the cutting edge of their disciplines. Their teaching is informed by the latest research in their fields.

With more than 20 single and combined degrees to choose from, you will be able to deepen your knowledge of subjects you have studied at school, and have the opportunity to explore something completely new.

- Geographical coverage: Scotland, Britain, Europe, the Americas (including the Caribbean), Africa and Asia.
- Chronological coverage: everything from early medieval history to the contemporary world.
- Thematic coverage: political history, cultural history, social history, economic history, environmental history, gender history, intellectual history, and global and transnational history.

## Our teaching

In the first and second years teaching is mostly conducted in lectures and small group meetings called tutorials where you will have a chance to discuss selected topics in greater detail. Tutorial groups normally comprise around twelve students. The emphasis shifts in the third and fourth years towards more specialised, seminar-based courses and independent study. Assessment in years 1 and 2 is a mixture of continuous assessment of written work, tutorial participation and exams. Students' work in third and fourth year is assessed mainly by essays and examinations. In your final year you will conduct your own research in the form of a dissertation, with one-to-one supervision. For many students, the dissertation is the most rewarding part of their programme.

## *History curriculum*

In year 1, the curriculum will emphasise processes and patterns within broad chronological and geographical frameworks. In year 2, you will deepen your knowledge of particular geographical regions, chronological periods, and themes.

In years 3 and 4, you will have the opportunity to specialise should you wish to. We currently offer more than 60 different courses to choose from, allowing you either to focus on a specific aspect of history or to continue with a broad curriculum. In year 4 you will also conduct your own research in the form of a dissertation, under the direction of a supervisor.

## *Skills courses*

In all years you will take courses that engage with broader questions about the nature of History as an academic discipline and the methods and skills required in historical research. These courses are designed to give you the expertise and confidence to succeed in your degree and give you the opportunity to obtain the transferable skills you need for the career of your choice upon graduation.

## *Outside courses*

Whichever degree you take, you will study courses outside of History in years 1 and 2. Studying courses in other subject areas allows you to keep your degree options open or simply to choose unrelated subjects in which you are interested. The exceptionally wide choice on offer includes courses across areas as diverse as social and political science, law and physics, subject to availability and to you being able to accommodate these combinations in your timetable.

## A flexible four-year degree

Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing a breadth as well as depth of knowledge. In your first two years you can study subjects outside of your core discipline, before specialising in your third and fourth years.

Among the advantages of the four-year degree are:

- **Breadth of Study.** The flexible nature of our degrees enables you to expand your academic range by studying subjects outside your major discipline during the first two years.
- **Joint Degrees.** A huge range of joint degrees offers you the opportunity to study two disciplines in real depth.
- **Third Year Abroad.** An extensive network of reciprocal exchanges with major international universities can give you the chance to apply to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.
- **Final-Year Dissertation.** A feature of the fourth year is a dissertation undertaken by all students. This piece of original research, of up to 12,000 words, represents the culmination of your undergraduate career and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.
- **MA (Hons).** The added experience and intellectual depth that you will gain over the course of the four-year honours undergraduate degree is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.

## Study abroad

The University of Edinburgh offers students the opportunity to undertake a wide variety of international experiences. Living and studying abroad can broaden your horizons, transform your academic perspective, and help you to get the very most from your undergraduate career.

Meeting people with different views and lifestyles gives you new insights and widens your frame of reference. Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject. It is your chance to see something of the world, and to find out who you are!

You can apply to study overseas for Year 3 of your degree programme. We have partnerships with a large number of prestigious universities across Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Asia from which you may choose.

For further information on studying abroad visit: [www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad)





## Life beyond the classroom

The friends you meet, places you discover and the lasting memories you create contribute as much to your university life as your formal learning.

Thousands of students across four different universities call Edinburgh home, giving the city a unique buzz and ensuring you will be in good company.

Study with us and you'll find a lively community with plenty of opportunities to meet other students socially. The School of History, Classics and Archaeology and our student union hold events regularly.

### **History Society**

The History Society hosts internationally renowned lecturers, organises historical tours across the country, hosts career events and provides academic support. Regular socials are also a big part of the society, such as history-themed nights out and an annual Winter Ball, which is now one of the biggest at the University. It also has three active sports teams – Football, Rugby and Netball.

[www.shca.ed.ac.uk/societies](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/societies)

### **Retrospect**

Retrospect is the University's student-led History, Classics and Archaeology journal. Whether you are interested in writing about your subject outside of your studies, or simply want to gain experience in writing, editing, designing or publishing, Retrospect publishes once a semester with an excellent calendar of socials and careers events.

[www.shca.ed.ac.uk/societies](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/societies)

### **Edinburgh University Students' Association**

The Students' Association offers an array of bars, shops, cafes and entertainment venues, including the city's biggest student nightclub. Regular entertainment includes a variety of clubs, live music and comedy, plus debates and regular club meetings. The Students' Association also supports more than 260 student societies covering all areas of interest across sport, music, drama and the arts.

### **Sport and exercise**

Whether a recreational gym-user or a performance athlete going for gold, our world-class sports facilities and coaches cater for you.

# Advance your career

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you will be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We help students to develop a broad range of skills, grow in confidence and learn more about themselves.

Six months after graduating, 94 per cent of Edinburgh students are in employment or postgraduate study. We are ranked in the top 10 in the UK and top 100 in the world for the employability of our graduates (Times Higher Education, Global Employability University Rankings 2017).

## **Career advice and opportunities to enhance your CV**

Our Careers Service can help with your career choices, and offer practical advice about how to advance your career goals. They organise hundreds of career events and workshops each year, including the annual Creative and Cultural Heritage Career Festival, and regularly invite employers onto campus to meet with our students. They also make occasional contributions to the curriculum ensuring students' awareness of the possibilities a History degree offers.

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology has its own dedicated careers consultant who works on a 1:1 basis with students in the School to guide and support their career needs.

Most employers expect something extra from today's graduates so the University also runs the Edinburgh Award to help set you apart – this award recognises student involvement in a wide range of co- and extra-curricular activities, and the skills and attributes demonstrated.

## **Stand out with a degree in History**

With a degree in History from Edinburgh, you will gain the intellectual and transferable skills that employers are looking for. You will learn to develop intellectually rigorous arguments, based on sound independent research and analysis. You will be able to compile and critically evaluate large amounts of complex and conflicting evidence, and to formulate and present your views coherently, both orally and in writing.

Our History graduates have gone on to pursue a wide variety of careers, in the media, politics, the civil service, heritage, law, business, and finance, to name just a few.



Drawn to  
**EDINBURGH**  
by our world-class city

You are in good company. Our 23,000-strong undergraduate community call Edinburgh home. Learn more at [www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

**Join us**

For further information about studying History at Edinburgh, email:

**HCA-prospective-UG@ed.ac.uk**

For further information about admissions, email:

**CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk**

Tel: +44 (0)131 650 3565

To apply, visit:

**[www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply)**



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