

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MA History
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MA in History
Named Exit Awards	Postgraduate Diploma in History (120 credits) Postgraduate Certificate in History (60 credits)
Entry Requirements ⁴	A minimum 2.1 honours-degree in a relevant, cognate discipline. All applications will be assessed on their merits.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA History. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The MA History at the University of Suffolk focusses on the modern period (broadly 1750 onwards) and explores topics and issues at local, national, transnational and global levels which are not only some of the most relevant and pressing of our own times, but which are also at the forefront of current historiographical enquiry: environmental change, war and conflict, sexuality and gender, violence, identity, migration, decolonialisation, experiences of modernity and globalisation. These concerns are reflected within the broad themes around which the MA is organised *Conflict and Environment, Identity, Lifecycle and Mobility, Modernity and Globalisation*. Across the curriculum and within these themes there will be a recurrent concern with the connection and interrelation between local and global experiences. The MA in History will examine aspects of the historical experience of the local area (Suffolk/East Anglia) as part of this approach.

As part of your studies, you will also gain the practical *Research Skills* and competencies required to operate as a successful historian. You will learn how to interrogate the different

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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types of evidence that historians use to interpret the past, about relationships between academic and public history, and be supported to develop your own innovative approaches to primary and secondary sources. In addition to participating in taught modules you will also develop and pursue your own research agenda in a final research dissertation project. This is an opportunity to design and develop an original piece of research which will mark the culmination of your studies and which will make a significant contribution to knowledge in your chosen area.

One of the unique features of the MA in History at University of Suffolk is our relationship with the HOLD. Much of your teaching and learning will take place within this new purpose-built archive and learning centre located on the University Campus. This means that you will have unrivalled access to primary sources and, as well as the support you will receive from the University of Suffolk History team, you will benefit from the input and expertise of professional archivists and public history specialists who will work alongside us. Our relationship with the HOLD will also support our exploration of and engagement with *Public History* which will be a specific concern within some modules and encountered more widely through the integration of case-studies and specialist contributions within others.

Course Aims

- To stimulate the historical imagination of students through a critical engagement with the past.
- To provide students with an advanced understanding of the methods and techniques of the historical discipline, based on a critical awareness of current problems and scholarship at the forefront of the field.
- To allow students to develop a critical awareness of selected sub-fields of History with respect to relevant social, cultural, environmental, political, and economic contexts.
- To encourage students to develop critical, analytical and research skills, problem solving skills, and transferable skills, appropriate to the study of History.
- To allow students to design and conduct a substantial independent study in a chosen historical subject area.
- To prepare students for further study and/or employment through the development of their knowledge and abilities.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA History will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of the broad themes of historical analysis, including continuity and change, the specificity of particular historical processes, and the 'otherness' of the past.
- Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of the models used by the discipline to conceptualise and analyse change in past societies.
- Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of some key historical sources available for historical research.
- Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of some selected topics of history.
- Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of a particular area of history through an independent piece of research.

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

- Identify accurately issues which require researching and be able to rank and collate items and issues in terms of relevance and importance.
- Assemble, synthesise, and evaluate primary and secondary information and discern and establish connections.
- Critically evaluate the merits of conflicting arguments and advanced scholarship in the field.
- Present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions or methodologies and, where appropriate, propose new interpretations or hypotheses demonstrating independence of thought where appropriate.
- Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, or conflicting evidence, and communicate their conclusions clearly.

Practical Skills

- Identify, select, and retrieve a wide range of relevant primary and secondary source material.
- Design, use and reflect on various research/study techniques.
- Compose extended bibliographies, using relevant reference systems according to established conventions.
- Design a substantial work of independent study.
- Plan, manage and complete a substantial work of independent study.

Key Skills

- Use the English language proficiently to present knowledge or an argument in a clear, coherent, and relevant manner.
- Use appropriate IT where relevant for research and presentation purposes (including searchable databases such as library catalogues and internet sources, and word processing).

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- Analyse reasonably complex data and materials and apply relevant explanatory models thereto.
- Reflect on his or her own learning with limited guidance, and to seek and make use of feedback.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- The QAA for Higher Education, *Characteristics Statement for a Master's Degree*, February 2020.⁷
- The QAA for Higher Education, *Subject Benchmark Statement for History*, March 2022.⁸

Course Structure

The MA History comprises the following modules at level 7.

Module Title	Credits	Module Type ⁹
Level 7		
Making History	20	Mandatory
Dissertation	60	Mandatory
Students need to choose five optional modules from the list below		
Conflict, Landscape and Environment	20	Optional
Lives in Motion	20	Optional
Local Places and Global Processes	20	Optional
Modern Violence	20	Optional
The Time of their Lives? Childhood and Risk in the British World since 1800	20	Optional
Decolonisation	20	Optional
Public History	20	Optional

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

⁷ [QAA Characteristics Statement for Master's Degree 2020](#)

⁸ [QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for History 2022](#)

⁹ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded an MA History. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma in History on successful completion of 120 credits subject to the completion of the necessary mandatory module or a Postgraduate Certificate in History on successful completion of 60 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on MA History are likely to have approximately 8 to 12 structured learning hours per week with office hours available in addition. The structured learning hours will consist of a mixture of seminars, lectures, workshops, and tutorials. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 30 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be predominantly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking the MA History will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,090 per year
Part-time UK	£1,010 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£14,625 per year
Part-time EU/International	£1,625 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students can expect to pay additional costs for optional trips. Students are likely to incur other costs for books and photocopying etc.

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Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).