

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.

Prof. Daniel Beer
Head of Department






**Explore history as an active subject
that can change the modern world**

Contact details

Course enquiries

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 [@RHULHistory](https://twitter.com/RHULHistory)
 [history.royal.holloway](https://www.facebook.com/history.royal.holloway)
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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.

- **A chance to explore**

We encourage you to follow your historical interests and engage passionately with the subject, with 93% of our students saying that they've had the opportunity to explore ideas and concepts in depth with us (National Student Survey, 2023)

- **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 of 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**

All of our students can turn their studies into a four-year degree with a wide range of study abroad opportunities on offer. You can apply to spend your third year at one of our world-leading partner universities in Europe and around the world, including the USA, Canada, Australia and Singapore.



“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 variety 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 what 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 combine modules from history degrees with modules from their other department as well. 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. Our core course, History in the Making, will 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 4000 word research essay or public history project.

In the final year, you will choose up to three research-based 'Special Subject' modules. 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. Your studies culminate in an 8,000 word dissertation based upon your own original research, the high point of your degree.

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

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

	UCAS code
BA History	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 our modules are typically taught through a combination of lectures, offering an overview of important themes, and weekly seminars, in which 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 comments 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 importance we place on such key skills.

Resources

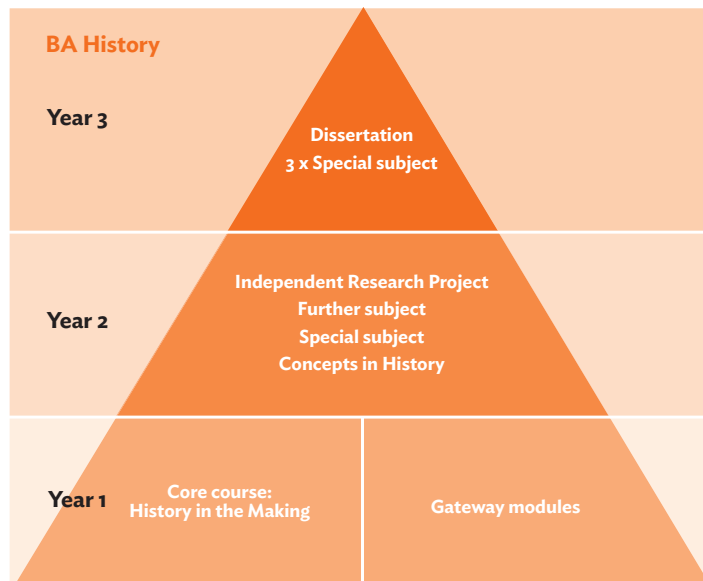
As a History student at Royal Holloway you have access to some of the best resources to conduct your own research in the UK. The International Building, home to the Department of History, is a short walk to our library in the Emily Wilding Davison Building, named after the famous Royal Holloway suffragette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



**of research impact
is world-leading or
internationally excellent**

(Research Excellence Framework 2021)

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, TikTok, the National Trust, BBC HistoryExtra, Penguin Books, The Guardian, National Geographic, the Imperial War Museum, 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.

**Our graduates have
found work with
Historic Royal Palaces,
the Cabinet Office and
Penguin Books**

This brochure was produced in October 2023 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

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