

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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| 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. Applicants may be asked to submit previous academic work as evidence towards their application. 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 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The MA in History at the University of Suffolk focusses on the modern period (broadly 1750 onwards) and explores topics and issues at a local, national, international and global level 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, these include identity, family and lifecycle, migration, environmental change, war and conflict and experiences of modernity and globalisation. These concerns are reflected within the broad themes around which the MA is organised **Identity, Lifecycle and Mobility, War and Conflict, Environmental Change, Modernity and Globalisation**. Across the curriculum and within these themes there will be a recurrent concern with the connection and interrelation between local and international/global experience. Several modules on the MA in History will explore the historical experience of the local region (Suffolk/East Anglia) as part of this purposefully comparative approach.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

As part of your studies you will also gain the practical **Research Skills** and competencies required to operate as a successful historian and essential to many other professions and careers. You will learn how to interrogate the different 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 complete 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 is a further key theme of the MA. Public History is both a cross-cutting theme of the MA and the focus of a specific module which will support students to develop real-world experience working with a heritage provider to complete a public history project.

Course Aims

1. To stimulate the historical imagination of students through a critical engagement with the past.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. To encourage students to develop critical, analytical and research skills, problem solving skills, and transferable skills, appropriate to the study of History.
5. To allow students to design and conduct a substantial independent study in a chosen historical subject area.
6. 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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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.

Knowledge and understanding

- A1 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.
- A2 Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of the models used by the discipline to conceptualise and analyse change in past societies.
- A3 Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of some key historical sources available for historical research.
- A4 Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of some selected topics of history.
- A5 Demonstrate substantial knowledge and critical understanding of a particular area of history through an independent piece of research.

Intellectual and cognitive skills

- B1 Identify accurately issues which require researching and be able to rank and collate items and issues in terms of relevance and importance.
- B2 Assemble, synthesise, and evaluate primary and secondary information and discern and establish connections.
- B3 Critically evaluate the merits of conflicting arguments and advanced scholarship in the field.
- B4 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.
- B5 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

- C1 Identify, select, and retrieve a wide range of relevant primary and secondary source material.

⁶ As set out in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland Levels, February 2024, Level 7, pp. 24-26. https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/the-frameworks-for-higher-education-qualifications-of-uk-degree-awarding-bodies-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=3562b281_11

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

C2 Design, use and reflect on various research/study techniques.

C3 Compose extended bibliographies, using relevant reference systems according to established conventions.

C4 Design a substantial work of independent study.

C5 Plan, manage and complete a substantial work of independent study.

Key skills

D1 Use the English language proficiently to present knowledge or an argument in a clear, coherent, and relevant manner.

D2 Use appropriate IT where relevant for research and presentation purposes (including searchable databases such as library catalogues and internet sources, and word processing).

D3 Analyse reasonably complex data and materials and apply relevant explanatory models thereto.

D4 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 | | |
| Lives in Motion | 30 | Requisite |
| Local Places and Global Processes | 30 | Requisite |
| Public History | 30 | Requisite |

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](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

| Module title | Credits | Module Type ⁹ |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Conflict, Landscape and Environment | 30 | Requisite |
| Dissertation | 60 | Mandatory |

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 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 will have approximately 6 to 8 contact hours per week. The contact hours will consist of a mixture of seminars, 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, presentations, bibliographies, project work and other web-based outputs).

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 | £9,990 |
| Part-time UK | £1,665 per 30 credit module |
| Full-time EU/International | £16,020 |
| Part-time EU/International | £2,670 per 30 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.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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](#).