



University
of
St Andrews

History

Postgraduate Study

University of St Andrews





South Street Building



St Katharine's Lodge



Arts Building

History

The University of St Andrews, one of the leading universities in the UK, is home to Scotland's premier centre for postgraduate historical study. Situated in the beautiful coastal town of St Andrews, with its historic castle and mediaeval cathedral, the University is Scotland's oldest, dating from the early fifteenth century.

The School of History has over fifty staff members whose combined specialist interests cover a large geographical area and a wide chronological range. Building on this excellence in individual research, the School has built up particular groupings of expertise in a number of fields including Middle Eastern Studies and Reformation Studies, Mediaeval and Modern History, and within areas such as Scottish, German, French and transnational history.

Features

- over 50 committed teaching staff who participate actively in innovative research in their respective fields
- postgraduate community of over 100 history students, drawn from Britain and around the world
- friendly and collegial atmosphere in which postgraduate students across all areas can participate fully
- dedicated workspace for all postgraduate students within the School of History or the University Library
- longstanding and ongoing acquisition of both printed and electronic resources for historical research
- commitment to providing skills training and teaching experience which enhance the employability of postgraduate students
- historic and highly attractive setting in the heart of the mediaeval town of St Andrews.

Postgraduate Programmes

Postgraduate Diploma (Nine Months), **MLitt** (One Year) and **MPhil** (Two Years) are available in the following subject areas:

Central and East European Studies
Environmental History
Iranian Studies
Mediaeval History
Mediaeval Studies
Middle Eastern History and Culture
Modern Historiography
Modern History
Reformation Studies
Scottish Historical Studies

PhD (Three Years)

Programme of independent but supervised research examined by a thesis normally submitted after three years.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/pgprog

The School of History occupies three sites all within a few minutes walk of each other and all in the heart of the historic town of St Andrews:

- On tree-lined South Street and close to the ruins of the cathedral, the School of History is based in a charming seventeenth-century town house and the adjoining mediaeval residence of the Hospitallers.
- St Katharine's Lodge is a nineteenth century former school (where Field Marshall Earl Haig went to school) close to St Andrews castle and the magnificent West Sands beach.
- The Arts Building was opened in 2006 with up-to-date teaching spaces and well-equipped staff offices and is very conveniently sited next to the University Library.

Research Centres and Institutes

The School of History at St Andrews also contains a number of centres and institutes within which postgraduate students are often very active. These Institutes hold regular seminar series addressed by invited speakers and St Andrews historians; they often sponsor conferences or publication series; they provide a home for visiting academics and graduate students.

Institute for Environmental History

Centre for French History and Culture

Institute of Iranian Studies

Institute of Mediaeval Studies

Institute for Middle East, Caucasian and Central Asian Studies

Centre for Russian, Soviet and Central and Eastern European Studies

St Andrews Reformation Studies Institute

Institute of Scottish Historical Research

More information about each of these Institutes and Centres and their activities can be found via the School of History website: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history



Postgraduate Study and Research

- The University Library provides extensive collections for use in historical study, including an outstanding Special Collections facility, and continues to make substantial investment in materials, including electronic resources each year.
- Dedicated workspace is available for all postgraduate students in History, either within the School of History buildings, or in the University Library.
- Computer facilities are also readily available within workspaces and University clusters.
- A scheme of competitive scholarships and bursaries is in place to support selected postgraduates financially.
- Postgraduates at St Andrews receive financial assistance annually from the School of History specifically to subsidise research expenses.
- Postgraduate students can apply for material support for the organisation of conferences and seminars; this has led in the past to successful events and subsequent publication.
- Many PhD students are given the opportunity to teach on undergraduate courses under the supervision and guidance of a course co-ordinator.
- Social events run throughout the year including the welcome reception, a Christmas Party and a Champagne Brunch at graduation. Students may also attend regular annual Reading Parties or will enjoy the opportunity to meet visiting speakers over dinner after a seminar.

GRADskills – enhancing researchers’ skills and employability

PhD and MPhil research students at St Andrews have access to GRADskills, an extensive and award-winning generic skills development programme for early stage researchers. Further details of the GRADskills programme are available at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/gradskills

“As an overseas student, I was delighted by the warm welcome I received when I arrived to do an MLitt. The friendly, yet challenging, academic atmosphere, in addition to the teaching experience I was likely to gain, encouraged me to remain here to pursue a PhD. My doctoral research has been wide-ranging, encompassing subjects as diverse as the history of the book, of ethnography and travel, Mongol and British history and mediaeval historiography. Experts in so many of these fields on hand for advice and encouragement has been highly beneficial.”

SUMI
Colombo, Sri Lanka
Current PhD Mediaeval History student

Postgraduate Qualifications available

The School of History offers the following:

Postgraduate Diploma: taking nine months and awarded after successful completion of an appropriate number of taught courses.

MLitt: taking one year and awarded after successful completion of the Diploma element plus a supervised research dissertation of 15,000 words.

MPhil: taking two years and awarded after successful completion of the Diploma element plus a supervised research thesis of 40,000 words.

PhD: normally taking three years and awarded after successful completion of a supervised research thesis of 80,000 words (also available on a part-time basis).

Research Degrees (PhD)

More than 65 PhD theses are currently being undertaken by postgraduate students in the School of History. Many of these students have been attracted to St Andrews by their wish to be supervised by a certain member of staff, often a leading contributor in his or her field – the research interests of members of staff range from sixth century Scotland to America in the 1970s. Students undertake independent research projects, with the regular advice of their specialist supervisor, culminating in the submission of an 80,000 word thesis.

While in St Andrews, doctoral students are integrated members of the School of History where they have workspace and are encouraged to participate fully in the intellectual activities of their academic community such as seminars and conferences. The School of History is also keen to promote the future careers of its students, and has been greatly encouraged by the number of former doctoral students now in academic posts. In addition to fostering their students' contact with other institutions, the School offers undergraduate tutoring, including training and feedback, to many of its postgraduate students.



Taught Degrees (Postgraduate Diploma, MLitt and MPhil)

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES

Programme Director: Dr Paul Vysny (pv@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: To provide an opportunity for the inter-disciplinary study of this culturally diverse region combining the fields of history, politics and international relations, languages and literature, and other aspects of artistic expression.

Programme Content: Students select three modules from a wide range of taught postgraduate courses focusing on International Relations, History, Art History and Russian language and literature. They may decide to include a directed reading course in order to engage with a research field in which they have specific individual interests with the support of a specialist member of staff. Students who complete nine-months of taught courses (Graduate Diploma) with evident success, can then progress to a 15,000 word dissertation over the next three months (MLitt) or 40,000 word dissertation completed by the end of their second year (MPhil).

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Programme Director: Dr John Clark (jfc@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: To afford postgraduate students the opportunity to engage in historical study of human interaction with the natural world. This programme, with an interdisciplinary perspective, will allow students to gain greater appreciation of this intellectually urgent field. Through an examination of the past, they will better appreciate the historically unprecedented scale and pace of human-generated change to the environment over the past century – and the social, political, economic, and ecological implications of these changes.

Programme Content: Based within the Environmental History Institute and drawing on the expertise of academics across the University of St Andrews, this programme gives students the opportunity to explore multiple dimensions of this significant field of study, while firmly rooting this knowledge in a progressively better understanding of core issues within



historiography and methodology. All students take the core course *History in the Making: Theories, Approaches and Practices* and then select two more modules from a range of available options which includes, for example, *Disease and the Environment, c.1500-2000*, *Charles Darwin and the Politics of Progress in the Natural World* or *Global and Local Issues of the Environment*, or they may select to undertake directed reading in an area of particular interest under the direction of a specialist in the field. Students who complete the nine-month taught element of the programme (Postgraduate Diploma) at a high enough level, will be able to progress to a 15,000 word dissertation in the next three months (MLitt) or to a 40,000 word dissertation over the next fifteen months (MPhil).

IRANIAN STUDIES

Programme Director: Professor Ali Ansari (aa51@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: A unique programme which offers students and professionals alike the opportunity to study the history, politics and international relations of Iran in a diverse and intellectually stimulating environment.

Programme Content: Based within the Institute of Iranian Studies, the taught element of this programme includes a core course taken by all students *Themes in Iranian History and Politics* which will introduce students to major themes, concepts and questions. These will include aspects of methodology and historiography, and questions of nationalism, religion and social structures, as well as an outline of Iran's place in the region and the broader international community. Students also take two more modules which could include a language option in modern Persian, a course on *Iran and the World since 1921* or 'Directed Reading' which allows the student to explore the literature in a specific field under the guidance of an expert. Students who complete the taught element of this programme successfully (Postgraduate Diploma) may then continue to the three month, 15,000 word dissertation (MLitt) or 15 month, 40,000 word dissertation (MPhil).



MEDIAEVAL HISTORY

Programme Director: Professor John Hudson (jghh@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: To provide an opportunity for those wishing to pursue an interest in the area beyond the undergraduate level. Its flexible nature makes it suitable both for those wishing to go on to doctoral research and for those wishing only to take a year's specialist study.

Programme Content: Taught within the Institute of Mediaeval Studies, all students take the core course *Sources and Source Criticism* which examines a selected body of sources and their interpretation and is designed to foster basic research skills, including bibliography, source criticism and Latin. Alongside language skills and paleography, students also select two further courses which could include for example *Narrative and History in Mediaeval England and Scotland* or *Living with the Lion: Themes in Scottish Mediaeval History* or perhaps a Special Topic designed around the student's individual interests. If this taught element of the course is completed to a high standard, then the student will be able to progress to a 15,000 word thesis completed over three months (MLitt) or a 40,000 word dissertation to be completed by the end of the second year of study (MPhil).

MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

Programme Director: Dr Frances Andrews (saimsmail@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: This innovative degree is an introduction to the growing field of Mediaeval Studies. It will equip students with knowledge of different theoretical approaches, current debates and the nature of cross and inter-disciplinary work in the fields of History, Art History, Languages and Literature. Taught within the new Institute of Mediaeval Studies, this programme is designed to be flexible enough to cater for students from different academic backgrounds and with different career plans, furnishing those who wish to go on to further research with the technical and interpretative skills needed for research degrees.

Programme Content: The degree draws on the long-established and recognised strengths in Mediaeval Studies available across the Faculty of Arts; teaching is provided by staff whose interests range from late antiquity to the fifteenth century and across the Mediaeval World, from the Middle East and the Mediterranean, to the British Isles and Scandinavia. It is centred

“The School of History offers a stimulating environment for research; there are weekly research seminars given by visiting academics, and the weekly Postgraduate Mediaeval Studies Seminars offer students the chance to present their work in a friendly and relaxed setting. In addition the members of staff are very supportive and have a good rapport with postgraduate students. There are also many opportunities to relax at the social events which occur throughout the year, for which the Undercroft and garden offer ideal venues.”



BRIONY

Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees
Current PhD Mediaeval History student

on a core module taught by staff from the four participating disciplines – History, Art History, English and Modern Languages – which will examine a range of theoretical approaches and debates central to the study of the Middle Ages and introduce the students to different technical skills applied to a common body of sources. This course is complemented by training modules in Palaeography and Latin or Greek, or another language. Students will also take either a discipline specific module and special topic module designed around their specific interests. Students who complete the taught element of this programme successfully (Postgraduate Diploma) may then continue to the three month, 15,000 word dissertation (MLitt) or 15 month, 40,000 word dissertation (MPhil).

MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY

Programme Director: Professor Robert Hoyland (rgh@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: The opportunity to explore in depth a variety of topics relating to the history and culture of this crucially significant region of the world.

Programme Content: All students take the core course on *Themes in Middle Eastern History and Politics* which examines, for example, the nature of the ‘state’, state-society relations and ‘Islam’, as well as contemporary debates concerning development, democratization, the idea of the nation, and Iran’s relations with the outside world. In addition students select from a range of optional courses, including language options in Arabic and modern Persian and more specialised courses such as *From Muhammad to the Mamluks* which looks at the history and culture of the Islamic Middle East from the birth of Islam in the region in the 7th century until the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in 1517 or *Iran and the World since 1921* which examines the development of the modern Iranian state from its inception under Reza Khan in the 1920s to the present day. Some students may opt for the ‘Directed Reading’ option which allows them to explore the literature on a specific topic under the guidance of an expert. Students who complete the taught element of this programme successfully (Postgraduate Diploma) may then continue to the three month, 15,000 word dissertation (MLitt) or 15 month, 40,000 word dissertation (MPhil).



MODERN HISTORIOGRAPHY

Programme Director: Professor Michael Bentley (mjb@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: To investigate the intellectual framework within which history has come to be written and ask questions about why it has taken the form it has. This course attracts students from a range of disciplines who want to investigate more closely the basis of history as an idea and the ways in which it has been studied since the Enlightenment; it provides an excellent base from which to proceed to doctoral work, but it is also a self-contained and satisfying experience if you are seeking one-year's postgraduate study.

Programme Content: Two courses are taken by all students:

History in the Making: Theories, Approaches and Practice which functions as an introduction to history and historiography for students interested in all branches of historical study and *Approaches to Historical Theory* which considers major issues in epistemology (the problem of historical 'knowledge' and its limits), explanation and understanding, often emphasizing the nature of historical relativism, the function of 'narrative' as an historical method and the significance of postmodernism. Students then select one additional course from a range which might include the 1960s, German historiography or War and History. Students who complete the taught element of this programme successfully (Postgraduate Diploma) may then continue to the three month, 15,000 word dissertation (MLitt) or 15 month, 40,000 word dissertation (MPhil).





MODERN HISTORY

Programme Director: Dr Riccardo Bavaj (rbf16@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: To offer students of Modern History an opportunity to deepen their understanding of key issues in the discipline by pursuing their studies at a conceptually advanced level, making full use of the wide spectrum of specialist areas covered by members of the School of History.

Programme Content: This programme is designed in a way that maximises choice. This allows students either to specialise in a particular area (e.g. French History, German History, American History, Military History) or to gain a broader introduction to the study of History at postgraduate level. All students select one of the two core modules either *History in the Making: Theories, Approaches and Practice* which is an introduction to history and historiography for students interested in all branches of historical study or *Hallmarks of Modern History* which examines themes in the emergence of the Western world during the centuries following the Reformation and explores whether the concepts of modernity and modernisation have historical and intellectual validity. Additionally, students follow a course of directed reading in which they explore the literature on a topic of individual interest to them under the guidance of an expert and they also select a course from a range available on topics which include War and History, German Historiography, French History or Themes in American History, Perceptions of Central and Eastern Europe, Britishness 1707-2000, or Transnational History. Students who complete the taught element of the programme (Postgraduate Diploma) may then be entitled to continue to the three month, 15,000 dissertation (MLitt) or fifteen month, 40,000 dissertation (MPhil).



REFORMATION STUDIES

Programme Director: Dr Bridget Heal (bmh6@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: An intensive course in the historiography of the European Reformation, which also offers skills training in languages and the use of sources, and the opportunity to explore individual areas of interest. The programme is intended both for those preparing for doctoral research and for those who wish to study the period at an advanced level.

Programme Director: All students take the Core Course which explores approaches and methods employed in the study of early modern religious history, covering topics ranging from theology and church history to politics, social history, and visual culture. They also select two optional courses taught by specialists on their field, such as *Scotland in the Age of Reform, 1513-1603* or *Art and Piety in Western Europe, 1450-1750* or may take a 'Directed Reading' module in which they explore the literature in a field of particular individual interest with an expert member of staff. Training options are also available in, for example, specific foreign languages or paleology. Students who complete the taught course with particular success, may then proceed to a 15,000 word dissertation in the final three months (MLitt) or 40,000 dissertation (MPhil).



SCOTTISH HISTORICAL STUDIES

Programme Director: Dr Katie Stevenson (kcs7@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Aim of Programme: To give taught postgraduates the chance to explore key themes in the study of Scotland's past; this degree also allows space for focused attention upon one of three main time periods in order to develop the understanding and skills required to pursue independent research.

Programme Content: As members of the new Institute of Scottish Historical Research, all students on this programme take the core course *Peoples and Identities in Scotland* which enables them to explore multiple and often conflicting Scottish identities as they developed over time in the broader context of British, imperial and global history; they also follow a course of 'Directed Reading' which will give them the opportunity to pursue more intensive study of the literature of a topic of their choice under the guidance of an expert supervisor. In their second semester, students can build up technical skills in areas such as languages, bibliography, palaeography, or quantitative and computing skills or may select to take a subject course such as *Living with the Lion: Themes in the Study of Mediaeval Scotland* or *Religion and Identity in Early Modern Britain* or *Building Britain: The Construction and Deconstruction of Britishness, 1707-2000*. Supplementary classes in Scots, Gaelic, Latin, Old Norse, Anglo-Saxon, French, and palaeography are also available. Students who complete this taught element of the programme successfully, may then be entitled to continue to the three month, 15,000 dissertation (MLitt) or fifteen month, 40,000 dissertation (MPhil).



Funding

Information about awards from the AHRC can be found on the University scholarships website: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/scholarships

Overseas Research Students Awards (ORS) are available to 'outstanding' overseas applicants to help cover the cost of fees. They do not provide maintenance support. Applicants should apply separately for a research place at the University before applying for this award. More details of ORS and the award deadline, which usually falls in late February, can be found on the scholarships website: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/scholarships

Additionally, the School will be offering **eight one-year awards** to students pursuing taught programmes in the School of History in 2009-10. These awards will offer the cash equivalent of one year's home fees but cannot be held in conjunction with other awards offering full fees and maintenance.

Application Process

For details of the application process, please see the School of History website, www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history

Applicants should normally have at least a 2.1 or equivalent (GPA 3.6 or better) in their first degree. A taught masters degree of similar standard is normally required for direct entry to the PhD, although each application is based on its own merits.

Students whose first language is not English must submit evidence of their language competency.



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F: +44 (0)1334 463330

E: pgadmissions@st-andrews.ac.uk

Online Prospectus, Subject Leaflets and Admissions information

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/pg

Visiting Days

There will be two Visiting Days, 19 November 2008 and 11 February 2009, when you can look round the University and talk informally to staff about courses. Booking for these events is essential. For more information see the prospectus or:

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/VisitingtheUniversity/Postgraduatevisits

This leaflet is available in Large Print, Braille or Audio on request to Postgraduate Admissions 01334 462150

The University's Terms and Conditions for matriculated students can be found here:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/policy

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