DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

APPENDIX TO THE MASTERS BY RESEARCH STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021/22

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the core Masters by Research student handbook

The Department of History sits within the School of Humanities, which covers the following disciplines: Classics, English, History and Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Welcome to your department

With over thirty full-time members of staff, we are one of the larger history departments in the UK and our research covers a wide variety of periods and themes. You are joining a community in which internationally renowned academics are developing the very latest thinking and the whole department benefits from collaborations with other leading institutions in the UK and across the world.

The Department of History is located in the International Building.

Key contacts

Role	Name	Email	Phone	Room
Head of School	Professor Giuliana Pieri	G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443234	INTER124
Head of Department	Dr Daniel Beer	Daniel.Beer@rhul.ac.uk	01784 414980	INTER45
School Director of PGR Education	Dr Danielle Sands	Danielle.Sands@rhul.ac.uk		INTER 106
Department PGR Lead	Dr Karoline Cook	Karoline.Cook@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443401	INTER006
School helpdesk*		Humanities-school@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276882	INTER 149

* For the majority of your non-academic related issues, please contact the Doctoral School. However, for queries about teaching contracts, expenses and study space within the school, please contact the School of Humanities helpdesk.

Academic staff within the Department of History

List of staff in the Department of History

Research areas within the Department of History

Research areas within the Department of History

Student-Staff Committee

The School of Humanities' PGR student-staff committee meets once a term and contributes to the organisation of the PG Colloquium. Please get in touch with the School Director of PGR Education if you would like to join. If you would like to raise an issue to be discussed there, please contact the Doctoral School.

Research skills training

The School of Humanities runs a research skills training programme aimed at equipping PGRs across the School with the skills they need to successfully complete their studies. Students in their First Year are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible. For 2020/21, all sessions will be run online via MS Teams.

Masters by Research in the Department of History

This Masters has been devised for students who wish to develop advanced historical research skills but who prefer, for practical or other reasons, not to attend a taught Masters programme.

The MA by Research is assessed entirely on the research dissertation (maximum 40,000 words) which is supervised one-to-one. It is intended to give you scope to explore your area of interest in depth, test out a possible research topic, and learn the skills of extended scholarly writing.

Content and structure

Students will have an induction meeting with the supervisor (week 1) in which an initial work programme will be agreed, as well as coverage for any outstanding training needs. Students will also receive an introduction to the Library facilities.

The role of the supervisor is to offer support and advice at the different stages of the degree, beginning with advice about secondary bibliography and primary source research, progressing through discussion of suitable structures for the dissertation, followed by feedback on sample drafted material.

As further research preparation, supervisors can also arrange for Masters by Research students who wish to do so (and who are able to attend the scheduled hours) to audit on a voluntary basis appropriate taught courses in Royal Holloway's History department (for example, the MA in History skills and/or concepts courses).

Students are encouraged to attend relevant seminar sessions (such as the History Postgraduate Seminar, the Royal Holloway History Departmental Research Seminar, HARC and also to take advantage of the many seminars offered by the Institute of Historical Research (history.ac.uk/events/seminars)).

Students should expect to meet their supervisors at least once every month in the first two terms. Phone and MS Teams may take the place of face to face supervision for students who have difficulties attending College, or who are conducting archival research or other field work. Written work should be produced regularly to be discussed with the supervisor. The History Department will monitor and take action regarding students who fail to have regular contact with their supervisor, whatever their mode of communication.

The Masters by Research (History) is examined 100% on the final dissertation (40,000 words maximum). An oral examination (viva) is not normally required, but can be used at the discretion of the examiners.