



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

APPENDIX TO THE MPhil/PHD DEGREE STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024/25

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the [core MPhil/PhD 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
Executive Dean	Professor Giuliana Pieri	G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443234	INTER 124
Head of Department	Dr Robert Priest	Robert.Priest@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443299	INTER 044
School Director of PGR Education	Professor Andrew Jotischky	Andrew.Jotischky@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443305	INTER 01A
Department PGR Lead	Dr Amy Tooth Murphy	Amy.ToothMurphy@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443300	INTER 044
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](#)

Staff-Student Action Meeting

The School of Humanities' PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting 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.

Research Culture

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

Annual reviews and upgrades

Although you will meet with your supervisor regularly during the academic year, your academic progress is formally reviewed at least once every twelve months, regardless of whether you are studying full or part time.

- [Core annual review details](#)
- [Annual reviews in the Department of History](#)

All MPhil / PhD students start their programme on the MPhil and have to pass the upgrade review meeting in order to be eligible to submit for the PhD.

- [Core upgrade details](#)
 - [Upgrades in the Department of History](#)
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Preparing for your viva

Viva preparation is something that starts the moment you begin your research. The annual review, the papers that you will deliver at the postgraduate research forum, and the upgrade are all ways of improving your presentation and defence of your work. You should also attend relevant training sessions offered by the Researcher Development Programme and by the School of Humanities. Please get in touch with your supervisor or the Director of PGR Education if you would like to have a mock viva.