



## **Module Handbook**

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:  
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

## **Incoming Students**

**2026/2027**

**History**

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## A: THE DEPARTMENT

Durham University History Department is one of the leading centres in the UK for the study of History. We were ranked fourth in the [Complete University Guide](#) for 2026, fifth in [The Guardian University Guide](#) for 2025, and 36th in the world in the QS World Rankings for 2025. The Department has a very strong record in terms of student satisfaction, and an international reputation for research excellence. The department presently comprises some 50+ Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professors, and a number of research associates and part-time lecturers.

The Department is located close to the Norman cathedral and castle which together form a World Heritage Site. The main University lecture halls are a short walk away, the main University Library is at a walking distance of ten to fifteen minutes.

### A1: Exchange Coordinator

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## B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

The History Department offers the Honours degree *BA (Hon) in History*.

The Department also participates in Joint Honours degrees with the Departments of Classics and English and the School for Modern Languages and Cultures, and offers teaching as part of Combined Honours programmes.

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure with some modules weighted as double modules. First year modules and third year single modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year; second year modules, known as 'short-fat modules', are clustered into one or two terms. All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught. This means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations and assessments, and that the final degree class is

determined by the examinations and assessments taken in the second year and third year.

## C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

**This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement**

### C1: General

#### Choice of Modules

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT**

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section D: Module Details provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.), please refer to

the V100 module regulations to see which modules will be running in 2026/2027. The regulations will be available in April 2026.

## **C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions**

The History Department admits both European students coming to Durham through its own links and, subject to places still being available, those coming in through other departments. European students from other departments may take a **maximum of two** modules in History subject to places still being available.

**Please note, however, that the department only accepts European students on full-year exchanges!**

Some of the history modules are taught by lecture and seminar throughout the year; several others, especially at level 2, are taught in a much more concentrated way in just one term (short-fat modules). This intensive form of teaching means that students should not expect to do more than two such courses maximum in a term, since it will otherwise be too intensive.

European students are mainly encouraged to take level 1 modules, but if the European student has a good level of English Language and prior experience of studying History (e.g. their home university degree is History based) then they can take level 2 modules and occasionally they can be considered for a level 3 single module too, but these modules are conceptually challenging and historiographically dense. The level 1 Making History module, level 2 Conversations module and level 3 Special Subjects are closed to European students.

In History we try our very best to match students with their desired courses, but there is huge pressure on places, and module availability varies, and so we ask our incoming students to be flexible.

European students are assessed in the same way as any other Durham undergraduate. This means some courses at level 2 (Michaelmas only) will be assessed entirely on a summative essay of 3,000 words and a 1,000 word assignment; otherwise modules will typically consist of a summative essay and an examination.

## **D: MODULE DETAILS**

This section contains a list of modules European students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in the Module Handbooks for each subject!

To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc.) please refer to the module regulations using the following link: **Will be made available in 2026. Please note that the list of available modules is provisional and subject to change.** We will do our best to allow

students onto modules of their choice, but this may not always be possible and cannot be confirmed until registration in October of the year of entry.

**D1: Modules available to all European students**

**Level 1 (The following modules run all academic year, and include one summative essay of 2,000 words and one 2 hour exam)**

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS
HISTNEW01-L1	BIG PROBLEMS: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES	10
HISTNEW02-L1	EARLY MODERN WORLDS	10
HISTNEW03-L1	POWER AND CULTURE IN THE MODERN WORLD, 1800-2000	10
HISTNEW04-L1	DOING HISTORY: EVIDENCE, METHODS, AND CHALLENGES	10
HISTNEW05-L1	MODERN LIVES	10
HISTNEW06-L1	MEDIEVAL WORLDS	10

**Level 2 (the following modules run termly, either in term one or term two. The modules in term one are assessed by a 3,000 word summative essay and a 1,000 word assignment, and the modules in term two are assessed by a 2,000 word essay and 2 hour exam. We do not permit taking more than two level 2 modules per term)**

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS
HIST20H1	INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE 1945 (TERM 1)	10
HIST20K1	THE SUPERCONDUCTING SUPER COLLIDER: THE POLITICS OF SCIENCE IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA (TERM 1)	10
HIST20Q1	THE EARLY MODERN WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN SEASCAPE OF MOBILITIES? (TERM 1)	10
HIST20S1	BLACK BRITISH HISTORY (TERM 1)	10
HIST21D1	VOICES OF THE PAST: ORAL HISTORIES (TERM 1)	10
HIST21P1	RECORDS, ARCHIVES AND POWER IN THE MIDDLE AGES (TERM 1)	10
HIST21Q1	THE BEAT GOES ON: DRUM MAGAZINE, URBAN LIFE AND PRINT CULTURE IN APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA (TERM 1)	10
HIST2201	MODERN CHINA'S TRANSFORMATIONS (TERM 1)	10
HIST2211	HARD TIMES (TERM 1)	10
HIST2501	THE WORLD WE HAVE LOST? FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD IN EUROPE, C.1550-1914 (TERM 1)	10

HIST2541	ELDERS, DESPOTS, MODERNISERS: REIMAGINING THE STATE IN NORTHEAST AFRICA (TERM 1)	10
HIST2721	THE COURT: ART AND POWER IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE (TERM 1)	10
HIST2951	ROBIN HOOD (TERM 1)	10
HIST20B1	CRIME AND CULTURE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE (TERM 2)	10
HIST20D1	THE NAZI DICTATORSHIP: CULTURE AND SOCIETY (TERM 2)	10
HIST20R1	PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORIES (TERM 2)	10
HIST20T1	RICE, RACE, RELIGION AND REVOLT IN COLONIAL MYANMAR (TERM 2)	10
HIST21L1	EARLY MODERN AMERICAS (TERM 2)	10
HIST21M1	THE HISTORY OF MODERN UKRAINE FROM BORDERLAND TO BLOODLAND, 1850S TO 2000S (TERM 2)	10
HIST21R1	EARLY MEDIEVAL IBERIA: FROM CONQUEST TO CALIPHATE, 409-1031 (TERM 2)	10
HIST2351	MEMORY AND CONFLICT IN EUROPE SINCE 1918 (TERM 2)	10
HIST2431	CIVILISING PEOPLES: PROGRESS, GOVERNANCE AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE (TERM 2)	10
HIST2471	THE UNITED STATES AND THE COLD WAR (TERM 2)	10
HIST2621	POLITICAL CULTURE IN JAPAN SINCE 1688 (TERM 2)	10
HIST2641	CHINA, THE WEST AND THE REST: EXCHANGES, IDEOLOGY, AND PRACTICE IN LATE IMPERIAL CHINA (TERM 2)	10
HIST2871	NATIVE AMERICANS AND MINORITY RIGHTS IN THE US, 1914-2000 (TERM 2)	10

**Level 3 (The following modules run all academic year, and include one summative essay of 3,000 words and one 2 hour exam)**

MODULE CODE	MODULE TITLE	ECTS
HIST30P1	EAST ASIA IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: THE MAKING OF THE TWO KOREAS	10
HIST30V1	LIBERTY, EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY: PROGRESSIVE THOUGHT IN NINETEENTH CENTURY BRITAIN	10
HIST31G1	OCCUPIED EUROPE, 1938-1947	10
HIST31N1	THE WHITE MAN'S WORLD: WHITENESS IN MODERN BRITISH HISTORY	10

HIST3431	HISTORY AND ITS AUDIENCES	10
HIST3441	HISTORY OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM	10
HIST3461	EMPIRES AND STATES IN EARLY MODERN ASIA: NOMADS, SLAVES, SCHOLARS, RULERS	10
HIST3471	FASCISM/ANTI-FASCISM	10
HIST35A1	THE METROPOLIS: URBAN HISTORIES OF MODERN EUROPE, C.1790-1990	10