Pursuing Postgraduate Studies
Department of History, 2020-2021
During this time of uncertainty during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis you might be thinking about your next steps, especially if you’re graduating with the Class of 2020.

Pursuing a postgraduate degree can support your future career aspirations, and a Masters Degree can distinguish you from your peers. This packet explains what courses we offer and what you’ll learn, who to contact for more information, and how to finance your studies.

Professor Karin Friedrich is our coordinator for Postgraduate Taught Programmes in the Department of History, and Dr Jackson Armstrong coordinates Postgraduate Research degrees. You can reach out to either of them with questions, or to any of our History Faculty Members – their interests and emails are linked at the back of this packet, and they’ll get you where you need to go!
Develop
History Postgraduate courses are designed to help you hone your skills within and beyond the historian’s craft, focusing on critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills.

Communicate
Our courses and History Postgraduate community help you develop skills that are transferable, and we teach in ways which help you learn to communicate your ideas effectively.

Finance
Education doesn’t have to be expensive – learn about ways to fund your History Masters Degree at the University of Aberdeen.

What’s in this Packet
Discover what you’ll study with us and how we can help you
There are 5 ways to gain an MLitt Degree in History here in Aberdeen, either full-time or part-time:

**Postgraduate Courses:**

1. Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS)
2. Modern History
3. Scandinavian Studies
4. Scottish Heritage (Online)
5. MLitt by Research

**MLitt Scandinavian Studies**
For more information on the Masters Programme in Scandinavian Studies please contact Professor Ralph O’Connor.

**MLitt Scottish Heritage**
The Masters Programme in Scottish History is taught by distance, entirely online over 12-36 months. For further information contact Professor Marjory Harper.

**MLitt by Research**
The Masters by Research is conducted by independent research in a topic of your choosing over the course of 12 months, under the direct supervision of the appropriate faculty member for your chosen topic. Please contact Dr Jackson Armstrong for more information.
Courses – Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Full-time, 1-year MLitt Degrees require 105 course credits and a dissertation (75 credits); PgDip requires 105 credits, and an additional 15 credits acquired by a research paper or additional Independent Reading in Historical Studies. The following are some of the courses that may be taken by students.

Stage 1
First Half-Session

- Latin 1 (15 credits)
- Advanced Latin for Beginners (15 credits)
- Palaeography (15 credits)
- Special Subject (30 credits)
- Directed Reading in History (30 credits)
- Engaging with Historiography (30 credits)
- A choice of courses in History or Neighbouring Disciplines (30 credits)

Stage 2
Second Half-Session

- Research Preparation for Historical Study (15 credits)
- Latin 2 (15 credits)
- Advanced Latin for Beginners (30 credits)
- Approaching Archives (15 credits)
- Presenting Historical Research (30 credits)
- Directed Reading (30 credits)
- Independent Reading in Historical Studies (15 credits)
- A choice of courses in History or Neighbouring Disciplines (30 credits)

Stage 3
Summer Session

MLitt Degree
Dissertation in Historical Studies (75 credits)

PgDip Degree
Research Paper (15 credits)

OR

Independent Reading in Historical Studies (15 credits)
Courses – Modern History

Full-time, 1-year MLitt Degrees require 105 course credits and a dissertation (75 credits); PgDip requires 105 credits, and an additional 15 credits acquired by a research paper or additional Independent Reading in Historical Studies. The following are some of the courses that may be taken by students.

**Stage 1**
First Half-Session
- Special Subject (30 credits)
- Directed Reading in History (30 credits)
- Engaging with Historiography (30 credits)
- A choice of courses in History or Neighbouring Disciplines (30 credits)

**Stage 2**
Second Half-Session
- Presenting Historical Research (30 credits)
- Research Preparation in Historical Studies (15 credits)
- Directed Reading in History (30 credits)

**Stage 3**
Summer Session
MLitt Degree
Dissertation in Historical Studies (75 credits)

PgDip Degree
Research Paper (15 credits)

OR
Independent Reading in Historical Studies (15 credits)

Department of History
Courses – Scandinavian Studies

Full-time, 1-year MLitt Degree – please contact Professor Ralph O’Connor for more details on how this programme proceeds, how to complete this programme part-time, and what courses are available as electives. The following are some of the courses that may be taken by students.

Stage 1
First Half-Session

- Old Norse 1: Language, Literature and Culture (30 credits)

AND CHOICE OF TWO:
- Palaeography (15 credits)
- Scandinavian Language – Swedish 1 (15 credits)
- Latin 1 (15 credits)

OR one of a number of 30 credit electives including History of Emotions, Northern Worlds, Old Gaelic, Viking Archeology, and others

Stage 2
Second Half-Session

- Research Preparation in Historical Studies (30 credits)

AND CHOICE OF TWO:
- Independent Reading (15 credits)
- Approaching Archives (15 credits)
- Scandinavian Language – Swedish 2 (15 credits)
- Latin 2 (15 credits)

OR one of a number of 30 credit electives including Old Norse 2, The World of Vikings, Northern Peoples and Cultures, and others

Stage 3
Summer Session

MLitt Degree
Dissertation in Historical Studies (75 credits)

PgDip Degree
Research Paper (15 credits)

OR
Independent Reading in Historical Studies (15 credits)
Courses – Scottish Heritage (Online)

Part-time MLitt Degree – please contact Professor Marjory Harper for more details on how this programme proceeds, how to complete this programme part-time over 2 or 3 years, and what courses are available as electives. The following are some of the courses that may be taken by students.

**Stage 1**

- Scotland: A Millennium of History (30 credits)
- AND ONE OF:
  - The Scottish Diaspora (30 credits)
  - Scottish Visual History (30 credits)
  - The Philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment (30 credits)

**Stage 2**

**MLitt Degree**

- Dissertation in Scottish Heritage (60 credits)

**PgDip and PgCert**

- 180 credits total over the course of your program
- Dissertation not required
Courses
The courses you’ll take in the PGT Programmes are designed to enhance your ability to communicate in person, encourage discussion, and to deliver key information to help you design and manage independent projects.

Your Ideas
Not all the courses will be your cup of tea, and that’s ok! The programmes are flexible to allow your interests to guide what you study, and to allow you to take courses from neighbouring disciplines.

Collaboration
Collaborating with faculty members through directed study and on your dissertation will keep your Masters Programme interesting to you, and help you hone the skills that you need or want the most help with. You can find out more about our faculty members and their interests at the back of this packet.
What you’ll be learning

Although these courses have history titles, the skills you’re learning are transferable. For example:

• Engaging with Historiography = Identifying key points and arguments, synthesizing important information, and having an informed opinion

• Research Preparation for Historical Study and Dissertations = designing and timelining a project; managing a project; working independently

• Presenting Historical Research = learning to communicate your ideas effectively
Interdisciplinary Research Communities

- Centre for Early Modern Studies
- Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies
- Research Centre for Polish-Lithuanian Studies
- Centre for Scandinavian Studies
- Apardjón Journal for Scandinavian Studies
- Centre for Global Security and Governance
- Centre for History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine

Development Opportunities

- Faculty Work-in-Progress Seminars
- Training Weekends at the Burn Estate
- Conference Organization
- Postgraduate Seminar Series

Postgraduate Community

- History Postgraduate Seminar Series
- Presentation Skills
- Social Events
- Conferences

Community

Beyond Your Courses

Click on the links to learn more
Unlike Undergraduate Studies, there are several ways to defer the cost of a Masters Programme.

1. **Grants and Scholarships**
   There are a variety of grants for postgraduate study. Among the grants available for postgraduate study, some may be aimed at students from specific countries, such as the U.S. GI Bill and the St. Andrew’s Society; others by the topic you wish to study. We have linked some in the next slide, and more information can be found on: PostgraduateSearch; Postgrad; Prospects; PostgraduateFunding; FindAMasters; TheScholarshipHub.

2. **Loans**
   Loans are available for postgraduate degrees through government schemes. Check with your country of origin for availability. US students have US Federal Loans available to them.

3. **Alumni Discount**
   If you are an alumnus or alumna of the University of Aberdeen, there is a 20% discount available to you on all postgraduate courses.

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**Financing Your Masters**

Discount, Grants, Scholarships, and Loans

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Type</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Cameron Carnegie Scholarship</td>
<td>Carnegie</td>
<td>Variety of Awards available, Supports US-Scottish University exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrew’s Society and Carnegie Trust</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Society and Carnegie Trust</td>
<td>2020-2021 only, £2,000 per annum, Maintenance costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Scholarships</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Society and Carnegie Trust</td>
<td>For students from certain developing Commonwealth countries, Variety of awards available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland’s Saltire Scholarships</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Society and Carnegie Trust</td>
<td>Students from Canada, China (including Hong Kong), India, Japan, Pakistan and USA, Up to £8,000 for tuition costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Federal Student Aid</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Society and Carnegie Trust</td>
<td>Loans are available to students going overseas for their postgraduate degrees</td>
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COVID-crisis
We know the current climate is unpredictable

Financial
And that money is on your mind

Trust
But we want to help you in your future career in the way that we can

Build
By honing and teaching you transferable skills and helping you fund your studies

Excel
To help you succeed in whatever you do.
Welcome Home to the University of Aberdeen
Dissertation and Independent Study Supervisors

The final dissertation for MLitt programmes is your chance to really dig deep into the things that interest you most in history! From social and political histories to intellectual history and the history of religion, we’ve got you covered. Here’s a brief summary of some of our faculty members and topics they can guide you through – click on their names to send them an email, or view their online profiles for more info:

Dr. Colin Barr
Modern History; Irish History; Ecclesiastical History; Political History; Modern British Imperial History

Prof. Michael Brown
Modern History; Enlightenment History; Irish history; Scottish history; British history

Dr. Hannah Burrows
Medieval History; Scandinavian Studies

Dr. Bradford Bow
Modern History; Enlightenment Studies; Global History, including Asian History; Imperial History; Scottish history; American intellectual History

Dr. Alessandra Cecolin
Modern History; Political History; intersections of national and religious identities in Iran; Jewish History

Dr. Jackson Armstrong
Medieval History; Medieval Scotland; Medieval England
Dissertation Supervisors

Dr Andrew Dilley
Modern History; imperial networks; British Empire; Economic History

Prof Robert Frost
Early Modern History; Military History; History of Poland-Lithuania; Political History; Eastern Europe

Dr Aly Macdonald
Medieval History; Anglo-Scottish Relations in the late Middle Ages; Scottish History; History of Sport

Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner
Medieval and Early Modern History; Female Spirituality in the Middle Ages and English Reformation; Church History

Prof Tony Heywood
Modern European History; Russian and Soviet History; World War I; History of Railways

Dr Elizabeth MacKnight
Modern History; French History; nobilities in Europe; archival theory and practices

Prof Karin Friedrich
Early Modern History; History of Poland-Lithuania; German History; History of Nobilities and Towns; History of Ideas

Prof Marjory Harper
Modern History; Scottish Emigration; Scottish Migrants in Canada

Dr Ben Marsden
Modern History of: Science and technology; Cultural History of engineering and technology in Britain; Science and music; Cultural History of food
Dissertation Supervisors

Dr Heidi Mehrkens
Modern History; Political-Cultural History; Military History; media History; History of the Monarchy

Prof Bill Naphy
Early Modern History; Reformation Studies; Witchcraft; History of Sexuality; History of Crime

Prof Ralph O’Connor
Mediaeval Celtic literature; mediaeval Icelandic and Scandinavian literature; Modern History of science; Literary History c. 1750-1920.

Dr Frederik Pedersen
Medieval History; Medieval Law; Medieval Demography; Cultural History of Marriage; Gender History; Scandinavian History, particularly Post-Viking

Prof Tom Weber
Modern History; The World Wars; The Holocaust; Political History; German History; International History
Get in Touch

Prof Karin Friedrich
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For administrative questions about your application contact: dhp-pgs@abdn.ac.uk

Department of History