

MSt Medieval Studies



Course handbook 2018-19

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Disclaimer

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosinmedistud/studentview/>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the Graduate Office at current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at October 1st 2018, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed..

Welcome from the Director of Graduate Studies

A warm welcome as you start your Master's course at Oxford. I look forward to meeting you in person and wish you every success in the months to come. Above all, I hope that you enjoy postgraduate study here and find it rewarding.

The History Faculty is one of the largest in the world and brings together an extraordinary array of scholars pursuing an unparalleled range of research. This is reflected in the abundance of research seminars, regular graduate workshops, one-off special lectures and discussion panels. You will find many of these listed on the Faculty website and you are welcome to attend anything that interests you. I do encourage you to explore what is on offer within the Faculty, colleges and TORCH (the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities), beyond the regular demands of your course of study. As a postgraduate student, you will probably be spending more time in independent study than you did as an undergraduate, and the sub-culture of a regular research seminar can be an important source of support and also of intellectual stimulation.

The History Faculty also has a well-established Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC), made up of academic staff and student representatives. It works in conjunction with the Oxford History Graduate Network (OHGN), a student-led forum which organises social and academic events, and raises matters of concern to postgrads. You can find more details of both these organisations below, and I would encourage you to think about getting involved.

Part of the transition to studying History as a postgraduate at Oxford is learning how colleges and faculties fit together and what the local ways of doing things are. Remember that this is a challenge which many of the academic staff in such a diverse body have also had to face as they move institution, and do please ask for advice and guidance as you find your feet in this new environment. Your first calls should be your thesis supervisor, the course tutors and the convenor of your programme. You are also welcome to contact the Graduate Office – in person, by phone (01865 [6]15011), or by email (current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk). If none of them can answer your question, please do contact me.

This handbook is intended to be a comprehensive guide to the teaching, assessment and administrative arrangements of the course; it also contains useful information on other aspects of life in Oxford as a postgraduate historian. You can find further information about graduate matters on our [WebLearn pages](#).



Professor Nick Stargardt,

Director of Graduate Studies

1. Introduction

This handbook has been prepared for students starting the Master of Studies (MSt) in Medieval Studies in Michaelmas Term 2018. We hope that it will be particularly useful to you when you first arrive in Oxford, but you are advised to refer to it throughout your course, as it will be of considerable help throughout the period of your study.

It contains information about the structure of the course, teaching and assessment deadlines, how to format and submit your work, and the exam conventions that set out how your work is marked. It also acts as a signpost to more general information, including useful contacts and locations around the Faculty and university.

Oxford University terms are named Michaelmas (autumn), Hilary (winter) and Trinity (spring). Introductory events often take place during Week 0 of Michaelmas Term. The term dates can be found here: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term> .

Other sources of information about your course

As well as this handbook, you will also find the other sources of information useful:

- The Medieval History WebLearn pages: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/ugloEr>
To submit your work online, and for information about the course options that are available this year, including reading lists.
- Examination regulations: <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/>
These are the definitive rules that govern the course.
- Marking criteria and conventions can be found in this handbook.
The rules by which your work is marked.

Your supervisor will review, monitor and comment on your academic progress using Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR), which is accessible via Student Self Service (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice>). You are also encouraged to submit comments on this system.

An introduction to Oxford for new students is available on the university website: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new>.

Useful Contacts

This programme is convened and administered by the Faculty of History. If you need help or advice relating to your course, and can't find the answer in this handbook or on WebLearn <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/ugloEr>, you should contact one of the following:

- Your supervisor(s)
- The Graduate Office (current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk)

- The programme convenor: Dr Hannah Skoda (hannah.skoda@sjc.ox.ac.uk)
- The Director of Graduate Studies: Professor Nick Stargardt (nick.stargardt@magd.ox.ac.uk)
- The Tutor for Graduates or Dean of Graduates at your college

Details of the administrative staff that support the Master's courses can be found on the Academic Administration page of the History Faculty website: <http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/academic-administration>.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the content of this handbook, please email them to current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk.

2. Course content and structure

2.1 Overview

All course information can be found in WebLearn <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/ugloEr>

The Master of Studies in Medieval Studies is a nine-month programme administered by the History Faculty and supported by several Faculties within the Humanities Division, demonstrating the University's tremendous wealth of scholarship in the period. The degree is aimed at students who wish to follow courses in more than one discipline in medieval studies, and who are keen to extend their skills.

It equips students to draw on a variety of disciplinary approaches in their study of the Middle Ages, placing emphasis on language training as well as on the development of skills in palaeography and codicology. It also offers the opportunity to undertake the acquisition of a medieval language not previously studied.

The course consists of five units:

- Language course
- Interdisciplinary seminar and research methods workshop
- Palaeography / codicology course
- Option courses
- Dissertation

Michaelmas Term

Complete online exam entry

Fri, Week 4

Choose Option Papers Fri Week 4 – confirm via email to current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk

Complete the Test Assignment Submission exercise (see Section 3.4)

Fri, Week 5 (5pm)

Hilary Term

Submit option essay and dissertation title to the Graduate Office by email to

current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk *

Fri, Week 6 (by 5pm)

Trinity Term

Submit two option essays and palaeography/codicology paper (unless your chosen papers are subject to different deadlines through their Faculty's Regulations) – see Section 3 on how to submit

Mon, Week 1 (noon)

Submit dissertation (see Section 3)

Mon, Week 9 (noon)

**Modification of your essay and dissertation titles is only possible up to fourteen days before the submission deadline, and requires the permission of the course/option tutor or (for your dissertation) your supervisor. Once permission has been obtained, the new title should be sent to the Graduate Office by email (current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk).*

You MUST check all deadlines against the [Examination Regulations for your course](#). If there are any discrepancies with what is published here, the official Examination Regulations take precedence.

2.2 Language courses

Teaching

All students must take language classes, chosen from a range that may include (Medieval) Latin; Old English; Old Norse; Old French; Old Occitan; Old High German; Middle High German; Old Irish; Middle Welsh; (Byzantine) Greek. Please note that not all language options will be available every year. Language teaching will be provided by Faculty Members and Language Instructors from around the University. Please note that teaching norms, modes of delivery and assessment will vary according to the existing arrangements of participating faculties; students should not therefore expect absolute uniformity across faculties.

Depending on the availability of appropriate teaching, it may also be possible to arrange special tuition in Hebrew or Classical Arabic.

Assessment

The mode of assessment depends on the language chosen. In most cases there will be in-class or end-of-course tests, and the class teacher will report to the Board of Examiners on attendance, participation, and performance at the end of the academic year. 'Satisfactory participation' will constitute a pass in a language class.

2.3 Interdisciplinary seminar and research methods workshop

Interdisciplinary seminar

Candidates will be expected to follow a range of seminars in relevant disciplines over the academic year. A special medieval studies seminar booklet is issued at the beginning of each term giving full

details. This booklet is also available via the TORCH Oxford Medieval Studies (OMS) website: <http://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies>.

Apart from these seminars, a special week involving additional activities will take place (normally in Hilary Term). An external guest lecturer (the Medieval Studies Visiting Lecturer) with expertise in interdisciplinary study will normally offer a plenary lecture and conduct a graduate workshop. Candidates are expected to participate in these events.

Candidates will normally be given the opportunity to present their work in the Trinity Term sessions of the Medieval Church and Culture Seminar for feedback and discussion.

Research methods workshop

In Michaelmas and Hilary Terms candidates will follow a series of compulsory workshops on Research Methods and bibliography convened by the Programme Convenor. Classes are designed to address a number of specific issues encountered by researchers in medieval studies at master's level (e.g. research methodologies and interdisciplinarity, how to compile bibliographies and use bibliographical tools, presentation of work in scholarly form and style, structuring extended pieces of writing), but are also intended to be responsive to and shaped by student concerns; students will have the opportunity to raise individual issues for discussion and make informal presentations on work in progress.

In addition, candidates should discuss with the programme convenor or their supervisors at the beginning of Michaelmas Term which of the specific induction sessions to research methodologies and resources provided by individual faculties and departments they should attend.

Assessment

Candidates' attendance at the seminars and workshops, and satisfactory participation will be certified on a report form submitted by the convenors of the seminars and workshops to the Chairman of Examiners. There is no formal assessment of this unit.

2.4 Palaeography / codicology course

Teaching

All students must take one of a range of palaeography or codicology classes available, which will include Latin Palaeography/Codicology, options offered by the Medieval and Modern Languages Faculty and options offered by the English Language and Literature Faculty.

Language and Palaeography/Codicology courses are designed to equip you with new research skills for further study, offering the opportunity for interaction with a variety of primary manuscript sources, developing analysis of their internal construction (binding, decoration, script, etc.) as well as their external history (provenance, ownership, transmission, etc.). Candidates will choose a course of palaeography and/or codicology classes in one of the participating faculties.

Please note that teaching norms, modes of delivery and assessment will vary according to the existing arrangements of participating faculties; students should not therefore expect absolute uniformity across faculties.

Assessment

Methods of assessment will vary according to the practices of the faculty within which the candidate is working for the Palaeography/Codicology element. The work produced will thus be assessed according to the regulations laid down by the relevant faculty. This unit accounts for 20% of the overall mark.

Written work prescribed for assessment by the relevant Faculty or Sub-Faculty must be submitted. Where applicable, on-course test results will be reported by the class leader to the Chairman of Examiners as part of the class attendance record. Where the relevant Faculty does not stipulate an earlier deadline for the submission of the Palaeography/Codicology essay/exercise, the deadline is as in the table above. See Section 3 for submission instructions.

2.5 Option courses

In each of Michaelmas and Hilary Terms candidates will take one Option paper of their choice, from the subject options made available by the participating faculties in any given year and term. Candidates should note, when choosing the sequence of their Options, that a given subject may only be available in one of the two terms, and that options available vary from year to year, depending on the availability of teaching staff. The Faculty reserves the right to not run an option if insufficient numbers enrol. Candidates should also keep in mind that their Options must be taken from two different subject areas.

Option Paper classes, together with the dissertation, allow you to develop your understanding of complex textual or visual materials, your handling of secondary sources, your methodological or conceptual approaches to addressing evidence, your ability to construct and sustain cogent arguments in an extended essay form and to present this in a scholarly manner.

Please note that the options available vary from year to year, depending on the availability of teaching staff. Optional courses will normally be provided by specialists from the Faculties of History, Medieval and Modern Languages, English Language and Literature, Music, Oriental Studies, and Theology. There is provision for annual rotation and revision of optional courses, to ensure that students are in contact with the latest developments in their chosen subject. The current range of options can be found on WebLearn: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/ugloEr>.

As a general rule of thumb, you may expect to see your Option tutors for c. 4-6 small group sessions, for which you will produce pieces of formative written work and / or oral presentations. Your tutor will explain the precise number/combination of pieces. Option courses vary in their format according to the conventions of the participating Faculty, but students must meet the obligations established by their tutor.

The Option tutor will normally provide formative feedback (including a general indication of standard) on a first draft of the essay or sections thereof. Please make sure that your tutor is given ample time to read and comment on written work before any relevant deadlines.

Assessment

Options are typically assessed by one essay of between 5,000 and 7,000 words. In the case of faculties for whose Option Papers a candidate of that Faculty would ordinarily be expected to submit an essay longer than 7,000 words or to complete two pieces of work totalling more than 7,000 words, a Medieval Studies candidate will only be expected to submit work of between 5,000 and 7,000 words, following the guidance of the option convenor as to the nature of such submissions. [Also see Word count in Section 3]

Each Option paper accounts for 20% of the overall mark.

Your draft title of the essay should be as descriptive and precise as possible, posing a question or proposition that can reasonably be dealt with within the word limit.

Submission (essays)

Essays are to be submitted by the deadlines, and assessed according to the regulations, of the relevant Faculty. Candidates should make themselves aware of relevant deadlines for submission and presentation guidelines by referring to the course handbook of the Faculty under whose auspices the Option is convened, and by consulting the convenor of the individual Option Paper.

By default (if no other deadlines are stipulated for the chosen course) candidates are required to submit their essays by the deadline in the table above. Submitted work should normally accord with the Faculty's conventions in which the Option is taken (where no specific requirements exist, you should use the History Faculty's conventions mentioned below); in the case of quotations from foreign languages, the following exception to the conventions shall apply: Appendices can be in the word count if permission is not sought from the examiners, additional to word count if permission is sought. English translations of passages quoted in another language are excluded from word count. Also see note on Word Count in Section 3.

See Section 3 for guidance on submission.

2.6 Dissertation

Supervision arrangements

During the admissions process you were assigned two supervisors from different subject-areas to direct your intended individual research. In the course of the first term, your research focus may change – and in some this may lead to a change in your supervision arrangements. If this happens, you should complete a GSO.25 form (change of supervisor or appointment of joint supervisor) and submit it to the Academic Office so that the student record system can be updated:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/progression>.

Your supervisors' primary responsibility is to advise you on the programme of work necessary to complete your dissertation or thesis. To this end, they should maintain a general overview over your course work and academic development. They should help you to identify and acquire the knowledge

and skills needed to complete your dissertation or thesis, and to further your aims for study or employment, insofar as these build upon the programme of graduate study.

Dissertation title

You should agree a definitive title with your supervisor(s). The dissertation should be on a topic falling within the scope of this programme.

The Examiners will expect the dissertation to be clearly distinct from the Option course essays in either chronological or geographical range, or scholarly issue. The dissertation is expected to include some study of original source material, whether in printed, manuscript, or other form, and to have an interdisciplinary aspect.

The requirement for the dissertation to be interdisciplinary must be demonstrated by each student, but the way in which this is done will be different in each case. As they stand the regulations require that the dissertation include: 'Reference to scholarship and evidence from more than one discipline. Use of more than one disciplinary methodology or conceptual framework in an integrated manner.'

While working on two languages (or two regions for that matter) is not *in itself* sufficient to satisfy the regulation, it is recognized that the scholarly traditions and approaches to research in two languages *can* provide various opportunities to use different methodologies or concepts. Each student must explain or demonstrate how more than one way of thinking and/or methodology have been brought together in their dissertation.

Planning your research

The following notes for students and supervisors provide rough guidance for students and supervisors – individual progress rates will vary, depending (for example) on the level of your background knowledge; whether you need to acquire new technical skills; the speed at which you identify a workable topic; the accessibility of sources in Oxford or Britain; the time needed to process data; the extent to which the research programme makes feasible the drafting of chapters while research is in progress, etc.

Michaelmas term:

- Meet supervisor
- Identify any training needs
- Plan lecture/seminar attendance and a programme of secondary reading necessary to set the scene for proposed research
- Initial exploration of primary sources
- Discuss subject and nature of the research proposal you plan to submit as part of your examination
- Expect to spend one day a week on preparing your dissertation project, and arrange to see your supervisor two or three or four times after the initial meeting

End of Michaelmas Term:

- Discuss whether applying for doctoral research in Oxford or elsewhere, and if so nature of doctoral research proposal (deadline for submission of the application mid-January)

Christmas vacation

- Proceed, against the background of continuing work as above, to refine definition of dissertation topic
- Definitively identify and establish familiarity with primary and secondary sources central to your proposed master's research
- If applying for re-admission to doctoral programme, AHRC funding, or other funding requiring a doctoral research proposal, work with supervisor to refine that well in advance of the January application deadline

Hilary Term

- Finalise plan of work remaining for dissertation and agree this with supervisor
- Revise the structure of your master's dissertation in the light of this ongoing exploration
- Expect to step up work on your dissertation project to about two days a week
- Again, arrange to see your supervisor for about three sessions

Easter vacation/Trinity Term

- Complete research, modifying plan and structure as necessary in process
- Produce draft – make sure draft is in supervisor's hands in plenty of time for supervisor to comment (supervisors are not expected to comment on drafts received later than Monday of 6th week)
- Revise in light of comments: make the most of the opportunity to work full-time on your dissertation up to submission, extensively consulting original sources and carefully revising your dissertation, giving it a tightly argued structure and presenting it in idiomatic English which makes it accessible to a non-specialist reader

Dissertation submission and word limit

The dissertation must be submitted by the given deadline (see table above). Refer to Section 3 for guidance on how to submit your dissertation, and for guidance on the presentation and submission of essays and dissertations.

The dissertation should consist of up to 12,000 words. It must be accompanied by a short abstract which concisely summarises its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words; the abstract should be bound into the dissertation, immediately after the title page. [also see Word Count in Section 3]

The dissertation must not exceed the permitted length. If they do the Examiners will reduce the marks awarded.

Part of the exercise of writing a dissertation lies in devising a topic that can be effectively handled within the word limit. However, in exceptional circumstances – for example if a large section of your

dissertation is taken up with translations or lengthy appendices – you can apply to the Director of Graduate Studies for permission to exceed the word limit. This should be supported by an email from your supervisor.

2.7 Seminars

Attendance at the Medieval Church and Culture seminar during Trinity Term is compulsory: students will be expected to present work in progress on their dissertations. Students must also attend research methods workshops led by the Programme Convenor in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms.

Throughout the year, the programme of teaching will be supported by the regular research seminars for graduates and staff in the participating faculties. Students are encouraged to attend relevant seminars, lectures and visiting speaker presentations organized across the Humanities Division.

For a list of all Seminars, see the Faculty of History website.

3. Submission & Assessment guidance

3.1 Presentation of your work

Your documents should have margins of at least 2.5cm in a font size of 12 point or larger and a line spacing set at 1.5 or equivalent, except that free-standing quotations and footnotes should be presented single-spaced. Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of each page.

For further guidance on how to present your essay, including referencing styles, refer to the [History Faculty's guidance on WebLearn](#). The ability to conform meticulously to presentational guidelines is a professional skill, required, for example, from anyone submitting work for publication, and the examiners may lower your mark if you fail to observe the conventions specified.

Submitted essays should accord with the Faculty's conventions, and should include a bibliography of all the books and articles that you have either quoted or consulted. Any source that you have encountered through another source, but you have not seen at first hand, should not appear in the bibliography; any footnote reference to a source not directly consulted by you must make it unambiguously clear from what secondary source that you have consulted your knowledge arises.

Front page

To safeguard the anonymity of the initial assessment, do **not** write your name, student number, college, supervisor's name, or any other identifying information anywhere on your submitted work. The front page of your essay should contain the following information only:

- your **candidate number** on the top right-hand corner (note: this is different from your Student ID and University Card number; you find this number in your Student Self-Service record under the tab 'Assessment Information')
- the title of your essay
- the word count (excluding bibliography)
- the degree and term for which the work is submitted (e.g., 'Master of Studies in Global and Imperial History', Trinity Term 2019')

Word counts

Included in Word count:

- footnotes
- appendices
- captions for images, figures, graphs, tables

Excluded from Word count:

- bibliographies
- title page content

- acknowledgments (if any)
- dissertation abstract

If you need an extension of the word limit, or need to add an appendix that is excluded from the word count, you can apply for this by using the 'Word limit extension form' in WebLearn (General Info).

Translations of quotations from foreign languages should be provided, and do count towards the word limit, but in cases where there are a significant number of these an extension to the word limit can be requested. However, the titles of primary sources do not need to be translated.

Please note that word counts will be checked, and penalties will be applied by the exam board for over-length work. See the exam conventions for details.

3.2 Good academic practice and avoiding plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition. Please note that if you substantially reproduce your own written work submitted for examination, this can count as self-plagiarism. This would also be the case if you reproduce work (e.g., from an undergraduate dissertation) which has already been examined for a different degree.

Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence. For more information, see the Oxford Student's guidance on plagiarism: www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism. The Faculty utilises plagiarism detection software when essays and dissertations are submitted, and will investigate when it has reason to believe that plagiarism may have occurred.

The University provides a number of online transferable skills courses for graduate students to study at their own pace. The set of courses includes a course on Good Practice in Citation and the Avoidance of Plagiarism and all graduate students should complete this course as part of their graduate skills training portfolio: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/5jzUSE>. This online course can be accessed via the University's Skills Hub: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/:skills>. If you are located outside the Oxford University computer network, you will need to set up access via the University's Virtual Private Network (VPN). Further information about how to do this is provided on the Skills Portal website.

The first time you take one of the online courses, you will need to create yourself a user account following the instructions provided on the right-hand side of the page in the box titled 'Is this your first time here?'. Once you have set up a user account you can login to all the online courses by entering the username and password you have set up in the boxes provided in the 'Returning to this web site?' section.

At the end of each course, there is a quiz to test your knowledge; if successful you can save a certificate for your records.

3.3 Guide to submitting work

Online submission in WebLearn

You must submit your work online using the [Assignment submission WebLearn site](#). You can also find this at the bottom of the left-hand menu of the Master's WebLearn site, and linked from your course home page. You must submit your work before the deadline listed in this handbook (and in the exam regulations), in UK time. Submissions are monitored, and any late submissions (without permission) will be reported to the Proctors.

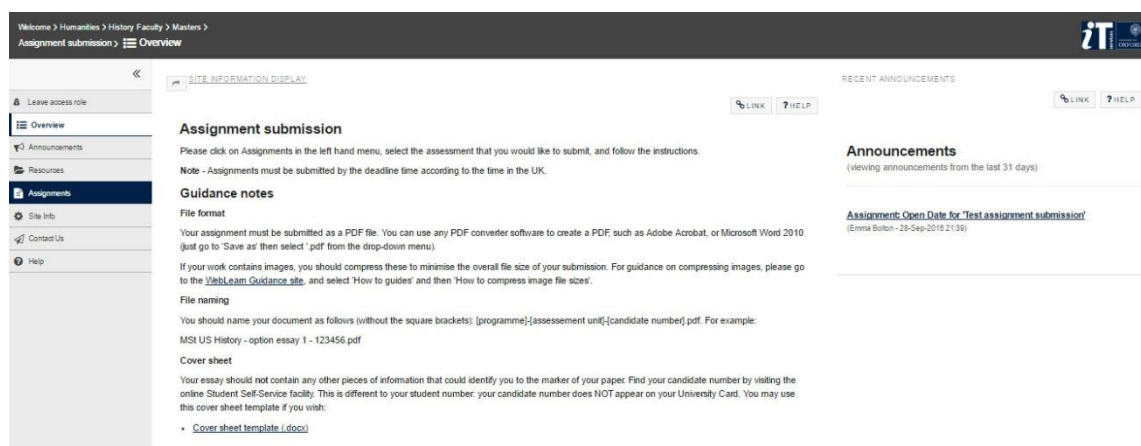
Please note that it is your responsibility to remember the deadlines and you will not get an alert beforehand.

Before uploading your assignment, you must make sure it has a suitable coversheet containing the information outlined in Section 3.1. There is a blank coversheet template on the Assignments WebLearn page, which you may use if you wish. Neither the document itself, nor its file name should contain your name or student number. You should save your file as a PDF, and name your file according to the following convention:

[programme]-[assessment unit]-[candidate number].pdf

For example: MSt US History - option essay 1 - 123456.pdf

When in the Assignment submission site, click on 'Assignments' on the left-hand menu:



Your assignment(s) will be listed here. When an upcoming assignment is open, click on the assessment title in the list:

Welcome > Humanities > History Faculty > Masters > Assignment submission > Assignments

IT

LINK HELP

Leave access role
Overview
Announcements
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Assignment List

Select an assignment to view details, start working or edit your previous work.

Viewing 1 - 1 of 1 items

< < Show 200 items... > >

Assignment Title	Status	Open	Due (UK time)
Test assignment submission	Not Started	28-Sep-2016 21:35	11-Nov-2016 17:00

[Terms & Conditions](#) [Accessibility](#) [Help](#) [Acknowledgements](#) [Privacy](#)

- Prepared by Egon IT Services for the University of Oxford
- Where not otherwise stated, © University of Oxford

Build Info:

After checking you've followed all the guidance notes – particularly with regard to the naming conventions – upload your assignment. Make sure you check the 'Declaration of authorship' box before clicking 'Submit'.

Attachment

MSt Economic and Social History - test assignment - 123456.pdf (84 kB; 28-Sep-2016 21:49) [Remove](#)

☒ Declaration of authorship - I confirm the following:

1. I have read and understood the University's disciplinary regulations concerning conduct in examinations and, in particular, the regulations on plagiarism (The University Student Handbook, Section 8.8; at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/student-handbook>).
2. I have read and understood the Education Committee's information and guidance on academic good practice and plagiarism at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills?wssl=1>.
3. The [thesis/extended essay/project/other work] I am submitting is entirely my own work except where otherwise indicated.
4. It has not been submitted, either wholly or substantially, for another Honour School or qualification at this University, or at any other institution.
5. I have clearly indicated (with appropriate references) the presence of all material I have paraphrased, quoted or used from other sources, including any diagrams, charts, tables or graphs.
6. I have acknowledged appropriately any assistance I have received in addition to that provided by my [tutor/supervisor/adviser].
7. I have not copied from the work of any other candidate.
8. I have not sought assistance from any professional agency, nor provided material for other examination candidates at this University or elsewhere (See <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/352-051a.shtml>).

(You must respond to submit your assignment.)

[Submit](#) [Cancel](#)

Don't forget to submit your work! A confirmation message will be displayed after submission.

After submitting your assignment, you'll get a confirmation message as below:

Welcome > Humanities > History Faculty > Masters >
Assignment submission > **Assignments**

«

Leave access role

Overview

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Assignments

Site Info

Contact Us


Help

Submission Confirmation

☒ You have successfully submitted your work. You will receive an email confirmation containing this information.

User: Emma Bolton (cont5214)

Class site: Assignment submission

Assignment:  Test assignment submission

Submission ID: **46ce097b-e5a5-44b7-bbc1-abb71a3e62f8**

Submitted on: 28-Sep-2016 21:51

History Wed Sep 28 21:51:15 BST 2016 Emma Bolton (85182) submitted

Your submission included the following:

Submitted Attachment

MSt Economic and Social History - test assignment - 123456.pdf (84 kB; 28-Sep-2016 21:49)

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Please note that an assignment can only be submitted once, and that this submission is counted as final. Permission to withdraw a piece of work and re-submit a different version of it requires permission from the Proctors, which is unlikely to be granted without evidence of exceptional circumstances.

3.4 Test assignment submission

To give you the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the online submission system, you must submit a test assignment by the given deadline (see Section 2 above). All you need to do is create a Word file using the cover sheet template which is available from the Assignments home screen, or on the Test assignment course information. Complete the cover sheet using the details relating to your course. No additional content is needed. Save the file as a PDF following the naming conventions described in Section 3.3, and upload to the 'Test assignment submission' using the instructions above.

If you have any questions or problems, please email current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk.

NB: Your candidate number may not yet be available through student self-service. If this is the case, just use '123456' for the purposes of this test.

3.5 Submission and examination dates

Please see the table in Section 2 for details of submission dates.

For more detail on exam timetables, see: www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables.

3.6 Examination conventions

The Examination Conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for this programme. They set out how examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of an award.

Rubrics for individual papers

Assessment of individual papers is based on pre-submitted essays and dissertations. Prescribed word limits, presentation and binding requirements of essays and dissertations are outlined in the Handbook.

Marking conventions

University scale for standardised expression of agreed final marks.

Agreed final marks for individual papers will be expressed using the following scale:

70-100	Distinction
65-69	Merit
50-64	Pass
0-49	Fail

Qualitative criteria for different types of assessment

For essays and dissertations markers will assess the submitted work according to the following criteria:

Engagement	Identification and definition of a problem Awareness of inter-disciplinary issues, if appropriate Location in a historiographical or other relevant scholarly context Range of issues addressed
Analysis and Argument	Analytical clarity and power Sophistication of conceptualization or framing Originality and coherence of argument
Use of Evidence	Range and relevance of evidence deployed Appropriateness of method or approach Depth, precision and accuracy of evidence cited
Organisation and Presentation	Clarity and coherence of structure Clarity and fluency of prose Correctness of grammar, spelling and punctuation Scholarly presentation of footnotes and bibliography

The above criteria inform the following mark bands

Work of outstanding distinction quality: 80 and above	Work which engages decisively, imaginatively and originally with the problem identified, displays strong analytical and conceptual power, sustains a coherent argument, deploys primary evidence skilfully and effectively. Such work will be clearly and engagingly written and presented in an impeccably lucid, correct and scholarly manner. The examiners should feel confident that a thesis at this level might be published with minimal revisions in a good, refereed scholarly journal
Work of a consistently high distinction quality: 75-79	Work which demonstrates all of the qualities stipulated above, but which contains some relative weakness in one of the areas of coverage, originality, deployment of evidence, presentation or style.
Excellent work that achieves distinction standard: 70-74	Work which demonstrates outstanding qualities of intellectual engagement with primary and secondary sources, coherence and control of argument, and impressive scope but may show relative weakness in some areas of coverage, originality, evidence, presentation or style
Work of high standard: 65-69	The work will display some of the elements of 'distinction quality' work, but may be significantly flawed in either coverage or construction of argument or presentation. It will nonetheless engage well with the problem identified, display good analytical power, be well-argued and use evidence appropriately. Work at this level may entitle the candidate to a doctoral place
Work of a solid, scholarly standard: 57-64	The work will clearly identify some relevant problem and engage well with its context, display analytical powers, and make appropriate use of evidence but will display inconsistencies and imbalances in treatment. Work at this level has the qualities of a decent pass.
Work of adequate scholarly standard at master's level: 50-56	The work will display some analytical effectiveness and skill in constructing an argument, but this will be inconsistent, or marred by serious shortcomings in coverage, use of material, presentation or language. Work at this level is narrowly of pass quality.
Work which fails to reach the required standard: 49 and below	In the upper 40s the work will display some knowledge of the issues, but with serious omissions and inaccuracies. The work may fail to define a problem adequately and/or the level of analysis and argument may be poor. The presentation and use of English may be inadequate and/or careless. A dissertation may rely too heavily on secondary literature or fail to contextualize the research material adequately. All of these issues will become progressively more evident in work achieving marks of 45 and lower. Examiners who award marks in this band must be prepared to indicate, through feedback forms or in a final report, the improvements necessary to bring the work to pass level.

Verification and reconciliation of marks

All submitted work is independently (double-blind) marked by either two members of the panel of examiners, or specialist assessors appointed in the subject area; neither of the dissertation markers must be either of the candidate's individual supervisors. In the case of dissertations the examiners may appoint an expert assessor who is not a member of the board of examiners for one of the independent markings. The examiners aim at distributing the marking load in such a way that in the overall examination process at least three people are involved in marking an individual student's

submitted pieces and no individual examiner or assessor marks all three items of a given student's work.

Where independent marks are less than 4 point apart, markers may elect to average their marks (rounded up to a full percentage point). If their independent marks are 4 or more points apart, markers are expected to reconcile their marks and submit a short explanation for their reconciliation for review by the board of examiners. Where markers are unable to agree a mark their reports and the submitted work are passed on to the external examiner for moderation. The external examiner and the chair of the board of examiners are entitled to arrange an independent third marking if they think that would be desirable.

The external examiner shall mainly act as a moderator and shall have a deciding vote in marking decisions where the full board of examiners cannot arrive at a decision by majority vote. From time to time the external examiner may be asked to blind mark some essays or dissertations in her or his area of expertise. The external examiner has the right to inspect pieces of work submitted for examination if she or he wishes to do so.

Scaling

It is not expected that circumstances would arise in which scaling would be appropriate.

Short-weight convention and departure from rubric

There are no formal penalties for short-weight in essays or dissertations, and candidates are reminded that the word-limits are not a target, but a maximum. However, dissertations and essays which are significantly shorter than the maximum are likely to be inadequate in their coverage and content, and will be so marked. As a rough guideline, a 15,000-word dissertation would likely to be judged inadequate if it were shorter than 12,000 words.

Where a candidate in a written examination has answered one entire question fewer than required or failed to complete a question in full, the following procedures apply.

- Omission of an entire question: the overall mark awarded is the average of the marks awarded multiplied by the fraction of the paper completed.
- Incomplete answer: the marker should award a mark to that question on its merits (thus factoring in its brevity), and then calculate an average mark from all the questions attempted, as usual.

Any penalties are imposed by the Board as a whole, not by markers; and consideration is given to their effect on a candidate's overall classification.

Penalties for late or non-submission

The scale of penalties agreed by the board of examiners in relation to late submission of assessed

items is set out below. Details of the circumstances in which such penalties might apply can be found in the Examination Regulations (*Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations*, Part 14.)

Late submission	Penalty
Up to one day (<i>including submitted on the day but after the deadline</i>)	-1 mark (- 1 percentage point)
Each additional day (<i>note that each weekend day counts as a full day for the purposes of mark deductions</i>)	-1 mark (- 1 percentage point)
Max. deducted marks up to 2 weeks late	-14 marks (- 14 percentage points)
More than 2 weeks late	Fail

Penalties for over-length work and departure from approved titles or subject-matter

The Board has agreed the following tariff of marks to be deducted for over-length work:

<i>Dissertation</i>	<i>Extended Essay</i>	<i>Penalty</i>
1-500 words over	1-250 words over	-1 mark
501-1000 words over	251-500 words over	-2 marks
1001-1500 words over	501-750 words over	-3 marks
Each further 500 words over	Each further 250 words over	-1 mark
		<i>Up to a maximum of -10</i>

3.7 Progression rules and classification conventions

Qualitative descriptors of Distinction, Pass, Merit and Fail classifications

For qualitative descriptors please consult the mark banding descriptions in section 3.6 above.

Final outcome rules

In assessing a candidate's overall performance the examiners will weigh the assessment elements as follows:

- 20% for each Option paper
- 20% for the Palaeography / Codicology assessment
- 40% for the dissertation

Marks of 50 or better in at least two elements, one of which will normally be the dissertation, are required for a Pass, provided that the average mark across all elements does not fall below 50, and

that an agreed mark of 45 or lower in any of the elements of the examination counts as failure and cannot be compensated for by other marks.

For a Merit, the following criteria must be met:

- Leading marks of 65 in at least two elements, one of which would normally be the dissertation
- An average mark of 65 or more across all elements

For a Distinction, the following criteria must be met:

- Leading marks of 70 in at least two elements, one of which would normally be the dissertation
- An average mark of 70 or more across all elements

Merit classifications were introduced for the 2018/19 academic year, and are intended to reflect strong performance throughout the year by candidates who have not met the requirements for a Distinction.

Review of marks and classification are not mechanical processes, and in their final meeting the panel of examiners shall be bound solely by their academic judgement. Candidates who have initially failed any element of the examination will not be eligible for the award of a Distinction or Merit. Where appropriate examiners will take account of external factors (such as a candidate's illness) if notified by the candidate's college through the proper channels of such circumstances.

Progression rules

Not applicable.

Use of vivas

Not applicable

Resits

A candidate who fails the examination will be permitted to retake it on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the initial attempt. Marks for any element that has been successfully completed at the first attempt may be carried forward, and therefore it will only be necessary for students to re-sit the failed element(s).

Factors affecting performance

Where a candidate or candidates have made a submission, under Part 13 of the Regulations for Conduct of University Examinations, that unforeseen factors may have had an impact on their performance in an examination, the board will discuss the individual applications and band the seriousness of each application on a scale of 1-3 with 1 indicating minor impact, 2 indicating moderate impact, and 3 indicating very serious impact. When reaching this decision, examiners will take into consideration the severity and relevance of the circumstances, and the strength of the evidence. Examiners will also note whether all or a subset of papers were affected, being aware that it is

possible for circumstances to have different levels of impact on different papers. The banding information will be used at the final board of examiners meeting to adjudicate on the merits of candidates. Further information on the procedure is provided in the *Policy and Guidance for examiners, Annex B* and information for students is provided at www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance.

3.8 Details of Examiners and rules on communicating with Examiners

Details of the examiners can be found on WebLearn. Candidates must not under any circumstances seek to make contact with individual internal or external examiners about matters concerning their examination. Any questions concerning their examination should be directed in the first instance to the History Faculty Graduate Office.

4. Teaching and learning

4.1 Organisation of teaching and learning

Supervision

As outlined in Section 2, work towards the dissertation is based on one-to-one sessions with a supervisor in which independent critical thinking and the cogent presentation and defence of argument can be developed. Your supervisor will review, monitor and comment on your academic progress using the Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR) system. You are also encouraged to submit comments on this system, and can access it via [Student Self-Service](#). Students are strongly encouraged to complete a self-assessment report every reporting period, and an automated email notification will be sent to you at the start of each reporting window.

Your self-assessment report will be used by your supervisor(s) as a basis to complete a report on your performance for the relevant reporting period, for identifying areas where further work may be required, and for reviewing your progress against agreed timetables and plans for the term ahead. GSR will alert you by email when your supervisor or DGS has completed your report and it is available for you to view. If you have any difficulty doing so please speak to your supervisor or to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Use this opportunity to:

- Review and comment on your academic progress during the current reporting period
- Measure your progress against the timetable and requirements of your programme of study
- Identify skills developed and training undertaken or required (within the self-assessment report for taught programmes, and via the TNA form in GSR for research programmes)
- List your engagement with the academic community
- Raise concerns or issues regarding your academic progress to your supervisor
- Outline your plans for the next term (where applicable)

Classes

Teaching of Core and Option classes is mainly by small, dedicated classes to allow flexibility of approach and regular interaction between students and teachers. Classes are the main form of course-specific interactive learning. Their function is to allow the students to investigate the assigned topics in an interactive forum, or to practise the skills (in the case of conceptual or practical skills) with staff moderation, guidance and supervision.

Lectures

The Faculty and University provide a substantial programme of lectures which are designed to 'package' large bodies of knowledge into a compact and coherent form that can be assimilated and

usefully pursued by students. They provide examples of how complex materials can be organised into intellectually persuasive patterns, and enhance the development of intellectual and practical skills.

Research seminars

There are regular weekly staff-graduate research seminars in most areas covered by the streams of this programme, and they usually feature visiting and local speakers (staff members as well as advanced graduate students) for a one-hour presentation followed by questions and informal interaction. These showcases both work in progress and cutting-edge research results, and are intended to develop and enhance graduate students' research and communication skills by example.

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided in the History Faculty's Complaints and Appeals document: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Lcbte2>.

4.2 Archival research and fieldwork

Many students undertake archival research or fieldwork when preparing their dissertation. Necessity of fieldwork depends on the nature of a student's research, and funding to cover travel expenses is not automatically provided, although a limited number of small grants may be available (see Section 7).

The University is committed to ensuring that its research involving human participants is conducted in a way that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and minimises risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself. All such research needs to be subject to appropriate ethical review. More information can be found at the Research Ethics website and an online training course can be accessed on WebLearn.

If your research involves interviews, or confidential personal information such as medical records, you will need to seek approval from the Ethics Committee of the Social Sciences and Humanities Divisions (IDREC): <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/curec/apply/>. Students who intend to conduct interviews are also advised to attend the History Faculty's annual training workshop on oral history, usually scheduled for Hilary Term.

Safety and insurance

All students who wish to undertake fieldwork or archival work beyond the University must complete a Risk Assessment and take out University travel insurance. This applies even when students are travelling within the UK or travelling overseas to their country of origin. Forms for this can be found on WebLearn: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/YvCbYx>.

4.3 Expectations of study and behaviour

Expectations of study

Students are responsible for their own academic progress and are expected to attend all lectures, classes and tutorials as agreed with supervisors and course convenors, unless prevented from doing so by illness or another good reason. All graduate students are expected to apply themselves to academic work on a full-time basis throughout the duration of their course, both during university terms and vacations, except during public holidays outside term and when they take time off for personal holidays (perhaps to a total of six weeks during the year).

Students are expected to be resident in Oxford during term time. Tutorials, classes and seminars, and formal assessment will normally be scheduled only during full term or in Weeks 0 and 9. During university vacations students are expected to pursue independent study and research. Neither supervisors nor students will necessarily be in Oxford during vacations, but supervision meetings may be arranged if it is mutually convenient.

Students who may need to suspend their studies for health or other reasons should contact the Graduate Office. Longer term absences, for example due to maternity leave or unforeseen changes in personal circumstances, are permitted but the student must contact the Graduate Office to discuss this as soon as possible.

Any student who feels that their ability to study is impeded by health, disability, personal circumstances, financial issues etc. should contact the Graduate Office or their College Office or Tutor for Graduates: they will do their utmost to help.

Expectations of behaviour

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting an Oxford University student. Fellow students and staff, and members of the general public in Oxford should be treated with respect at all times. Abusive behaviour, bullying or harassment will not be tolerated; discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, disability, age or personal circumstance is absolutely unacceptable and may lead to expulsion.

Any student who is experiencing difficulties of this nature is strongly encouraged to seek advice immediately (see contacts in Section 9).

Paid or voluntary work

Some students may wish to undertake paid or voluntary work during their course. Before doing so, please consult the paid work guidelines for graduate students:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/policiesandguidance/policyonpaidwork.

Students who hold a Tier 4 visa will have restrictions on the paid and voluntary work permitted under the terms of their visa.

5. Skills and learning development

5.1 Induction

Information on postgraduate History induction events is distributed to all new students before the start of their course.

5.2 Feedback on learning and assessment

Formative feedback

- small classes or tutorial groups, which allow constant monitoring of development
- submission of written work on a regular basis
- meetings with supervisors, which occur several times a term. The dissertation is guided and monitored on a regular basis by a specialist supervisor. As mentioned earlier, your supervisor should also submit termly reports on the Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR) system..

Summative feedback

The examiners will provide summative feedback on your option essays and your dissertation. This will be sent to you and your supervisor. Please note that we are not able to release any marks until after the final exam board at the end of the course. The procedures for summative assessment are outlined in the Examination conventions.

5.3 Learning development, skills and training

Training provision

All new students are invited to fill in a self-assessment training form before they start their course. This serves as a basis of discussion about training needs and skills with their supervisor in the first meeting. Also, the form gives an indication of what training provisions are available for History postgraduates.

Further information

Training sessions: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Lcbte2> (History WebLearn > General Info)

Seminars: <http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/research-seminars> (also weekly email)

Lecture List: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/XYMINm> (History WebLearn start page)

Language training is organised through the Faculty (in conjunction with the Language Centre) at the start of the academic year, except where it is made clear to students that they need to organise their own tuition.

A wide range of information and training materials are available to help you develop your academic skills – including time management, research and library skills, referencing, revision skills and academic writing - through the university website: www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills.

The Humanities Division has a team that supports the personal and professional development of postgraduate students and researchers. The key focus of the team's role is to enhance generic skills training offered to Humanities graduate students and researchers at the University of Oxford. Details of it [can be found here](#).

5.4 Opportunities to engage in the faculty's research community

The Faculty offers a wide range of research seminars, often associated with particular Research Centres and Projects, which run during term-time throughout the academic year. These seminars are directed primarily at postgraduate students and Faculty members: www.history.ox.ac.uk/events.

Other opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement are available through The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH): www.torch.ox.ac.uk.

5.5 Course aims and learning outcomes

The programme is designed either to be taken in preparation for doctoral work, or to offer a terminal degree in preparation for professional work in which knowledge of medieval society, politics, and culture may be an advantage.

The course aims to:

- provide intensive training in one of the languages used in medieval times, and to develop reading skills to attain a research proficiency
- provide intensive palaeography or codicology training, enabling students to read medieval documents
- develop an in-depth understanding of medieval studies and a broad expertise in the intellectual disciplines through which medieval topics may be studied
- enable students to pursue particular areas of specialisation through a wide range of optional courses
- foster skills in research, writing, analysis and interpretation, through a combination of lectures, tutorials, essay-writing and supervision of a thesis on a subject of the student's choice.

Students will develop:

- the techniques, skills and knowledge required to contribute to the study of the European Middle Ages; to become familiar with the range of approaches, to evaluate them critically, and to engage in advanced discussion in the field

- the ability to carry out research, involving conceptual innovation and the identification and use of new information; acquire the experience of investigating and writing up an extended research project
- specialist and general skills of relevance to the continued professional development of a cultural understanding of the past, and which are also transferable into a wide range of employment contexts and life experiences
- the opportunity either to re-skill themselves in an area of study which was underrepresented in their undergraduate syllabus, or to explore in more depth an area of the medieval cultural heritage in which they may hope to progress to independent research

Teaching of languages, Palaeography/Codicology and Option courses is mainly by small, dedicated classes to allow flexibility of approach and regular interaction between students and teachers. Work towards the dissertation is based on one-to-one sessions with supervisors in which independent critical thinking and the cogent presentation and defence of argument can be developed.

These mixed teaching and learning contexts are intended to:

- develop students' proficiency in their chosen language, with a particular emphasis on reading proficiency
- develop the techniques, skills and knowledge required to contribute to the study of the European Middle Ages
- familiarise students with the range of approaches, to evaluate them critically, and to engage in advanced discussion in the field
- encourage students to work collaboratively in seminar and discussion contexts, as well as to work independently
- enable students to identify appropriate techniques and technologies for the assembling, recording, and presenting of research materials
- develop the ability to carry out research, involving conceptual innovation and the identification and use of new information; acquire the experience of investigating and writing up an extended research project
- develop specialist and general skills of relevance to the continued professional development of a cultural understanding of the past, and which are also transferable into a wide range of employment contexts and life experiences.

5.6 Careers information and advice

The academic and college environment at Oxford University is rich with opportunities for you to develop many transferable skills that are eagerly sought by employers. Undertaking an intellectually demanding academic course (often incorporating professional body requirements) will equip you for the demands of many jobs. Your course will enable you to research, summarise, present and defend an argument with some of the best scholars in their subject. Under the direction of an experienced researcher, you will extend their skills and experiences through practical or project work, placements

or fieldwork, writing extended essays or dissertations. In college and university sports teams, clubs and societies you will have the chance to take the lead and play an active part within and outside the University.

Surveys of our employers report that they find Oxford students better or much better than the average UK student at key employability skills such as Problem Solving, Leadership, and Communication. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year, demonstrating their demand for Oxford undergraduate and postgraduate students, fewer than 5% of whom are unemployed and seeking work six months after leaving.

Comprehensive careers advice and guidance is available from the Oxford University Careers Service, and not just while you are here: our careers support is for life. We offer tailored individual advice, job fairs and workshops to inform your job search and application process, whether your next steps are within academia or beyond. You will also have access to thousands of UK-based and international internships, work experience and job vacancies available on the [Careers Service website](#).

6. Student representation, evaluation and feedback

6.1 Faculty representation

History graduates are represented in and through the Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC), a body which includes research student members from each core seminar or group of specialist seminars, and representatives of all master's programmes within the Faculty:

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/Lcbte2>.

The Oxford History Graduate Network (OHGN) organises the election of officers of the GJCC, and also assists with the recruitment of representatives from the various research areas and master's programmes: <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/oxford-history-graduate-network>. The President and the Academic Affairs Officer of the GJCC are ex officio members of the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee.

6.2 Division and University representation

Divisional representation

Students from the faculties and departments within the Humanities Division are also represented at Divisional committee level.

University wide representation

Student representatives sitting on the Divisional Board are selected through a process organised by the Student Union (OUSU). Details can be found on the OUSU website along with information about student representation at the University level: <https://ousu.org/representing-you/>.

6.3 Opportunities to provide evaluation and feedback

Faculty feedback mechanisms

The Director of Graduate Studies will be pleased to hear any feedback or comments you have about your experience of being a graduate student with the History Faculty. Verbal, informal feedback is always welcome; more formalised feedback can be provided through the channels below. Master's students receive an annual feedback form to fill in towards the end of their course.

Questionnaires on Faculty teaching

Questionnaires to provide feedback on lectures and classes are often handed out by lecturers at the end of lecture series, and students are encouraged to complete these and hand them to the lecturer before leaving the lecture room.

Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR)

Each term graduate students are given the opportunity to report through the Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR) system on their student experience. This is particularly relevant for their regular stock-taking on their individual research for their course dissertation. This opportunity for reflection is not only useful for students themselves, it also helps their supervisors and advisors, and the Director of Graduate Studies to gain an informed view of their progress, and to identify any additional support that might profit them.

University-wide feedback mechanisms

Students on full-time and part-time matriculated courses are surveyed once per year on all aspects of their course (learning, living, pastoral support, college) through the Student Barometer. Previous results can be viewed by students, staff and the general public at: www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/student-engagement.

7. Student life and support

Details of the wide range of sources of support available more widely in the University are available from the university website, including in relation to mental and physical health and disability: www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare.

7.1 Who to contact for help

Personal and pastoral support

Students can sometimes find themselves faced with personal problems and need expert advice. Remember that a whole range of people – supervisors, college advisers, etc. – may be ready, not necessarily to solve your problem, but to advise you on where to turn to for appropriate help. So too, colleges may have a range of designated college counsellors. College chaplains, nurses, and doctors are also experienced in helping with student problems of many kinds.

The University Counselling Service (www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling) assists students who are experiencing psychological stress. Appointments can be made either by calling (2)70300 or by calling in person at their offices (3 Worcester Street); you do not need a referral from your GP or anybody else. The office of the Service is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm throughout the year, except for short periods in the vacations which are publicised on their website well in advance.

Every college has its own systems of support for students: please refer to your college handbook or website for more information on whom to contact and what support is available.

Administrative support

The Faculty's Graduate Office aims to provide advice as well as administration for students on taught Master's courses and research programmes in all fields of history. Day-to-day responsibility for the running of the Graduate Office lies with the Graduate Officer (see the History Faculty website for details: www.history.ox.ac.uk/academic-administration), who also acts as the liaison officer to the University's Student Administration Section.

The overall supervision of the activities of the Graduate Office lies with the Director of Graduate Studies, who chairs the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee and manages the development and implementation of policy on graduate matters. He is also available to offer confidential advice and assistance to graduate students, particularly on matters of teaching, learning and administration, and/or more sensitive difficulties.

Students should use the shared email address: current.graduates@history.ox.ac.uk or call 01865 615001.

General academic support

Advice for students is available through those teaching each course element and through the student's

allocated supervisor. The latter will have been chosen on the basis of his/her expertise in the field in which the student wishes to pursue research and will provide specific in-depth advice on the research topic, but will also be able to give more general guidance about library resources.

The officers of the Faculty's Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC) and of the Oxford History Graduate Network (OHGN) are also happy to provide support through the organisation of academic and social events which bring you together with fellow students. See Section 6 for details.

All students are also based in colleges, where there is a tutor for graduates or dean of graduates, with special responsibility for graduate students, and a college adviser for each individual.

7.2 Complaints and appeals

If you experience a problem with teaching or supervision on your course which you are not comfortable raising directly with the person concerned, then please discuss it with either the Strand Convenor or your College advisor, as you wish. If they are not able to resolve the issue or you do not feel comfortable raising it with them, then please contact the Director of Graduate Studies: nick.stargardt@magd.ox.ac.uk. Many issues can be resolved informally, but not all: the University has a formal complaints procedure, [which is set out here](#).

Academic appeals concern the outcome of examinations and follow a different process from complaints about teaching and supervision. You should discuss your concern in the first instance with your supervisor and College advisor/ Graduate Tutor. If you want to lodge an appeal, this has to be brought via your College to the Proctors, not via the Faculty's Graduate Studies Office. This is primarily because Oxford separates teaching and examination. Please note that on no account should you raise your concerns directly with those whom you think may have examined your work.

Please remember in connection with all academic appeals that:

- The Proctors are not empowered to challenge the academic judgement of examiners or academic bodies.
- The Proctors can consider whether the procedures for reaching an academic decision were properly followed; i.e. whether there was a significant procedural administrative error; whether there is evidence of bias or inadequate assessment; whether the examiners failed to take into account special factors affecting a candidate's performance.
- On no account should you contact your examiners or assessors directly.

For further guidance also see the [Faculty's Complaints and Appeals document](#).

7.3 Student societies

There is a wide range of student clubs and societies to get involved in - more details can be found [here](#).

7.4 University policies and regulations

The University has a wide range of policies and regulations that apply to students. These are easily accessible through the A-Z of University regulations, codes of conduct and policies available on the Oxford Students website www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations/a-z.

Please see the University Awards Framework (UAF) for information on the different qualifications that the University awards and explains how they relate to the national standards agreed for higher education qualifications: <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/policiesandguidance/awardsframework/>.

Relevant subject benchmark statement: There is no [subject benchmark statement](#) for a History degree at Master's level.

7.5 Equality and Diversity at Oxford

“The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected” [Equality Policy \(2013\)](#).

Oxford is a diverse community with staff and students from over 140 countries, all with different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration.

The Equality and Diversity Unit works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the ‘protected characteristics’ of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief and sexual orientation. [Visit our website for further details](#) or [contact us directly for advice](#).

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges and a central Harassment Advisory Service. More information on the University’s Harassment and Bullying policy and the support available for students can be found [here](#).

There is range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students. More information can be found [here](#).

7.6 Student Welfare and Support Services

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with

organising disability-related study support. For more information visit www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das.

The Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service. More information can be found [here](#).

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the Oxford SU's Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer.

OXFORD SU also runs a series of campaigns to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students. For full details, visit <https://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/>.

7.7 Prizes and funding

The History Faculty is able to provide some support for student research through its [trust funds](#), but you are expected to explore also other sources of support such as your college.

The Faculty also offers annual prizes for the best dissertations.

A central list of all University prizes can be found [here](#).

8. Facilities

8.1 Social spaces and facilities

The Joan Thirsk Common Room in the History Faculty is open to all graduate students from 8am to 9pm every day, except for some limited periods in vacations, or when the room is booked for conferences or workshops. There is a hot drinks vending machine and a water dispenser

During term, the History Faculty Librarian will hold drop-in surgeries in the Common Room at least once a week. The times will be published on WebLearn.

Students are also welcome to use the History Faculty garden as a social space.

The History Faculty has a number of rooms that can be booked for meetings, classes, seminars, workshops, etc. Rooms must be booked in advance by calling Reception (01865 6 15000) or emailing board.admin@history.ox.ac.uk.

History graduates are also welcome to use library and common room in the new Social Sciences Centre at Manor Road.

The University Club in Mansfield Road (www.club.ox.ac.uk) provides social and sporting facilities for employees, graduate students, alumnae and visitors. There is no fee for graduate members. The Oxford Union Society in St Michael's Street (www.oxford-union.org) is more central and traditional. It offers not only a useful lending library, but also a dining room, games and television rooms, and a bar, but these are available to members only. Membership is by subscription. If you are interested you should make contact as soon as possible after you arrive in Oxford: substantial discounts are available for those joining early.

And finally, college Graduate or 'Middle' Common Rooms are often lively places, and offer a good opportunity for meeting people in other disciplines.

8.2 Workspace

The History Faculty does not provide dedicated workspace for Master's students in the building. Students are advised to ask whether their college has suitable facilities.

However, the Faculty's Joan Thirsk Common Room has Wi-Fi access and power sockets for the use of laptops, and students have found it appropriate for informal group discussions relating to class preparation.

8.3 Libraries and museums

Libraries

There are several resources in Oxford that provide support for both taught and research elements of the course:

- The Bodleian Libraries. Under this heading come most of Oxford's libraries, including the main Bodleian Library and the Weston Library with its specialist collections.
- The Bodleian History Faculty Library collections are located in the Radcliffe Camera and Gladstone Link on the central Bodleian Library site. The Library houses the University of Oxford's main collection of undergraduate lending materials in both Medieval and Modern History, as well as in the History of Art and History of Science. Designed primarily to serve undergraduates reading for the Honour School of Modern History and associated joint schools in the University, as well as undergraduates in the Department of History of Art, it also serves as a lending resource for graduate students and Senior Members of the Faculty of History.
- The Taylor Institution Library with its extensive holdings in European languages and literature.
- The Radcliffe Science Library collection includes works on the history of science and medicine of all parts of the world.
- The Bodleian Law Library contains materials on Indian legislation, Indian law reports and textbooks on Indian law, and a basic collection of law reports for Pakistan.
- College libraries are usually open only to members of their own college, though access may be granted to other members of the University who can show academic need for consulting material only available in a particular college.

Museums

Students are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the University museums, particularly those which hold items, or conduct research, relevant to their area(s) of study. These are likely to include:

- The Ashmolean Museum for Art and Archaeology (www.ashmolean.org)
- The Pitt Rivers Museum for Anthropology and Archaeology (www.prm.ox.ac.uk).
- The Museum of the History of Science (www.mhs.ox.ac.uk)
- The Oxford University Museum of Natural History (www.oum.ox.ac.uk).

8.4 IT

There is an extensive network of IT resources and support within Oxford. Colleges provide good IT resources, and Support Officers prepared to train and assist students. Oxford University IT Services also provides facilities for graduates and a variety of training programmes. The University holds site licences which allow access to a number of important English language research tools (e.g. corpora and the software which is used to work with them).

The History Faculty employs their own IT support staff, and each Faculty offers dedicated networked graduate workspace.

IT training is provided by IT Services: an up to date list of courses can be found here:

<https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/do/training-and-facilities>. Students can also buy a range of discounted software from the IT Services shop (<http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/want/shop/>).

9. Other useful information

9.1 Buildings, locations and accessibility

Key locations for this course are:

- The History Faculty (<https://goo.gl/maps/BBntwGne8h62>)
- The History Faculty Library in the Radcliffe Camera (<https://goo.gl/maps/EAcCSm4gi3T2>)
- The History of Art Department (<https://goo.gl/maps/D36rGSov89920>)
- The Sackler Library (<https://goo.gl/maps/BwxPziJeMS42>)
- Examination Schools (<https://goo.gl/maps/UP7AdWTWJR22>).

The location and accessibility of many University buildings are described in this online Access Guide: <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/access/>.

9.2 Other contacts

Course Convenor and class leaders

Details of course convenors and class tutors can be [found on WebLearn](#).

Disability contacts

The Disability Co-ordinator for graduate students is Alex Vickers (alexandra.vickers@history.ox.ac.uk), and she can help with all general enquiries. Students can also contact the Secretary to the Disability Working Group, Dr Jeannie Scott (jeannie.scott@history.ox.ac.uk).

Harassment advisors

The History Faculty Harassment Advisors are Dr Matthew Grimley (matthew.grimley@merton.ox.ac.uk) and Dr Sloan Mahone (sloan.mahone@history.ox.ac.uk).

Students are welcome to contact them for a confidential discussion about any concerns.

Other useful History Faculty contacts

- Reception and general enquiries: board.admin@history.ox.ac.uk
- IT Support: itsupport@history.ox.ac.uk
- History Faculty Library isabel.holowaty@bodleian.ox.ac.uk