



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) History and Media

Course Code: BHISM

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

BA (Hons) History and Media (BHISM)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Undergraduate Entrants

Confirmed at DEC/2023

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) History and Media
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Arts History and Media (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education History and Media (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education History and Media (Level 4)
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years (full time, campus based)• 6 years (part time, campus based)
Part Time Study	PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of Delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to:

Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr Gráinne Goodwin

G.Goodwin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Academic Advisor

An Academic Advisor drawn from the Course Team will be allocated at induction.

Your Course Administrator

The name of your Course Administrator/s will be confirmed during induction. Their contact details are:

HistoryAdmin@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

There is an optional Module at Level 6, 'Career Cartographies: work-integrated learning in the Humanities', which involves work placement.

Length

Level 6: 80 hours work placement.

Location

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependent on the opportunity.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

N/A

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

N/A

Course Overview

Aims

How has the past been experienced and recorded? How has culture been created and disseminated? How have evolving modes of communication and digital media transformed perceptions of history and culture? These are key questions that students studying the BA (Hons) History & Media course will grapple with. The course is designed to appeal to students with a combined interest in modern history and media contexts and forms. It allows them to examine how historical events have been interpreted and presented in media formats, as well as to appreciate how history can contextualise our increasingly media- and data-centric world.

The degree has been developed to provide students with a thorough grounding in competencies from each subject, including close analysis, data-gathering, information-processing and critical reflection as applied to a range of media formats, historical evidence and academic scholarship from both disciplines. To this end, first-year students are introduced to key concepts, methods and approaches in the History and Media subject areas through core modules. For the History component this entails an immersion in source analysis, academic history writing and engagement with historiography, whilst the Media component introduces students to empirical media research, television studies and links between media institutions, policy and public audiences. This underpinning allows students to build on disciplinary foundations before engaging with the interconnections and frictions between the two subjects in advanced levels of the degree.

The interdisciplinary approach nurtured on the degree and the alignment of skills and methods from the two subject areas empowers students to become media literate in a unique way. The degree blends the historical scepticism, evaluation of evidence, consideration of context and scrutiny of agency integral to history, with the analysis of form and function and the appraisal of reception and consumption central to media studies. Students on the degree will encounter interdisciplinary modules and assignments which encourage them to challenge media conventions, mono-causal explanations, dominant values and behaviours, oversimplification, lack of evidence and data manipulation. As a result, the degree furnishes students with a conceptual and practical set of communicative, audio-visual, critical and historical skills

that enable them to become the media literate consumers, contributors and critics sought in today's technologically-mediated society.

Interdisciplinarity is developed specifically in core modules at Levels 5 (*Swinging Britain: Turned on & Tuned in to the Sixties*) and 6 (*Mediating Modernities*) which are bespoke to this joint programme. These modules develop progressively more complex appreciations of interdisciplinary perspectives, methods and contexts and will equip students with the capabilities to pursue the intersections between History and Media through their final year dissertation project. The course is designed to allow students to specialise in aspects of the historical and media fields with elective modules introduced in the second and third years of study. These elective modules enable students to extend and sharpen their skills in media literacy by deconstructing news and entertainment, considering ownership and audience biases, examining how historical, socio-political and media structures exert influence and to become active media creators in their own right through various innovative assessments. The optionality at Levels 5 and 6 also reflects the current research interests of staff across both subject teams and offers student the opportunity to shape their own pathway through the degree. Students may also pursue professional development should they wish to do so, through elective modules such as *Media Professionals' Workshop*, *Applied Humanities: Live-Brief Learning*, *Digital History*, *Public History Project* or *Career Cartographies*.

Overall the aims of the programme are to enable students to:

- develop an appreciation of the disciplines of History and Media and the interconnections between them from the early modern era to the present and across local, national and global arenas;
- engage critically with historical evidence and media forms, past and present, from a wide range of cultures, contexts and genres;
- evaluate theories, methods and approaches relevant to both disciplines and apply these with confidence and creativity;
- practice and hone media literacy through critical and creative evaluation of historical and media artefacts and tailor the outputs they produce to specific types of media, context and audience by using relevant software, applications and communication techniques;
- acquire the attributes and transferable skills relevant for professional careers or further study, including independent research, team work, oral and written communication, digital literacies, self-motivation, enterprise and networking.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) understand the interconnections and variations between the disciplines of History and Media and apply interdisciplinary approaches to generate innovative insights into historical evidence and media forms.
- 2) assess how historical, technological, cultural and socio-political change are understood in relation to each other and how key social identities (including disability, sexuality, class, gender, ethnicity, age, religion and race) and local, national and international dynamics have shaped the experiences of the past and the creation of and access to media forms.

- 3) locate, interrogate, analyse and reflect critically upon primary sources and texts (in visual, material, audio and digital as well as textual formats) and apply the methods used by historians and media and cultural critics to evaluate such evidence.
- 4) formulate sophisticated arguments and interpretations of History and Media approaches, sources and contexts and communicate these effectively verbally and in writing.
- 5) appreciate different interpretive viewpoints and theoretical perspectives in order to reflect on and engage critically with major thinkers and debates within the fields of History and Media, applying and synthesising them productively in their own work.
- 6) work in flexible, creative and independent ways in a range of settings (academic, professional and social) by utilising the enterprise skills of reflexivity, self-motivation, collaboration, problem-solving, digital and media literacy, and effective communication.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Lectures and seminars will be delivered in person. Additional learning resources will also be provided online via our Virtual Learning Environment. The course is delivered through a range of teaching and learning activities that build student knowledge both horizontally (in terms of breadth of historical and cultural subject matter each year) and vertically (in terms of depth of knowledge and engagement with interdisciplinarity year on year). This is done through weekly lectures, seminars, screenings and tutorials, although there is considerable variation in how these activities are developed within individual modules. Each module involves three hours of contact time for students, some colleagues teach in 1.5 hour blocks whilst, depending on activities and often in the final year, others are structured into 1-hour lectures/2-hour seminars. Where academic content and good educational practice make it appropriate, student learning may be facilitated through a range of digital technologies.

Lectures offer students an introduction to concepts, methods, historical contexts and theoretical perspectives. Lectures use PowerPoint slides, images, and audio/visual material and are supported by handouts, slides and, where possible, lecture capture recordings posted on the virtual learning environment, MyBeckett. The lectures frame key issues which are then developed and applied in guided seminar discussion. Seminars involve a range of activities focused on small-group learning, including close reading of primary sources, discussion of media artefacts, student presentations and plenary sessions. This standard delivery is supplemented by other forms of inclusive learning such as group projects, IT lab sessions, and museum, archival and library visits. Digital resources and databases are also integral to the degree and create an inclusive learning environment through which students can engage when they are not present on campus or in the library.

Students gain experience of independent learning through, for example, the close reading of primary and secondary sources which are suggested by the module tutor, conducting research using books, journals, web-sites and electronic databases, completing seminar preparation tasks, keeping a reflective learning journal and collaborative work with other students on prepared topics (for both assessed and informal presentations). At Level 4 all modules involve an engagement component which acknowledges student achievement by rewarding students for attendance, using learning resources, online and in the library, to prepare for seminars. Students are also supported in their learning throughout their course through the

Academic Advisors system in which individual students can receive one-to-one support and module tutors offer weekly consultation hours to support student needs on any given module. At Level 6 dissertations/major projects are taught exclusively via one-to-one supervision system with a research-active member of staff.

The degree also offers a number of opportunities for students to pursue work-related modules such as *Media Professional Workshop*, *Applied Humanities: Live-Learning Brief*, *Public History Project* and *Career Cartographies*. On these modules students will work closely with partner organisations and experts from industry on 'real-life' employability scenarios. This is supplemented by a range of enhancement sessions that focus on graduate prospects including trips to Media City, the Get Involved/Get Hired careers fair and bespoke employment sessions, designed by the School of Cultural Studies & Humanities Careers' consultant and incorporating alumni who share their graduate experiences of work and jobhunting.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 4			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Emergence of Modern Europe (History) (20 credits)	Y	Researching Television (Media) (20 credits)	Y
Society & Culture in Modern Britain, c.1780 – 1914 (History) (20 credits)	Y	BBC Radio: Cultural Talk, Public Purposes (Media) (20 credits)	Y
Media Interactions (Media) (20 credits)	Y	Century of Conflict? War and Peace in Europe, 1914-c.2000 (History) (20 credits)	Y

Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Media: Past/Present, When	Y	Researching Media and Culture	Y

Where (Media) (20 credits)		(Media) (20 credits)	
Swinging Britain: Turned on & Tuned in to the Sixties (Interdisciplinary) (20 credits)	Y	A History Option Module (20 credits)	N
A History Option Module (20 credits)	N	A History, Media or the Interdisciplinary Option Module (20 credits)	N

Indicative Option Modules

The following modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

History Option Modules

Beyond Men & Women: Themes in Western Gender History, c. 1870-2000

Atlantic Revolutions

Thatcher's Britain

Bringing the Empire Home, 1851-1914

Digital History

Genocide & the Politics of Memory

Landscapes of History

Radicals, Reformers & Revolutionaries in the British Isles, 1760-1922

Revolution! Europe 1789-1871

Slavery & Unfree Labour in the British Empire: Comparative Case Studies

Totalitarianism: State Ideology and Mass Politics in the 20th Century

War, Welfare and Society: Modern Britain, c. 1900-1950

Media Option Modules

Comedy, Media and Diversity

Youth, Crime and Culture

Media Professionals' Workshop

Interdisciplinary Option Module

Applied Humanities: Live-Brief Learning

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
History & Media Dissertation or Working with the Past Major Project – delivered across Semesters 1 and 2 (Interdisciplinary) (40 credits)	Y	History & Media Dissertation or Working with the Past Major Project (continued)	Y
Mediating Modernities (Interdisciplinary) (20 credits)	Y	A Media Option Module (20 credits)	N
A History, Media or the Interdisciplinary Option Module (20 credits)	N	A History Option Module (20 credits)	N

Indicative Option Modules

The following modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

History Option Modules

Beyond the Ballot: Politics & Society in Britain, 1918-2018

Communist Eastern Europe 1945-1990: Peeking behind the Iron Curtain

Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa

Britishness: Nation and Identity since 1707

Britons Abroad: Histories of Overseas Travel & Holidaying, c. 1750-1990

Civil Rights in North America

Environmentalism in World History

Streetlife: Urban Culture & Society since c. 1850

The Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism, Democracy

Under-Represented Heritage

Public History Project

“People’s War”: Understanding the British Home Front, c.1939-45

Decolonisation Past & Present

Media Option Modules

Race, Culture and Media

Sports Media

Lifestyle, Media, Identity

Media Celebrity & Film Stardom

Digital and Media Cultures

Challenging Gaming Culture
 Human Obsolescence
 Music and The Digital
 Space Media
 Surveillance Cultures

Interdisciplinary Option Module

Career Cartographies

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	180 hours	180 hours	174 hours
Independent Study	1020 hours	1020 hours	1026 hours
Placement	-	-	80 hours (on Career Cartographies only)

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a

transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and Opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.