



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) History

Course Code: HSTBH

2024/25

BA (Hons) History (HSTBH)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Undergraduate Entrants

Confirmed at DEC/2023

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts (with honours) History
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Arts History (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education History (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education History (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 Rachel Rich

R.Rich@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Academic Advisor

An Academic Advisor drawn from the Course Team will be allocated to you 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 optional 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

The course is organised along the following four thematic strands:

- British History: Themes addressed on this strand include: urbanization, gender relations, class and its relevance, race and ethnic identities, environmentalism, criminality and youth culture;
- European History – This strand examines the rise of Europe and European ideas to global prominence over the last 500 years, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;
- The Wider World – This strand explores the relationship between the West and the Wider World, with focus on cultural encounters between peoples of European and non-European ancestry over the past 500 years. Areas of study include: European contact with native peoples in the Americas, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and Australasia; migration to and within Europe; the relationship between Britain and its Empire; American hegemony and its discontents; Globalisation;
- Working with The Past – Our public history strand offers students opportunities to engage with history in the ‘real world’, especially with regard to how history is consumed by the public through such things as displays in museums, films, and other media. This strand also has a strong emphasis on local Yorkshire history.

Once enrolled on the course, students study three 20-credit modules per semester. Each module involves a combination of lectures and seminars, with further tutorial contact hours with module instructors. Outside class, students are expected to do independent reading, research and preparation related to the modules they are studying. In developing the new content and structure of the course, we have taken into consideration student feedback gleaned from focus groups, module evaluations, and the NSS.

Over the years this has led us to bring in more long seminars (90 minutes or two hours); we have reduced the number of exams used in assessment; we have expanded the diet of assessment to introduce students to a wider range of skills; and we have introduced an engagement component to

our Level 4 assessment in response to student concerns about the seminar experience.

We have also gathered specific feedback about the current changes, finding that students are supportive of the introduction of optionality at Level 5, and the introduction of an optional live brief employability module, along with an option module at Level 6 enabling them to apply their knowledge and skills in a work-based environment and plan future career paths. We have also introduced opportunities for students to study optional interdisciplinary modules, where they are taught in conjunction with students from other subject groups (Media and English Literature) within the School of Cultural Studies and Humanities.

As part of the course, students will encounter varied forms of assessment that may include: extended essays, timed exams, presentations, poster displays, museum reports, blog writing, podcasting and assessed engagement. Taken together, the wide range of modes of assessment develops and measures students' abilities to think, speak and write critically, to reflect on the discipline and their own practice of it, to work both independently and as part of a group, to manage their time and operate as professionals within the discipline. At the same time, students will be encouraged to acquire skills in digital information retrieval and the production of material using a range of digital platforms including the MyBeckett VLE, PowerPoint, WordPress and others.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1	At the end of the course, you will be able to evaluate, interpret and analyse primary and secondary sources from a wide range of places and across the modern period (c. 1750-2000).
2	At the end of the course you will be able to reflect critically on historical methods and approaches, and apply at least some of these in your own research.
3	At the end to the course, you will be able to formulate arguments and discuss evidence verbally and in writing.
4	At the end to the course, you will be able to carry out independent projects, using a variety of research skills, with appropriate supervision.
5	At the end to the course, you will be able to work effectively with others (within and beyond the university), understand diverse cultures historically, and appreciate different interpretive viewpoints.
6	At the end to the course, you will be able to use digital technology in learning, research, and analysis, and to communicate your findings with others.

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 learning and teaching activities that build student knowledge both horizontally (in terms of the breadth of historical subject matter covered each year) and vertically (in terms of building depth of knowledge year on year). This is in line with the expectations set out in the QAA History benchmark statement which stipulates the importance of time depth and geographic range (section 4, points 4.2 and 4.3). The Benchmark statement also highlights the importance of progression (section 5, point 5.1), something which occurs in our degree as students move through the learning pathway, deepening their understanding and critical awareness (see Benchmark Statement point 4.5).

Most modules offer a weekly lecture followed by a seminar (large-group and small-group teaching). Lectures are a space in which concepts and methods are introduced; seminars are the space in which students can learn to apply them by testing their points of view in guided discussion. Where academic content and good educational practice make it appropriate, student learning may be facilitated through a range of digital technologies. Delivery is also supplemented where appropriate with other forms of inclusive learning such as group projects, web reviews, and museum, archival and library visits (all fully accessible) to hone students' research skills and employability. This structure is underpinned by a range of authentic assessments, culminating in the writing of an extended piece of work, the dissertation or working with the past major project, at Level 6. This fits with the Benchmark Statement, which notes the importance of 'an extended piece of work' (point 4.7).

A great deal of learning also goes on outside the traditional classroom format. At Level 4, our engagement component rewards student for using learning resources, in the library and online, to prepare for seminars. The library supports us in providing an ever-increasing range of digital resources, including eBooks which are now acquired through a responsive system in which student demand leads to acquisition. Digital resources are increasingly central to historical research, but are particularly a feature of our teaching and learning philosophy as they create an inclusive learning environment in which students can continue to engage with materials on days when they are not present on campus or in the library. This commitment to inclusivity goes beyond the digital format, to informing the content of our reading lists and our commitment to teaching students to think critically about difference, and to draw on their own range of experience when learning about the past.

Our approach to teaching and learning is rooted in an understanding of history as a problem-solving discipline, so our students encounter a range of authentic assessments including project-based learning, poster design, group-work tasks, and 'live' project briefs. Active learning, in lectures, seminars, and assessments, is key to keeping students engaged. Students are also supported by the academic advisor system in which students have access to a personal advisor, and by a system of staff consultation hours to ensure that individual students can receive tutorial support in relation to any given module. Level 6 dissertations/major projects are taught exclusively via a one-to-one tutorial system with a research-active member of staff.

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 (20 credits)	Y	Century of Conflict? War and Peace in Europe, 1914-c.2000 (20 credits)	Y
Trade, Colonisation and Empire (20 credits)	Y	Migration and Cultural Encounters (20 credits)	Y
Society and Culture in Modern Britain, c.1780-1914 (20 credits)	Y	The Public and the Past (20 credits)	Y

Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Option Module 1 (20 credits)	N	History: Theory and Practice (20 credits)	Y
Option Module 2 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 4 (20 credits)	N
Option Module 3 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 5 (20 credits)	N

Indicative Option Modules

Level 5 options are not all offered in every year. Rather, this is the full list of modules, from which students will be offered a choice of 3 from 4 in semester one and 2 from 4 in semester two. In semester two all students must take the core module, History: Theory and Practice. Thus this list should be taken as indicative, given that we cannot guarantee that a specific module will run in a given year due to issues affecting staff availability such as research leave:

- Thatcher's Britain
- War, Welfare and Society: Modern Britain, c. 1900-1950
- Radicals, Reformers and Revolutionaries in the British Isles, 1760-1922
- Beyond Men and Women: Themes in Western Gender History, c. 1870-2000
- Atlantic Revolutions
- Revolution! Europe 1789-1871
- Totalitarianism: State Ideology and Mass Politics in the Twentieth Century
- Slavery and Unfree Labour in the British Empire: Comparative Case Studies
- Bringing the Empire Home, 1851-1914
- Genocide and the Politics of Memory
- Digital History
- Landscapes of History
- Applied Humanities: Live-Brief Learning
- Swinging Britain: Turned on and Tuned in to the Sixties
- Everybody Hurts: Health, Disability and Wellbeing

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Dissertation or Working with the Past Major Project – delivered across Semesters 1 and 2 (40 credits)	Y	Dissertation or Working with the Past Major Project (continued)	Y
Option Module 1 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 3 (20 credits)	N
Option Module 2 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 4 (20 credits)	N

Indicative Option Modules

The following option modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Thus this list should be taken as indicative, given that we cannot guarantee that a specific module will run in a given year due to issues affecting staff availability such as research leave. Students choose four of:

- Beyond the Ballot: Politics and Society in Britain, 1918-2018
- 'Career Cartographies': work-integrated learning in the Humanities
- Conmen and Cutpurses: Crime in the Old Bailey, c. 1700-1868
- Britons Abroad: Histories of Overseas Travel and Holidaying, c. 1750-1970
- Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa
- Public History Project

- Communist Eastern Europe 1945-1990: Peeking Behind the 'Iron Curtain'
- Restaurants, Roundabouts and Revolutions: Paris in the Nineteenth Century
- Streetlife: Urban Culture and Society Since c.1850
- Environmentalism in World History
- Civil Rights in North America
- Britishness: Nation and Society since 1707
- The Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism, Democracy
- Under-Represented Heritage
- People's War': Understanding the British Home Front, c.1939-45
- Sea and Society since 1750
- Mediating Modernities: Visual Culture and Urban Space c.1850-1989
- Decolonisation Past & Present

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	1060 hours	1026 hours
Placement	-	-	80 hours (on Careers Cartography option 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.