



**LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY**

Course information for applicants

This information applies to the course as it will be delivered to students starting the course in 2027/28.
Information provided here was confirmed on 24/09/2026

General information

Programme code

MMCOH

Target award

If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:
MA Modern and Contemporary History

Delivery mode

- ☒ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study

The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.

Awarding body

Leeds Beckett University

Regulator

Office for Students

Level of qualification

Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Course duration

If you are made an offer of a place on the course, your offer letter will include the start date.

This course can be studied:

- 12 months full-time
- 24 months part-time

Part-time study

This course can be studied part-time.

If you study the course part-time, it will usually take twice as long to complete compared with the equivalent full-time course. The modules may be delivered in a different sequence than on the full-time course, but you will study the same modules at each academic level. With the agreement of the course team, you may be able to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration.

As a part-time student, you will not usually have the option of a work placement.

Work placement

This course does not include a placement year.

Entry requirements

Admissions criteria are available on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have previous relevant qualifications or experience, you could be exempt from certain parts of your course. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows you to start your course at a point appropriate to the learning and skills that you may have developed in a professional, vocational or community setting.

Find out more here: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning>

If you have questions about entry requirements and admissions, contact AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course fees

Course fees and a breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have questions about fees for this course, contact Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable

You will receive your full timetable for the year during induction week.

What you will study

Course aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- a) Develop an understanding of contemporary approaches to the study of modern and contemporary history;
- b) Encourage critical engagement with theories, concepts, debates and interpretations in the field of modern and contemporary history;
- c) Develop knowledge of major themes and developments in history since 1750;
- d) Support the evaluation and application of a range of current methods and methodologies for historical research;
- e) Develop critical awareness of the variety of sources available, including archive sources and electronic sources and their appropriateness for specific types of historical study;
- f) Develop intellectual independence and undertake independent study.

Teaching and learning activities

Teaching will be delivered in person. Additional learning resources will also be provided online via our Virtual Learning Environment.

Sessions will include a variety of learning activities including document analysis; seminar discussion based on close reading; presentations; tutor-led introductory lectures; debate and group work. Teaching and learning methods, therefore, aim to enhance collaborative and group skills, as well as the abilities and initiative of the individual scholar. The course team recognises that a significant part of learning takes place outside taught sessions, in study undertaken by students individually and in groups. Each week students are expected to undertake directed reading and to engage in directed tasks, such as book searches and primary source analysis. The move to increasing levels of student independence is modified as the course progresses, with significant levels of support in 'Researching Cultures', in order to build up students' knowledge and confidence, and proportionately less in the Dissertation, when students are expected to demonstrate a substantial degree of personal initiative and decision-making.

Teaching is delivered in two 12-week semesters. Students study three 20 Credit modules (or equivalent) in each semester. Dissertation skills are discussed and developed in the core semester two module Making Histories. At the end of the module students are assigned a supervisor and work independently on their dissertation over the summer. Students are also expected to do independent reading, research and preparation related to the modules they are studying.

Students are provided with guidance on the best ways to engage with all modes of teaching and learning, along with support to assist acquisition of academic knowledge and associated development of high-level skills. Engagement with each module studied during both semesters is expected, and students will encounter varied forms of assessment that are designed to demonstrate their academic progress.

Course structure

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. If you have to repeat study or take time out during your course, you may be taught alternative modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes.

The option modules listed may vary. Those listed here are likely to be offered in a typical year.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Researching Cultures	20	1
Making Histories	20	2
Students choose either:		
Dissertation OR	60	Over the summer
MA Modern and Contemporary History Major Project	60	Over the summer
*The Modules will include <u>four</u> of the following with two in each Semester:		
All Consuming: Researching Eighteenth Century Material Culture	20	
Cultures of Confinement: The United States, 1800-2020	20	
Documents of Life: Debates and Controversies	20	
European Cities: Making Urban Landscapes and Cultures since c.1945	20	

Histories of Fame: From Byron to Beyonce and beyond	20	
Field to Fork: Food History in a Global World	20	
Journeys and Discoveries: Travel, tourism and exploration 1750-2020	20	
Organised Crime in the Modern World: Global Criminal Cultures	20	
Real Men? British Masculinities, c.1850-2000	20	
Rethinking the Past: Definitions, Concepts and Approaches to Public History	20	
Great Britain and the Italian Question	20	
Useable Pasts	20	
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	180	

***These modules rotate on an annual basis. Not all modules listed may be available in your year of entry.**

Assessment and feedback

The balance of assessment may change depending on which option modules you choose.

Level 7

This course contains a mixture of coursework assessments and an extended dissertation project. Each module has a single point of assessment and we work with students to manage their time effectively. As this is a postgraduate course, it is essential that you develop your core academic skills through researching for and writing essays. These are skills which you will extend and deepen in the writing of your MA dissertation proposal and dissertation. These skills are complemented by those developed in other forms of assessment which can include presentations, research posters, and other writing tasks.

Workload

You can expect to spend a total of 100 hours learning per 10 credits.

Your work for the MA Modern and Contemporary History will be made up of a large number of hours of independent study outside the classroom. Classroom hours will support and guide your learning, with much of the content of classroom discussion coming from the reading you will be expected to do in preparation. There are no work placements on this course, but students wishing to look for relevant work experience are encouraged to do so, and will be supported by our careers advisor in looking for opportunities.

Typically, a student on this course can expect to divide their time like this:

Overall workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	174 hours
Independent study	1670 hours
Placement study	-