



HISTORY

gold.ac.uk/history

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

As a Goldsmiths History student you'll be studying the past thematically as well as chronologically. You'll be thinking about the way history is informed by a wide range of other subjects and how knowledge of the past helps us to understand the present world and shape the future.

Our staff are specialists in the histories of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe (particularly the Balkans/East-Central Europe/Russia and Britain), and they are internationally recognised, award-winning experts in their fields, teaching and researching medical, political, military, cultural, social, visual, material culture, religious, intellectual and gender history.

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Why choose History at Goldsmiths?

We're ranked among the top in the UK. History at Goldsmiths has been ranked 11th in the UK for the quality of our academics' research*, and our students rate our staff 90 out of 100 for the quality of their teaching.**

We're innovative. You will encounter subjects you might not find at other universities, and investigate the diversity of human life through fascinating themes like madness, medicine, revolution, empires, religious beliefs, identities and the body. And you will explore history through written, material, visual and oral sources.

We're part of a bigger network. You can take advantage of Goldsmiths' location and its place as part of the University of London with access to great libraries and the vast range of historical sources held in London's museums, archives and galleries. You will be able to take modules at other University of London colleges - including over 60 'special subjects' that cover just about everything. You'll also have the opportunity to apply your academic skills within the workplace, through our History at Work scheme. In addition, through the Erasmus+ scheme you could live in a European city for part of your degree.

We're engaged. And we want you to argue with us. Come and unpick the evidence, and make up your own mind about the subjects that most interest you. We're a small, friendly and ambitious department with student-focused, enthusiastic staff who aim to help you achieve your full potential and follow your own historical interests.

**Research Excellence Framework 2014, Times Higher Education research intensity subject rankings*

***2016 National Student Survey*

OUR DEGREES



- BA (Hons) History
- BA (Hons) English & History
- BA (Hons) History & Anthropology
- BA (Hons) History & Journalism
- BA (Hons) History & Politics
- BA (Hons) History & History of Ideas
- Integrated Degree in History
(including Foundation Year)

BA (Hons) History

3 years full-time, or 4-5 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history

This degree allows you to explore a variety of themes across time and place, or to focus on a particular theme or period. Whichever pathway you create, you'll have the advice and guidance of your personal tutor throughout the programme.

In your first year, you will take four compulsory modules that will introduce you to different methods of studying history, and the themes, concepts and topics that underpin the modules you'll be studying in the following years.

In your second and third years you'll have a free choice of modules, enabling you to design your own programme of study based on your interests. Your choices may include modules from the History departments of other University of London colleges and/or Goldsmiths departments and/or a History at Work professional work experience placement (see page 20).

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Dictators, War and Revolution
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Self, Citizen and Nation
Concepts and Methods in History

Year 2

Free choice options (see pages 16-17) totalling 120 credits

You may take 30 credits as an intercollegiate module (Group 2 Paper) offered by history departments throughout the University of London

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange

Year 3

Free choice of History options (see pages 16-17), totalling 60 credits

Plus one 60-credit Special Subject from a range taught federally across the University of London, including Goldsmiths (see page 18)

In Years 2 and 3, 30 of the total 120 credits may be taken as a 'related study' (an approved module from another department)

BA (Hons) English & History

3 years full-time, or 4-6 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-history

On this degree you'll be introduced to the skills of the historian, and encouraged to analyse societies and their structures in a way that will inform and complement your literary studies. You'll also have the opportunity to apply your academic skills within the workplace, through our History at Work scheme.

In your first year, you'll be introduced to essential concepts in literary study, read a wide range of works covering the major literary genres, and become aware of changing views of the past. You'll choose between learning about cultural and intellectual history, modern political history, or religion, peace and conflict.

Your second year consists of an interdisciplinary module or modules, plus a combination of English and History modules. For English, you might want to: examine the literature and ideas of the 16th and 17th centuries; investigate how the concept of the American nation state was produced in 19th-century literature; or make a literary and cultural analysis of Shakespeare's or Chaucer's work. And, for History, you could: explore the transmission of knowledge along the Silk Roads; examine the history of South Asia from the height of Mughal power to partition and independence, or heretical thought in early modern Europe; investigate the recent history of the Middle East or a range of European countries; or learn how to utilise new media to communicate historical information.

In your third year you'll complete an interdisciplinary written project and continue to deepen your knowledge by balancing your previous year's selections in English and History. You might: take a creative writing option; explore the close relationship between literature and film in the 20th century; investigate the socio-military history of World War I; study aspects of African history or Victorian poverty; or do a History at Work professional work experience placement.

TYPICAL MODULES

YEAR 01

Compulsory modules:

Literature of the Victorian Period
Approaches to Text
Concepts and Methods in History

Plus one first year history option such as:

Dictators, War and Revolution
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Self, Citizen and Nation

YEAR 02

Modules totalling 120 credits

English/History interdisciplinary module
History option
One pre-1800 literature option in English
Additional English or History option

A History module worth 30 credits may be taken as an intercollegiate module (Group 2 Paper) offered by history departments throughout the University of London

YEAR 03

Modules totalling 120 credits

Interdisciplinary Project
History option/s
English option
Additional 30 credits of English or History option/s

History options include Special Subjects taught federally across the University of London, including Goldsmiths (see page 18)

In Years 2 and 3, 30 of the total 120 credits may be taken as a 'related study' (an approved module from another department)

BA (Hons) History & Anthropology

3 years full-time, or 4-5 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history-anthropology

On this degree you will explore the two disciplines that are key to understanding human life, culture and society in the past and present, considering contemporary cultural issues from an historical perspective.

Your first-year modules cover the key methods and perspectives in history and anthropology. You'll also learn about the role of ethnography by focusing on the linguistic and cultural groupings of a particular region.

In your second year, you'll investigate the 'classic' theories on religion, magic, myth, ritual, morality, symbolism and belief, then explore the interactions between changing economic and political structures in modern life via ethnographic examples. This will be alongside two History options. You can also take a 'related study' - a module from another department.

In your third year, you'll explore in depth the tensions and connections between history and anthropology. Your individual project is a chance to develop your own personal interests across the two disciplines. You're free to choose from a range of history and anthropology options, including a Special Subject module from another University of London history department.

As a student in the Department of History, you'll also have the opportunity to undertake a professional work placement through the History at Work module.

TYPICAL MODULES

YEAR
01

Compulsory modules:

Introduction to
Social Anthropology
Anthropological Methods
Ethnography of a Selected Region
Concepts and Methods in History

Plus a choice of one of the following History modules:

Dictators, War and Revolution
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Self, Citizen and Nation

YEAR
02

Compulsory modules:

Anthropology of Religion
Anthropology and the Visual
Politics, Economics
and Social Change

Plus 60 credits of History options (see pages 16-17)

You may take 30 of these credits as an intercollegiate module (Group 2 Paper) offered by history departments throughout the University of London

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange

YEAR
03

Compulsory modules:

Interdisciplinary Project
(linking dissertation)
Anthropological Approaches
to History

Plus 30 credits of History and 30 credits of Anthropology options

History options include Special Subjects taught federally across the University of London, including Goldsmiths (see page 18)

In Years 2 and 3, 30 of the total 120 credits may be taken as a 'related study' (an approved module from another department)

BA (Hons) History & Journalism

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history-journalism

Journalism is often described as ‘the first rough draft of history’. At Goldsmiths we believe that the best journalists draw on their understanding of history to report, contextualise and analyse events as they happen. This degree will teach you both the practical skills and academic knowledge you need to develop a nuanced understanding of the past, informing your interpretation of current events.

You will explore the vast range of human history, from cultural and social history to politics, religion and battles for ideological and geographical supremacy. Our thematic approach to history allows you to choose modules that focus on your own areas of interest and to compare and contrast how these themes have played out across time and place.

The Media and Communications modules will develop the practical skills to excel in your career, including interviewing, writing, video reporting, photojournalism and radio journalism. You’ll be able to put these to use as a practising journalist on our local news website, EastLondonLines.co.uk, reporting on a large and diverse area of London.

TYPICAL MODULES

YEAR
01

Compulsory modules:

Concepts and Methods
Journalism Practice

Plus one from:

Dictators, War and Revolution
Self, Citizen and Nation
Religion, Peace and Conflict

And two from:

Media History and Politics
Key Concepts and Debates
in Media
Video Reporting

YEAR
02

Compulsory module:

Extended Feature Research
and Writing

Plus:

60 credits of History and
30 credits of Media and
Communications options

You may take 30 of the History credits as an intercollegiate module (Group 2 Paper) offered by history departments throughout the University of London

YEAR
03

Compulsory module:

Interdisciplinary Project

Plus:

30 credits of History and
30 credits of Media and
Communications options
from the range available in
both departments

History options include Special Subjects taught federally across the University of London, including Goldsmiths (see page 18)

In Years 2 and 3, 30 of the total 120 credits may be taken as a ‘related study’ (an approved module from another department)

BA (Hons) History & Politics

3 years full-time or 4-5 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history-politics

You'll explore the ways in which thinking about politics is vital to a study of history - and how the past development of social and political institutions and ideas is crucial to an understanding of contemporary politics.

In your first year you'll select 60 credits of Politics modules from an approved list, and take a module in historical methods and concepts and one other module of your choice from the first year History modules.

In your second year you'll take Modern Political Theory, plus a mix of politics and history options.

In your third year you'll research and write a dissertation to develop your knowledge of a political topic of particular interest to you. You will also select specialist modules from both Politics and History. Your History choices can include a Special Subject either at Goldsmiths or another University of London history department.

TYPICAL MODULES

YEAR 01

Total of 120 credits

Concepts and Methods in History

A choice of one of the following History modules:

- Dictators, War and Revolution
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Self, Citizen and Nation

Plus two Politics modules such as:

- World Politics
- Ideas, Ideologies and Conflicts
- Politics of Other Cultures

YEAR 02

Total of 120 credits

Modern Political Theory

Politics module(s) worth 30 credits

History modules worth 60 credits (see pages 16-17)

You may earn 30 of these credits with an intercollegiate module (Group 2 Paper) offered by history departments throughout the University of London

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange

YEAR 03

Total of 120 credits

Dissertation

History and Politics options worth 90 credits from the range of modules available in both departments

History options include Special Subjects taught federally across the University of London, including Goldsmiths (see page 18)

In Years 2 and 3, 30 of the total 120 credits may be taken as a 'related study' (an approved module from another department)

BA (Hons) History & History of Ideas

3 years full-time, or 4-5 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history-history-of-ideas

You'll explore your passion for intellectual history by studying how ideas have evolved through time. You'll consider the nature of ideas and their relationship to material and economic conditions, political power structures, philosophy, art, religion, literature, science, and sexuality.

You'll focus on identities and the relationship between human beings and their surroundings. You'll study self-representation and the creation of the individual across historical periods, emotions and bonds, humans and the natural world, political systems in theory and practice, and public history and national identities.

In your second year, you'll choose two general History options (see pages 16-17) and two options from History of Ideas, such as:

- Bodies and Drugs: A Global History of Medicine
- Britain Through the Lens
- Heresy, the Occult and the Millennium
- Imagining Africa
- Empires in Comparative Perspective: Imperium Romanum to Pax Americana

In either your second or third years, you'll be able to take a History at Work professional work placement.

In your third year, you'll take a History of Ideas Special Subject, alongside another History of Ideas option such as the History/History of Ideas interdisciplinary project, and a free-choice History module.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Self, Citizen and Nation
Dictators, War and Revolution
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Concepts and Methods in History

Year 2

Modules totalling 120 credits:

History of Ideas options worth 60 credits
History options worth 60 credits
30 of the History credits may be taken as an intercollegiate module (Group 2 Paper) offered by history departments throughout the University of London
You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange

Year 3

Modules totalling 120 credits:

History of Ideas Special Subject*
30 credits of History of Ideas options (these options include the History/History of Ideas interdisciplinary project)
30 credits of History options
**These include Special Subjects taught federally across the University of London, including Goldsmiths (see page 18)*

In Years 2 and 3, 30 of the total 120 credits may be taken as a 'related study' (an approved module from another department)

Integrated Degree in History (including Foundation Year)

1 year (Foundation) + 3 years (undergraduate degree)
gold.ac.uk/ug/integrated-degree-history

This degree is ideal if you are thinking about re-entering education after some time away from formal study. You'll combine your passion for history with the skills and confidence to progress to the BA History degree, or to apply for one of the History joint honours programmes, following successful completion of the foundation year. You'll take six modules that introduce you to the discipline of history and set you up with the skills you'll need to progress to the next level of study:

The Battle for the Ballot

You'll examine the development of 'ideas worth fighting for' and gain an overview of how political representation in Britain was increasingly secured for the masses.

Empires, Nations and Lines of the Map: Postcolonial Perspectives on World History

This module looks at the impact of European empires, considers what a 'postcolonial' identity really means and how it can alter the way we study history.

An Everyday History of Modern Britain, 1800-1950

Introducing social and cultural approaches to history, this module focuses on why the everyday lives of ordinary people are worthwhile and relevant to historical analysis.

From Local to Global: Identity and Cultural History

You'll examine various aspects of South London culture such as food, clothing and music and trace their deeper global historical roots.

London 1400-1650: A City in Transition

Using contemporary sources, this module explores continuity and change in London as it emerged as a worldwide trading centre.

Learning to be a Historian

You'll learn how and why history is studied and the importance of historical awareness. This module will introduce you to the concepts, methods, techniques, sources and approaches employed by historians.

Typical options in Years 2 and 3:

1851: The Great Exhibition

The Age of News, 1850-1990

Bodies and Drugs: A Global History of Medicine

Britain Through the Lens

The Central Powers in the First World War, 1914-18

Early Modern European Philosophy

Eastern Europe: From Great War to Cold War

Empires in Comparative Perspective: Imperium Romanum to Pax Americana

The Fictional 19th Century

Global History of Buddhism

Health, Healing and Illness in Africa

Heresy, The Occult and the Apocalypse

Histories of Sexualities

History of Asian Medicine: from Manuscripts to YouTube

Homosexuality and Capitalism

Imagining Africa: Ideology, Identity and Text in Africa and the Diaspora

Introduction to the History of the Modern Middle East

Landmarks in London's History

London's History Through Literature

Mediterranean Encounters: Venice and the Ottoman Empire, 1453-1797

Minorities in East-Central Europe: Coexistence, Integration and Annihilation, c.1870-1950

Modern Revolutions in Comparative Perspective

Modern South Asia: Body, Society, Empire and Nation, c.1600-1947

Nationalism, Democracy and Dictatorship in 20th-Century Eastern Europe

The People's Century: Social, Political and Cultural Change in 20th-Century Britain

Southeastern Approaches: A History of Serbia and the Serbs since the Middle Ages

Walking Through London's History

Homosexuality and Capitalism

Utopian Visions: The Soviet Experience through the Arts

Yugoslavia: History and Disintegration

Goldsmiths Special Subjects

Life in the Trenches: Perspectives on British Military History, 1914-18

Medicine on the Silk Roads: Traditions and Transmissions

Poverty, Dress and Identity in 19th-Century England

Radicalism During the English Revolution, 1641-1660

Sex and the African City: Gender and Urbanisation in Southern Africa

The Central Powers in the First World War, 1914-18

This module explores how Central European countries grappled with and were changed by the extraordinary demands of fighting the world's first 'total war'. Focusing on the Central Powers - Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria - it investigates the origins of the First World War, the causes in which these powers fought and their leaders' war aims. The military experience, with its atrocities against civilians and nerve-wracking attritional battles, is examined. The module also scrutinises everyday life on the home fronts, exploring popular support for the war and how 'national communities' were first built and then broken under unprecedented suffering and deprivation.

Modern Revolutions in Comparative Perspective

This module explores the history of modern revolutions including the American, French, Russian, and Chinese Revolutions, as well as mid-20th-century anti-colonial revolutions and history still in the making - the 'Arab Spring'. We will scrutinise various definitions of revolutions, compare their course and causes, examine revolutionary symbols and rituals, identify winners and losers, analyse the ideas underpinning revolutions and try to grapple with the disturbing phenomenon of extreme violence in the name of extremely good causes.

Modern South Asia: Disease, Medicine, Empire and Nation, c.1600-1947

This module introduces South Asian history, from the height of Mughal power through to Partition and Independence, through the lens of medicine, disease and imperial encounters in both the Subcontinent and 'metropolitan' Britain. We will explore a number of themes and measure the impact of specific diseases on South Asian and British society, to investigate some of the ways in which diseases shaped peoples, the British empire and the Indian nation. Topics will include: the decline of the Mughal empire and the rise of the East India Company; 'tropical' climates and changing disease theory; race and caste; gender, sex and disease; Gandhi's approaches to the body and mass nationalism; and partition and independence. An examination of some of the diseases that had a specific impact on imperial rule, including plague, venereal disease and malaria, will be interwoven throughout.

Our commitment to employability ensures our students graduate with a variety of transferable skills highly valued by a wide range of employers. Additionally, in your second or third year, you can gain professional work experience by taking our optional 15-credit History at Work module. This is a fully accredited half-year module that provides a placement in a leading heritage organisation where you could gain experience in conservation, building an exhibition, or archiving.

Partner organisations have recently included:

- Cinema Museum
- Goldsmiths Library's Special Collections
- The Jewish Museum London
- Museum of London Docklands
- National Army Museum
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- St Paul's Cathedral
- Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood
- Wellcome Library



Marta undertook a History at Work placement at St Paul's Cathedral:

"I learned how to order and make explicit the information in pre-made categories, to make it accessible to a wider audience in a straightforward way. I also discovered the value, as well as the immense pleasure, of working as part of a team. I doubt that there is anything as thrilling or as deeply satisfying as pursuing research in open dialogue with other people.

I found it rewarding to use an approach that takes into consideration the social lives

of the objects and their materiality in order to offer context, meaning, and interpretation.

I feel torn between pride for what I have done and a certain terror for the intellectual responsibility for it. But most of all, I am as excited as somebody on their first school day, feeling that I have somehow crossed the threshold marking the entrance to the field of history as a profession."

OUR STUDENTS



Thomas, BA History

“Goldsmiths is a place that really fosters creativity and uniqueness, and allows each student to find their own passion and follow that. History is obviously full of dates, figures and numbers. But what’s really important is to ask: Why did that happen? What encouraged a country or a group of people to take that action?”

The academic staff are fantastic here. They are actively writing articles, books and papers on the subjects they’re teaching. The modules are constantly being updated to reflect new findings or new opinions

from across the globe. The department as a whole gives you a full, well-rounded view of history. They want to encourage you to find your specialism. They want to encourage you to find what you enjoy, but don’t want to limit the approach that you can take towards it.



The academic staff are fantastic here. They are actively writing articles, books and papers on the subjects they’re teaching.

What I like most about studying at Goldsmiths is the fact that I’m close enough to central London to be able to go and explore it without having to pay the prices. Being a history student, I think there’s nowhere else that’s better for me to be

than London. It’s absolutely crawling in history and has a huge selection of museums, many of which are free.”



Coral, BA History & History of Ideas

“After studying at Goldsmiths I no longer like history, I love it. My degree has been exciting, challenging, and certainly the best thing I have ever done. The department is close-knit and the lecturers are some of the top people in their field. They encourage you to form your own opinions and without you even noticing they get you to understand aspects of history you never thought you would. The Department of History doesn’t just teach you history, it teaches you to be confident in yourself and your ideas. The atmosphere at Goldsmiths is electric. It is always busy with people having classes, campaigning,



The atmosphere at Goldsmiths is electric. It is always busy with people having classes, campaigning, catching up with friends, enjoying events, studying and asking questions.

catching up with friends, enjoying Students’ Union events, studying and asking questions. Goldsmiths is full of vibrant people who have dreams and ideals. At Goldsmiths we care - we care about wider issues and one another.”

Some of our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in:

- Journalism and the media
- Publishing
- Charities
- Museums and galleries
- The Civil Service
- Teaching and research
- Law and the commercial world

As a history graduate you'll have a variety of pathways to pursue. That's because degrees in history and combined subjects develop a variety of transferable skills: you learn to solve problems, to think critically and creatively, to research, to communicate with clarity, to analyse and bring together insights from a range of subjects. These skills are attractive to a variety of employers and open up a wide range of careers.



Career journey

**Philip (BA History, 2011),
Programme Manager at
IT/digital company Atos**

"As a programme manager my main responsibilities are to manage a team of project managers, to manage the programme plans, budget

and quality assurance as well as to interact with the customer and senior stakeholders concerned with the overall success of my programme.

I set about reaching my full potential and was supported by the team at Goldsmiths to do this. It was really fantastic to be part of the University of London and broaden my horizons working with other member universities. Ultimately I learnt to be a successful independent adult and this has allowed me to flourish once I left Goldsmiths."

**Esther (BA History & Anthropology, 2013),
intern on a documentary**

"Goldsmiths gave me great practice in research while letting me research what I was interested in. The tutors and lecturers I chose to discuss my courses with were very attentive to where I wanted to go, and encouraged me to try out various methods of researching and looking at things. I met people from all

over, including the members of staff, and this was beneficial on all grounds. I have made myself a good network from all around the world and in many different fields of work, which is fascinating and useful too.

I'm currently interning on a short documentary. I've assisted all aspects of the pre-production, and have been in charge of archive research, general biographical research, and locating potential interviewees. I've participated in the more creative aspects too by helping the director tab entire folders of transcripts we got from the various interviews."

Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career: vimeo.com/channels/career

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the
department and degrees at:
gold.ac.uk/history

Watch our departmental film at:
vimeo.com/goldsmiths/history

Get in touch with our
Enquiries team:
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course-info@gold.ac.uk

The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting gold.ac.uk/course-finder

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