

The front page depicts the Bolshevik Red Guard storming the Winter Palace in Petrograd 1917.

History BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/historyba



History BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

History at Kingston is a stimulating and thought-provoking undergraduate degree programme that will help you to understand the historical development of the modern globalised world and the challenges that it faces today. It equips you to understand and take a view on how the past influences current British, European and world affairs. The programme offers you the chance to specialise in selected topics, and to pursue your own historical interests.

Kingston's historic setting means that you are surrounded by landmarks, such as Hampton Court Palace, Ham House, Richmond Park, the River Thames and the ancient marketplace in Kingston itself, while the centre of London, with its unparalleled range of archives, libraries, galleries, museums and heritage sites, is just a short train journey away.

Through Kingston University's dynamic new Centre for the Historical Record, you will have opportunities to actively engage with a range of archives and museums in the London area and with the latest technology in digitising records and creating databases. At Kingston we particularly encourage students to participate, in the public provision of history through a variety of different institutions and types of media, and to consider the ways that history is used to inform current debates.

Our programme

Kingston's History programme covers British, European, American and international history, and the history of many other countries. You will explore a huge variety of topics and periods, including the French Revolution; the Holocaust; women's history; the Early Modern period; the history of slavery, race and identity; the meeting of Western and other cultures; British imperialism; and the history of society and of ordinary people's lives in Britain and elsewhere. In addition to a broad overview you can select topics of your choice on which to carry out in-depth studies through the Extended Essay and the Dissertation modules.

Kingston promotes the employability of all its students through a focus on communication and other transferable skills. There is a specialised work-link module, which provides an opportunity for students to gain work experience in history-related institutions – previous History students have worked at the National Archives, The Natural History Museum, The Royal Society of Arts and Lion Television (history productions).

In each year of your degree course you will also have the option of studying a foreign language, and there are opportunities for some second-year students to study for a semester or a whole year at a overseas university.

Teaching and support

During the programme, you will encounter a wide range of assessment and teaching methods, including supervision on a one-to-one basis. Kingston lecturers make use of innovative, interactive teaching methods, and student learning is supported by the latest Virtual Learning Environment software – this technology allows you to access course materials for your modules 24/7 via the internet and mobile phone apps. You will also have the chance to work independently, especially through your dissertation.

All History students are appointed a year tutor who will be on hand to provide academic and personal support. You will have access to our state-of-the-art ICT facilities and a designated history subject librarian. You can use a variety of digital records and databases located in our Centre for the Historical Record for your own research. National and local archives are also easily accessible from the University, and Kingston has a special relationship with The National Archives, which is within easy reach of the campus.

Research

Historical Studies staff are active researchers and are well respected in their various fields. History staff not only work on issues of historical significance, but they also frequently use their knowledge to contribute to contemporary debates in the media. This means that students have access to cutting-edge research-informed teaching.

Careers

Many employers see the study of history as excellent preparation for employment. It develops your ability to find and manage information and use new technology, to be critical and to communicate effectively. You are also encouraged to develop your IT skills.

Common professions for History graduates include banking, teaching, journalism and law, as well as a range of careers within museums, archives and heritage organisations, the Home Office, local government administration and retail. Students also often go on to take a further qualification, such as a research degree, a PGCE, a law conversion course or a library qualification.

What do our graduates do?

Susan Ruggles

Since studying History at Kingston, Susan has qualified as a solicitor and now practices corporate law in an international law firm in the City. She described how she "was hugely impressed by the standard of teaching, the breadth of subjects on offer ... and the genuine interest the lecturers showed in their students." She also found that the study skills she developed at Kingston were a great help when studying for her Postgraduate Diploma in Law and on her Legal Practice Course. She explained that, even though she was "studying a different subject area, the skills of researching an issue and then presenting a concise well-reasoned argument were invaluable" and that she continued to use them in her current career.

Mark Woor

After studying at a sixth-form college in Cambridge, Mark chose to do a History degree because it would "give me the right skill set to be successful within a global organisation", and because Kingston History department had a good reputation and offered a wider choice of modules than most other departments. "What I enjoyed most about my history degree was the time I spent on a work placement at The Natural History Museum, working on a project about colonial Australia. It was a fantastic opportunity and looked great on my CV." Mark graduated in 2010 and is now working for Akzo-Nobel, the world's largest chemical company. He says that he had to compete against a large number of candidates from top business schools to get the job, and he believes that the "wide variety of skills gained at Kingston" were highly valued by the company and were a significant factor in enabling him to gain a place on Akzo-Nobel's graduate training scheme.

Lucinda Dean

Lucy is currently at Stirling University where she is researching changing representations of authority in the Scottish monarchy from the 12th to the 17th century for a PhD in History. She decided to return to higher education after three years full-time employment because she wanted to "expand my horizons and fulfil my potential." She chose Kingston because she wanted to do a joint honours degree in History and Creative Writing at a university that offered a complete change from her previous Yorkshire village lifestyle. She says there were many things that she valued highly at Kingston, but the main ones included: "the support of my supervisor to pursue an MA (which I also completed at Kingston), the work-link module, the friends that I made and the future the two degrees led me to in working for a PhD."



What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study History as a full field (single honours) or as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

Year 1 is structured to provide you with a strong foundation to build upon in Years 2 and 3.

Immigration and Identity in Post-War Britain

This module explores issues of race, immigration and what it has meant to be British since World War II. It examines how British identity has changed through the decline of the British Empire, new attitudes to race relations, and our changing understandings of ourselves as individuals, right up to the present day. It pays particular attention to the lives of black, South Asian and other communities in Britain, and the reactions of other British people to them, both welcoming and hostile.

East Meets West

Now, more than ever, History is a global phenomenon: what happens anywhere in the world can have consequences for us, wherever we live. In this module you'll study some fascinating historical encounters between Europeans and people in other parts of the world. East meets West covers the period 1700 to 1914, regions such as the Caribbean and the Pacific, and countries such as Iran, Egypt, India, Russia, China and Japan. It will help you gain a better understanding not only of past worlds, but also of the present world.

Early Modern Britain and Europe, 1598–1750

This module introduces you to a very different form of society and culture from your own. Topics include the nobility, village and peasant life, religion, images and ideology of monarchy, Louis XIV, the Stuarts, the English Civil War, popular and elite culture, and the reasons behind the witch hunts.

The Historian's Craft

This module develops an understanding of the richness of primary source materials, such as oral testimony and the internet. You will gain experience in analysing and interpreting evidence and in communicating your findings.

Western Historical Thought

This module familiarises you with some of the key ideas, items and developments in Western psychological and social thought and history.

Topics considered include the impact of the Enlightenment, the nature and development of social democracy, capitalism, racism and feminism, the roles of psychoanalysis and the cognitive revolution, and the emergence of postmodernism.

UK Government and Politics

This module aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills required to obtain an understanding of politics in the United Kingdom. Topics covered include the institutional framework, parliament, the civil service, local government, voting behaviour and issues in UK politics, eg Northern Ireland.

Heroes and Villains: The Evolution of Contemporary Human Rights

This module traces the historical evolution of human rights over time. It combines history and political theory in a debate-based format that introduces the background to the fundamental aspects of human rights that exist today.

Capitalism Connected: The History of Money, Trade and Industry

In this module you will explore the historical background to global networks of commerce and finance. You will study the ways in which money, trade and industry influenced the history of individuals, institutions, nations and empires in different parts of the world. The module ranges widely in time (from the 17th to the 21st centuries) and also in terms of place, including Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa.

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in Year 1 for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

Year 2

In Year 2 you will study a variety of modules and will be able to choose modules in areas that particularly interest you. Current modules in Year 2 include:

- Slavery and Race in the USA
- The Holocaust as History and Controversy
- The German Century, 1815–1914
- Age of Empire: Imperialism and British Society, 1868–1918
- British Politics in the 20th Century
- Crime and Punishment in Britain and Europe, 1500–1850
- Magic and Witchcraft: Themes in Belief, Persecution and Myth
- War, Women and Welfare: Britain, 1900–59
- Introduction to Latin American Politics
- Modern Italy Since 1815
- Theories of Justice
- The Western Path to Development
- The History of British Journalism

Year 3

Year 3 modules include:

- Advanced Research Skills
- History Dissertation
- Themes in 20th Century American History
- The Politics of Mass Murder
- The French Revolution
- Britain's Role in the World Since 1900
- British Society Since the 1960s
- Women in Britain and America, 1840–1950
- Fascism and the Post-War Extreme Right
- History Work-link
- Themes in Latin American Politics
- The Politics of Nationalism in the Contemporary Middle East
- Gender and Power: Britain and France, 1500–1800
- End of Empire: The British and African Experience, 1945–65
- The Politics of Conflict: The New Tribalism?



Why study History at Kingston University?

- This thought-provoking programme will help you understand the historical development of a wide variety of different societies and the challenges facing the world today.
- You can specialise in topics of your own choice.
- You will be taught by specialist historians who actively research and publish in their fields and who communicate their research to the wider public.
- Your learning experience will be enhanced by the latest educational technology.
- The study of history is an ideal basis for many careers.
- Kingston history staff are committed to teaching excellence in a stimulating environment and to providing individual support for students from a wide variety of backgrounds.



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
historyba](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/historyba)

History staff

You will be taught by members of the Historical Studies team. The strong research culture within the team is shown by their impressive publication record, and this research feeds directly into much of our teaching.

Professor John Davis specialises in 19th-century British and German history, Anglo-German relations and international relations. John has published a book on the 1851 Great Exhibition and also a book and articles on Britain and Germany.

Dr Sue Hawkins is based in the Centre for the Historical Record. Her research interests include women in Victorian Society, the history of healthcare and the use of 21st-century technologies in historical research. She has published a book and articles on nursing as an emerging profession for women in the 19th-century.

Dr Marisa Linton's publications include a book on the politics of virtue in 18th-century France and an edited book on conspiracy in the French Revolution. She has also written many articles and book chapters, including such subjects as French revolutionary leaders; religious tolerance in the Enlightenment; women and virtue in the 18th-century; and women in revolution – the Paris Commune of 1871. She is currently writing a book called *Choosing Terror* which is about the revolutionary leaders and the Terror in the French Revolution, to be published by Oxford University Press.

Dr Andrea Mammone specialises in the history of European right-wing extremism and in many aspects of the political, social and cultural history of modern Italy. He has published articles in many journals and is author and co-editor of books on fascism and neo-fascism in Italy and in other European countries.

Dr Jeremy Nuttall specialises in ideas, politics and society in modern British history. Jeremy has published articles on Tony Crosland and Evan Durbin, and a book on ethical and psychological aspects in the history of the Labour Party's thought.

Professor Craig Phelan specialises in 20th-century labour and trade union history, political economy, and the history of the USA. He is editor of the journal *Labour History*, and has written widely on contemporary problems facing trade unions worldwide.

Dr Nicola Phillips is a member of the Centre for the Historical Record. She specialises in 18th-century British social, cultural and gender history, and, modern British and American women's history. She has published books and articles on women in business, and masculinity and family conflict 1700–1850, and much of her research focuses on civil and criminal justice. She is also interested in public history and is a member of The National Archives' User Advisory Board and the Historical Association's Public History Committee.

Dr John Stuart specialises in the history of modern Britain, the British Empire and Commonwealth, and Sub-Saharan Africa. John has published articles on missionary history and British imperial and Commonwealth history, and a book on missionaries and the 'end of empire' in Africa.

Dr Steven Woodbridge specialises in the history of the extreme right in Britain, British social and local history, and the history of political thought. He has published chapters and articles on fascism and culture, the contemporary extreme right, and the local history of Kingston and Richmond.

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Single honours: 240 points
- Joint honours: 240–360 points, depending on combination
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: General Studies accepted when one of three A-levels or equivalent
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English (grade A–C preferred). Key Skills Level 2/3 may be used in lieu of poor GCSEs, depending on combination.

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall with 6.5 in Writing, and special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Joint honours combinations

History is offered as a single honours degree or as a major, half or minor field in combination with one of the following subjects:

- Business
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics (Applied)
- English Literature
- Environmental Studies
- Film Studies
- French
- History of Art, Design & Film
- Human Geography
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Television & New Broadcasting Media

UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.

www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

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