

## **HIST30970 Dissertation Supervision 2025/26**

*The History Dissertation (HIST30970) is available to students on all History programmes. Many joint honours students (e.g. Politics and Modern History, History and Languages) also have the choice of registering to complete a dissertation/research project in either History or their other honours subject. If you are a joint honours student with this option, please think carefully about which side of the degree you wish to complete your dissertation.*

*You must check the programme structure for your degree programme to see the dissertation and research project options available to you:*

<https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/student-intranet/study/your-programme/>

### **What is the History Dissertation?**

The History Dissertation is a 40-credit module (making up one-third of your final year credits) that will allow you to demonstrate your ability to identify a viable research project, to plan a programme of appropriate research, and produce an extended piece of written work. The dissertation will also enable you to demonstrate to future employers that you have the demonstrable skills of independent working, time-management, intellectual precision, investigative verve, and high-quality presentation.

### **How does the History Department allocate students to supervisors?**

If you wish to register for the History Dissertation, you will need to complete the **History Dissertation Survey Form** provided via email. **This form opens: 12.00 (midday) on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025, and closes at 12.00 (midday) on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

The survey form requires you to broadly describe **two topics of interest** in two different areas. We advise that you think of general themes that you might want to develop e.g. gender, race, sexuality, migration, politics, memory, etc. You may also wish to undertake some background reading to help inform your topic choices. Keep in mind that all of the dissertation supervisors in History are keen to help you craft a topic when you return after the summer that is compelling and aimed to make an original contribution to the field, while also peaking your intellectual interests even in an unfamiliar area. **PLEASE NOTE THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TWO DISTINCT DISSERTATION TOPICS WILL DISQUALIFY YOU.**

### **What happens after you have completed the survey form?**

You must ensure that you complete the survey form by the set deadline **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**. After that deadline, the History department will review all information provided by students in the form and look to find the best supervisor to match either of your proposed topics. Supervision is assigned to students, and distributed across available members of the department's academic staff. The department usually aims for cap of 12 students per supervisor, although

some supervisors will take fewer supervisees. The History department always endeavours to match students with either their first or second topic but, due to demand, we cannot always guarantee this. We will be in touch with you if, following the initial allocation process, we require any further information. The full allocation process can take some time, so allocations will not be confirmed until mid-September 2025, at which point you will receive notification of who your supervisor is. Students will agree on their specific dissertation topic in October 2025 once they have met with their assigned supervisor.

### **What other things do I need to know?**

Please note the following:

1. Your dissertation is a term-time project beginning in semester 1 of the 2025/26 academic year. Students should **not** commence any research for the History Dissertation until the finalisation of the topic with their supervisor, and completing any required Research Ethics applications through the relevant system.
2. Students cannot be guaranteed a particular topic or a particular supervisor and should not plan for this.
3. Academic staff available for supervision are not to be contacted over the summer; do not set their supervision caps; and are not involved in the allocation process

### **HIST30970 Dissertation Project Availability 2025/26**

**Please indicate your survey preferences after reading the following**

Students should choose areas of interest and chronology, e.g. gender in the early modern world and not aim for a specific supervisor

The following are cursory indications of research interests of staff available for supervision in 2025/26.

#### **Medieval:**

Britain; Europe; Mediterranean; Cultural, Religious; Political; Urban history

community, religion and memory in Southern and Mediterranean Europe; English, Irish and Welsh political and social history; state formation; identity; aristocratic women; trading diasporas in late medieval and the early modern Mediterranean world; news and knowledge in the late medieval and early modern world; climate and adaptation in the late medieval period; town and nobility in late medieval Germany; late medieval intellectual, religious, literary and ecclesiastical history of Europe; the manuscript and material culture of the Middle Ages.

**Early Modern:**

Britain; Europe; America; Mediterranean; Cultural; Economic; Religious; Social history

Commerce; health, environment, diet in early modern America; objects and display in the early modern world; early modern displays and knowledge making in modern museums and galleries; religion and colonial governance in early modern north America.

**Modern European:**

Cultural; Political; Social; Urban

Migration, humanitarianism, memory in Eastern Europe; comparative and transnational history of twentieth-century Europe; Germany and Italy in WW2; economic or urban history of France; civil unrest, state and social order in Austria-Hungary pre-WW1; histories of medical care, humanitarianism, population displacement in Europe in WW2 and after.

**Modern Britain 18<sup>th</sup> Century:**

Urban history; northern English towns; social history; gender; sexuality; race; cultural history; family history; crime; print culture and literature; buildings and urban landscapes; urban space; economic history; Industrial Revolution; religion and popular belief; material culture; popular politics and protest.

**Modern Britain 19<sup>th</sup> Century:**

Cultural; Economic; Political; Urban; Imperial history

Heroes, media, technology and Empire; cultural history of war; collecting, museums, exhibitions and Empire; Anglo-Caribbean relations; Black print cultures and neighbourhood communities; cultural foundations of economic practices, institutions and markets; race, anthropology, colonialism, history of science; British intellectual history and political thought in the nineteenth century; histories of universities; Anglo-American culture and politics in the nineteenth century; crime, gender and urban history in nineteenth century Britain.

**Modern Britain 20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

Cultural; Economic; Political; Urban history

Cultural foundations of economic practices, institutions and markets; race, anthropology, colonialism, history of science; economic history of the inter-war period; social democracy in post-War Britain; British intellectual history and political thought in the twentieth century; heroes, media, technology and Empire; cultural history of war; crime, gender and urban history in twentieth-century Britain; histories of universities; Anglo-Caribbean relations; Black print cultures and neighbourhood communities.

**Modern World:**

South Asia; East Asia; Africa; Latin America; US; Cultural; Political; Economic history

American culture and politics in the nineteenth century; military and diplomatic history, Anglo-US relations; law, politics, gender, colonialism in northern Nigeria; state formation and

moral economies of corruption; political economy and knowledge in West Africa; twentieth century American history; US-Latin American relations; China and the world in WW2; Cultural and economic history of China in the twentieth century, Ming-Qing maritime trade and patterns/cultures of consumption; finance and authoritarian regimes in Latin America; Islam and minority rights.