

## HIST30970 Dissertation Supervision 2026/27

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, and closes at 12.00 (midday) on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026.**

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 piquing your intellectual interests even in an unfamiliar area. This must be a conversation between your interests and your supervisor's expertise - this is for your benefit to ensure you will have the best chances in researching and writing an original intervention into a field of enquiry.

**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 17<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 2026, at which point you will receive notification of who your supervisor is. Students will agree on their specific dissertation topic in October 2026 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 2026/27 academic year. Students should not pursue a topic before meeting their supervisor. This is crucial as your supervisor will work with you to craft an original topic and ensure there are available primary sources for the investigation. In addition, nor should you commence research until the completion of 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 2026/27**

**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 2026/27.

#### **Medieval:**

Britain; Europe; Mediterranean

Cultural, Religious; Political; Urban history

Community, religion and memory in Southern and Mediterranean Europe; British and Irish political and social history; state formation; identity; elite 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; the manuscript and material culture of the Middle Ages; guilds, legal culture and commerce.

### **Early Modern:**

Britain; Europe; America; Mediterranean

Cultural; Economic; Religious; Social history

Commerce, guilds, legal cultures; 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; comparative and transnational history of twentieth-century Europe; Germany and Italy in WW2; France in the long nineteenth century (c. 1780-1914); the history of European revolutions; Gender and urban history in nineteenth century Europe; civil unrest, histories of medical care, humanitarianism,; the Holocaust/Histories of Genocide; Cultural Histories of War.

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

Cultural; Economic; Political; Urban; Religious; Social; Imperial history

Cultural history of war; Histories of Empire; Histories of Capitalism; race, anthropology, colonialism, history of science; British intellectual history and political thought in the nineteenth century; Anglo-American culture and politics in the nineteenth century; Histories and politics of Consumption; Poverty, and Standard of Living crises; Globalisation and politics of free trade; histories of Slavery; histories of Black British communities, politics, and social movements and 'histories of anti-racism; crime, gender and urban history in nineteenth century Britain; religious life; histories of media and celebrity culture; hero-making and heroic reputations.

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

Cultural; Economic; Political; Urban; Social

Histories of Capitalism; 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; Histories and politics of Consumption; Poverty, and Standard of Living crises; modern disability history; modern sexuality and queer histories Globalisation and politics of free trade; histories of Black British communities, politics, and social movements and 'histories of anti-racism; cultural history of war; crime, gender and urban history in twentieth-century Britain; the Falklands War; histories of media and celebrity culture; hero-making and heroic reputations; history of modern medicine; visual culture, photography, art/craft history, Exhibition histories and museums.

**World (including Modern World):**

South Asia; East Asia; Sub-Saharan Africa; US

Cultural; Political; Economic history

American culture and politics in the nineteenth century; military and diplomatic history, Anglo-US relations; twentieth century American history; African-American histories; law, politics, colonialism, decolonization, gender, sexuality, development; 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; Histories of the Islamic World; Humanitarian and international organisations (e.g. UN; UNESCO; UNICEF; Amnesty); modern disability history; modern sexuality and queer histories; history of modern medicine; visual culture, photography, art/craft history, Exhibition histories and museums.

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