HIST20392: Independent Research Project allocation 2026-27

You have chosen to do the Independent Research Project and as part of this module you need to complete the topic preference survey so that you can be allocated a supervisor.

How does the History Department allocate students to supervisors?

To help us allocate a supervisor you will need to complete the Independent Research Project Survey Form provided via email (opens: **Thursday 29 October 2026** at midday; closes: **Friday 20th November** at midday).

The survey form is arranged via a set of main categories: **Medieval, Early Modern, Modern European**, **Modern Britain C19th**, **Modern Britain C20th**, **World**. Each of these main categories in turn have specific sub-categories attached to them (see below for a list of these: the main categories are in bold and the specific sub-categories for each main category are listed immediately underneath them). These main and sub-categories represent cursory indications of research interests of staff available for supervision in 2026-27. You must select two topic preferences. For History Honours students, you must select one modern and one pre-modern option. When entering the sub-category, there is also a comments box where you can briefly (in no more 35 words) add more detail on your interests related to that particular selection – here it could be useful to clarify and explain any general themes that you might want to develop (e.g. gender, race, migration, politics, memory, etc.) and this could be helpful to assist the allocation process.

What happens after you have completed the survey form?

You must ensure that you complete the survey form by the set deadline of **Friday 20th November**. 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. Supervisors will have a cap on the number of supervisees they can be allocated, and these caps differ among staff depending on their workload in any given year. The History department always endeavours to match students with their first or second choice but, due to demand and staff availability, we cannot always guarantee this. If we cannot match you to either of your two preferred areas of interest, any additional comments you provide in the survey can be helpful for finding alternatives which will hopefully still enable you to pursue your thematic interests but with a supervisor who works, for example, on a different era or location. The full allocation process can take some time, so

allocations will not be confirmed until later in semester 1, at which point you will receive notification of who your supervisor is.

What other things do I need to know?

Please note the following:

1. Your Independent Research Project is a term-time project beginning in semester 2 of the 2026/27 academic year. Students should not commence any research for the Independent Research Project until they have met with their allocated supervisor in semester 2 and agreed on a specific and viable topic to explore.

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 prior to the confirmation of allocation. They do not set their supervision caps, and are not involved in the allocation process.

Categories for the survey

(Main categories in bold, sub-categories directly underneath)

Medieval:
Britain; Europe; Mediterranean; Cultural; Religion; Urban

Early Modern:
Global; Europe; Mediterranean; Cultural; Economic; Religion

Modern European:
Cultural; Political; Migration; Urban

Modern Britain C 19th:
Cultural; Political; British Imperial

Modern Britain C 20th:
Cultural; Political; Urban

World:
South Asia; East Asia; US; Cultural; Political; Economic