

Lancaster  
University



Preparing  
for **History**

# Welcome

There has never been a better time to study History.

We study the past to unlock answers to the problems of the present and future, and we have prepared this booklet to help guide your journey to becoming a History undergraduate. Inside, you'll find contributions from current students, recent graduates and historians from around our department. You'll also gain insight into some of the historical topics you can explore here at Lancaster.

In what follows, some of our historians have shared information about modules they have designed for our students as well as recommended books and other resources to introduce you to the wide variety of topics we teach. Our modules reach from the ancient world to the present day across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, and cover a range of historical approaches, including social, political, military, religious, cultural and environmental history.

These recommendations come straight from our research to the lecture hall and seminar room. All our modules are created by expert historians and informed by our internationally recognised research. This helps ensure that we can support you to develop the strong, well-rounded skillset needed to pursue your interest in history and to equip you for a range of careers.

We pride ourselves on our strong sense of community. We're a friendly and inclusive department. We're a place where you get to know your lecturers and we get to know you, and our students value that. Inside, you'll have the chance to hear from some of them, and I hope that the experiences and advice that they share give you a sense of what you can look forward to as an undergraduate historian at Lancaster.

I hope you enjoy learning a bit more about our department. Please do contact us if you have any questions. We would be glad to hear from you. You can email us at [historyadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:historyadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk) or find us on Twitter at [@Lancasterhistor](https://twitter.com/Lancasterhistor) and Instagram at [@Lancasterhistory](https://www.instagram.com/Lancasterhistory).



**Dr Thomas Mills**  
**Head of Department**  
Senior Lecturer in Diplomatic  
and International History









Lancaster  
University Library

"I have discovered the social aspect of the library. Myself and other members of the rowing club have a corner of the library in which we sit during the day.... Members will come and go to various lectures throughout the day but I can always rely on the fact that there will always be a member I know sitting there whom I can sit and work with or just have a chat.... I have found that since socialising with my friends in the library I have got to know many of them much more and have also found doing university related work far less stressful"

Jack Formoso, 2nd Year, BA History



“

**I am the Director of Undergraduate Studies in History.**

You are likely to see me quite regularly during your degree. I am a member of the forum in which our student reps can raise issues and discuss general questions.

Students are a vital part of the History community and are involved throughout their degree. Each year group elects a number of representatives and they help me understand the degree programme from a student's perspective.

I am a historian of modern Spain, specialising in the histories of disability, psychiatry, sexuality and gender under the Francoist dictatorship.

I am currently writing a book on the experiences of maimed Francoist veterans of the Spanish Civil War, while starting a new research project exploring sexual violence under Francoism. The latter project centres on the role of forensic doctors and psychiatrists within court cases dealing with sexual crimes in twentieth-century Spain.

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**Dr Stephanie Wright**  
**Director of Undergraduate Studies**  
Lecturer in Modern  
European History



# My first year...

## Why did you join Lancaster University?

I was first attracted to Lancaster University and its History Department due to the range of optional modules, which allows students freedom in what they want to study. At the offer holder event I attended, the student ambassadors made me feel included and I wanted to be part of this warm and welcoming community. My expectations were not disappointed! The students are very sociable and lectures are helpful.

## What modules have you taken so far, and which one has been your favourite? What was especially interesting or different about that module?

There are core modules in each subject: for example, 'From Ancient to Modern: History and Historians', which spanned from the history of the Punic Wars to modern times. I've really enjoyed researching and writing my essay for the module. I've also really enjoyed the process of studying the history of Lancaster in "Witches", Warriors and Slavers' (the optional module I took in my first term). The module included field-trips to Lancaster City Museum and Lancaster Castle, as well a research session in the Library's Archive Research Centre. I really enjoyed that as an alternative to regular seminars and lectures.

## What's been the most surprising thing in History you've learned about so far?

I've been impressed not only by the engaging lectures and exciting seminars, but also by the focus placed on developing skills in verbal and written communication. Developing these skills helps with assigned work, but it also helps in informal situations.

## What have you been doing outside of your History studies?

Outside of History, I find myself filling my spare time with Boat Club, one of the University's many societies. It's a great way to keep my physical and mental health in good condition, and it's pleasing to fill downtime between studying with something productive. I find it incredibly rewarding to see my commitment pay off in physical form. The club is full of friendly and talented people who are willing to share their experiences of university to help you thorough your time at university.

**Isaac Smith**  
1st-year History  
BA Hons









Voluerat dicitur ab hinc apud regem ab his tenam ab his buc illuc quoniam die discurrebat  
tenensque et mulieres. et nulli parens.

دود بولایت تیرستان افان و تیرستان افان



## Dr Sophie Ambler

Reader in  
Medieval History

I am a historian of the Middle Ages, with interests ranging widely across the history of war, politics, religion and society. I work on the history of war in medieval Britain c.1100–1400, investigating the experiences of low-status combatants and war-torn populations, and shifting patterns of thought concerning personal responsibility in conflict. Here and in my role as Director of the Centre for War and Diplomacy, I am interested in combining insights from other disciplines and historical periods. This builds on my previous research on the ethics and practice of war, politics, rebellion and revolution in medieval Britain. I also enjoy writing for and speaking to a broad public audience through TV, radio and print.

## Recommendations

BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time* provides many expert discussions on historical topics, including 'The Second Barons' War'. Here we discuss the regime of Simon de Montfort earl of Leicester (d.1265), who seized power from King Henry III of England and established a council to govern with the help of parliament: England's first revolution. Simon amassed a vast popular following, many of whom died with him at the Battle of Evesham fighting as avowed crusaders.

Robert Bartlett's book *The Hanged Man* (2006) is a seminal introduction to medieval history. It explores the case of a Welsh rebel, William Cragh, who was hanged by an English lord and pronounced dead, but ultimately survived to tell his tale. Bartlett explores the testimonies of those caught up in this event – a workman, a noblewoman, a bishop and even Cragh himself – using these to explore what life was like in the Middle Ages, and how people understood this apparently miraculous event.

*A Knight's Tale* (2001), starring Heath Ledger and Paul Bettany, is a rare example of a film about the Middle Ages loved by medievalists! It is inspired by the real-life story of the twelfth-century tournament champion William Marshal, but is set in the age of the Hundred Years War. Telling the story of a servant who becomes a knightly hero, it puts aside strict accuracy to convey the party atmosphere of the medieval tournament and the brutal excitement of the joust.



et dicitur  
fuit et dicitur  
hominum



# Death: From the Fall of Rome to the Reformation

**What does it mean to die? Does it hurt? Is it frightening? Will I see those I love again? What does it mean to kill, whether an enemy, a friend or myself?**

Death is a universal human experience, a cataclysm, triumph or adventure we all confront. But how we do that has varied vastly across history. In the European Middle Ages, the Church's doctrines shaped ideas of death, from burial in the consecrated ground of churchyards to the theology of heaven, hell and purgatory. The living and the dead were a community: those on earth could speed the dead through their passage in the afterlife, and those in heaven could intercede for the living. Yet at the margins lay a shadowy world, in which the restless dead returned to haunt those left on earth, and the despairing took their lives in an act known as 'self-murder'.

In this module, we explore varied experiences of death across the medieval centuries in the Christian West, from end-of-life care to execution, and from battlefields to the Black Death. We discover the different means of investigating death, from the chronicles that describe the walking dead, to the archaeology of burial practice, and from murder trials to palaeogenetics, unlocking the passage of disease. This is, by nature, a disturbing field of study. But what we learn cuts to the heart of what it means to be human – in the past and today.

**Other modules I have taught include:**

**HIST119:** 1415: The Battle of Agincourt and its Aftermath

**HIST316:** From Rebellion to Revolution: The War for the Throne, 1199–1265







**View of the Sports Centre**  
Lancaster Campus

"My favourite place on campus is the walk from County College down to the sports centre. There is a really big hill that you can walk down, and I enjoy going in-between lectures ... [and] when the sun is setting. The campus is full of green spaces which make it really homely and feel really nice and safe."

Emmi Wilson,  
1st Year, BA History



# A field trip to **Hadrian's Wall...**

The History Department organised a field trip to visit two Roman sites near Hadrian's Wall: Carrawburgh and Vindolanda. The coach first stopped at Carrawburgh, where we did a short trek to see the Mithraeum, a temple dedicated to Mithras. Afterwards, the coach took us to Vindolanda, where we explored the remains of a communal fort, saw various religious buildings and visited the museum on the site, which displayed artefacts excavated from the area.



My favourite part of the trip was looking at the artefacts found during excavations at Vindolanda. Findings of different shoe sizes for different genders and ages revealed that the fort was once home to soldiers as well as whole families! These findings reveal a lot about the social identity and makeup of the site former inhabitants.



This trip tied into my special-subject module, which explored the diverse nature of Roman religion, aiming to understand how worshipping experience, belief and practice shaped Roman society and identity. Visiting religious sites and exploring the fort created an immersive experience that allowed me to contextualise what I had learnt and clear any misconceptions. For example, I thought the Mithraeum would be grander in size as there would have been ritual communal feasting within the temple. However, the temple was small and compact, demonstrating how cult access was more limited and intimate than I had expected.

## **Sofia Nobrega Capontes** 3rd-year History BA Hons





# Our favourite places on campus?

Here's what our students say.



## Guanzi George Fox Building

"My favourite place on campus is the Chinese restaurant located at the George Fox building, Guanzi. The food is authentic; the selection has variety, which is great, but most importantly, the atmosphere reminds me of home. Whenever I feel homesick, their food comforts me. It isn't always easy to be so far away from home, but the restaurant provides a place for me to reminisce."

*Natalie Hui, 3rd Year,  
History and Philosophy student*

## Trevor Furness College

"My favourite place on campus is Trev's [Furness College Bar] ... it's a great place to relax with friends after a long day of studying or just a great place to catch up and chill. They have a couple of pool tables and some board games so there are always some things to do. As well as this, the Furness College JCR often hold events there and everyone is invited, so it's always fun to go with friends and just join in."

*Ariana Leader, 3rd Year,  
BA History (Study Abroad)*



## Lancaster Square County Main

"One of my favourite places on campus is Lancaster Square. The square has been a fantastic space to socialise with other members of the college; in the Lent and Summer terms, I have met many friends through playing football on the grass or using the warm weather to work outside and study."

*Emmanuel Adeyemi-Abere,  
BA History and Politics graduate,  
Class of 2023*





**Alexandra Square**  
Centre of the Univers[e]... ity

"My favourite place on campus has to be Alexandra Square (or Alex Square to us locals). It's pretty much the centre of the university, and at Christmas it's such a pretty place to grab a coffee from Costa or Greggs and sit with your friends – if it's not too chilly! There's always something happening, whether it be the Student Union popping up, or the weekly Farmer's Markets, which offer a wide range of stalls. It's definitely the best place to hang out with your friends!"

Juliet Hollerton,  
BA History graduate  
Class of 2023

For more information, visit [lancaster.ac.uk/history](https://lancaster.ac.uk/history)





**Costa Coffee**  
Edward Roberts Court

Georgia says "One of my favourite places on campus is Edward Roberts Court. It's a lovely little outdoor space that's perfect for grabbing lunch with friends or if you just want a little bit of quiet time. In terms of food and drink, ... there's a Costa for a caffeine boost and Sultan's (an absolute essential) and more! To make it even better, the pond outside the Postgrad Statistics Centre is right next to it so you can go and see the famous Lancaster ducks."





# Excited for my second year!

**Choosing to study History at Lancaster is the best decision I could have made when it came to choosing my degree.**

The support and encouragement from my lecturers and seminar tutors has been second to none, which made the transition from college to university so much easier. The choice of modules in first year, including the wide-ranging core module, has sparked new interests in areas of history I hadn't had a chance to explore before. I particularly enjoyed the local history module which allowed me to fully embrace the diverse history Lancaster as a city has to offer. The History Department is so welcoming and approachable – any question or query I've had has been sorted quickly, and I've never been made to feel like a question is silly. My seminar tutor for the core module was especially helpful and encouraging. The History Society's academic talks and trips provide great opportunities to develop learning beyond the classroom and to make friends in other modules or year groups. Their trip to Lancaster Castle was really interesting. I can't wait to discover more!

**Georgia Platt**  
2nd-year History  
BA Hons





# My **heritage** work placement...



Artist Percy Kelly

I completed my heritage work placement at the Whitehaven Archives and Local Studies Centre last year, and it was an amazing experience to have during my time at university. I had the chance to develop my understanding of archival cataloguing and conservation, while supporting the team at Whitehaven with the letters and papers of the artist Percy Kelly (1918–1993). Reading through Kelly's letters, many of which are illustrated with his original drawings, was fascinating in itself, and it was great to be able to do so while obtaining credits towards my degree and developing my professional profile.

It's great that the History Department offers a short-term work placement module for those who would like to gain experience whilst doing their studies, but don't want to take a complete year out on a placement year degree. Not only was it useful for my CV, as previous volunteering in the field is expected, it also allowed me to begin making connections within the sector, and gain more confidence in handling and cataloguing artefacts and documents. I would highly recommend any History students coming to Lancaster to look out for the placement module in their second year.

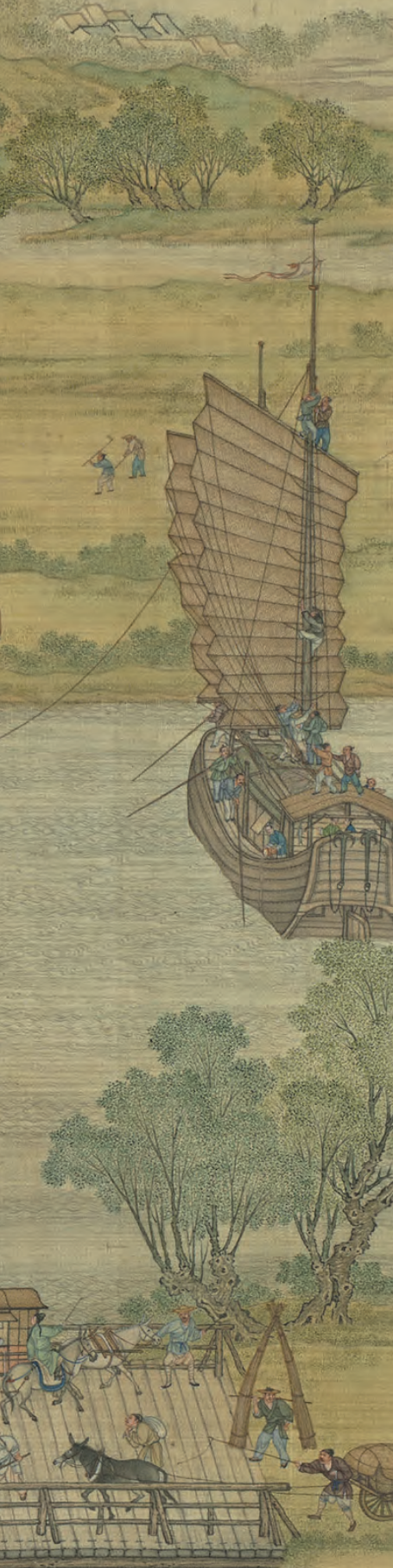
**Ana Garin**  
3rd-year History  
BA Hons





West Pier Lighthouse  
Whitehaven, UK





## Retreat of the Elephants: Writing More-Than-Human History

**Placing nature at the centre of world history, especially East Asian history, opens up new avenues for narrative exploration.**

This environmental perspective delves into how environmental transformations have intertwined with political, socio-economic and cultural processes shaping the course of events. Major themes include, but are not limited to, diverse cultural perceptions of nature, forests, water management, climate fluctuations, diseases, human-animal interactions, the impact of warfare on the environment, disasters and slow violence and the emergence of modern environmental movements.

Environmental history offers an interdisciplinary approach, allowing historians to integrate insights from various fields such as biology, earth sciences, climatology, medicine, geography, archaeology, arts and landscape architecture. This interdisciplinary framework equips historians with the tools to analyse the past through the lens of the environment, prompting them to ask different questions and explore new dimensions of historical events.

The remarkable platform NOAA provides a wealth of paleoclimatic data awaiting exploration in the module. Here, one can uncover historical patterns of various environmental elements, learn to interpret historical climate data and evaluate its objectivity, thereby enhancing your historical analysis. While navigating the platform, you may discover previously overlooked environmental impacts that have shaped historical events.

**Dr Baihui Duan**

Lecturer in  
Environmental  
History




## Recommendations

The *Environmental History Now* blog is a great platform for discovering new research and perspectives in environmental history. This blog features articles, essays, and podcasts organized by early career scholars and students in the field.

The *Nature's Past* podcast covers various environmental history topics and is a fantastic resource for anyone looking to understand the breadth of the field despite its main focus on Canadian history.

The Asian Art Museum online collection offers access to a vast collection of artworks and artefacts from East Asia, which can provide valuable context and visual references for understanding East Asian history.

I have a diverse educational background in Seoul, Barcelona and Oxford before joining Lancaster. My research examines the history of climate, environment, animals, disease, medicine and governance in East Asia, particularly after the Great East Asian War of 1592–1598. I am interested in a broad array of environmental topics, many of which are universal issues. I am eager for prospective students to bring case studies to the table to enrich our exploration of more-than-human history.



An 18<sup>th</sup> Century remake of Zhang Zeduan's *Along the River During the Qingming Festival* (1085–1145) by artists Chen Mei, Sun Hu, Jin Kun, Dai Hong, and Cheng Zhidao



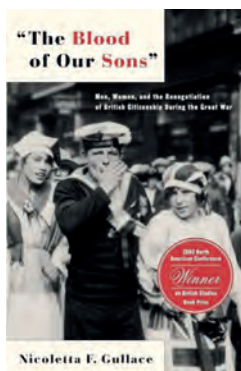
# ‘War Machine’: A Social and Cultural History of the First World War

**The modules I teach reflect my interest in the cultural history of war.**

One of the modules I have taught for first-year undergraduates is “War Machine”: A Social and Cultural History of the First World War. This module is closely related to my active research interests. I am particularly interested in the relationship between war, bodies and masculinity, and I have published an article on the imagined relationships between masculinities and military technologies such as the machine gun in the decades immediately preceding the war. In this article I argue that the peculiar prominence of the bayonet in British tactical thinking on the Western Front can be attributed in large part to long-standing anxieties about embodied military masculinities. The module as a whole explores the global history of the First World War from a social and cultural perspective. Thus, while it deals with classic debates, such as the causes of the war and its social and political legacies, it also seeks to understand the impact of the war on gender identities, spiritual and religious beliefs and artistic expression.



H.D. Girdwood, *Gurkhas Charging a Trench, Merville, France, c. 1914-1918*. British Library.



## Recommendations

If you are interested in finding out more about these topics, you might want to check out the following books:

- Joanna Bourke, *Dismembering the Male: Men's Bodies, Britain and the Great War* (London: Reaktion, 1996)
- Michael Roper, *The Secret Battle: Emotional Survival in the Great War* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009)
- Nicoletta Gullace, *The Blood of our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship During the Great War* (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002)

You'll also find some fantastic materials for studying the history of the First World War, including digitised primary sources and insights from historians, on the British Library's website.



## Dr Michael Brown

Lecturer in Modern British History

I am a specialist in the social and cultural history of medicine, gender, the body and war. My most recent book, *Emotions and Surgery in Britain, 1793–1912* explores the vital, if changing, role that emotion played in British surgery from the days when operations were conducted without pain relief to the modern era of clean and technoscientific surgery. I am currently developing two research projects, the first of which considers the embodied and emotional history of the hand in Victorian Britain, while the second explores the material and emotional history of popular militarism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Other modules I have taught include:

**HIST348:** Gender Identities in the People's War: Experiences, Representations and Memories



H. D. Girdwood, *Highland Territorials in a Trench, La Gorgue, France, 1914.*  
British Library





### View of the Medical School

Lake Carter

Dan Green's (3rd Year, BA History) favourite place is Lake Carter, where he has observed a nesting coot (with her chicks), ducklings, moorhen chicks and a heron: "I have spent much time just watching these birds and despite the road directly behind it is quite peaceful and calming just watching them."



# My dissertation...

## What's the title of your dissertation? And what's your dissertation about?

The current title of my dissertation is "The Feathered Tribes": A Re-Evaluation of Early Modern Birds'. The idea came from a growing personal fascination with birds, which I developed on my walks to campus. I realised that, once you pay attention, birds fill both urban and rural spaces, influence our understanding of music, populate art and inspire common superstitions. This led me to think they were a brilliant way to understand more about how people in the past viewed the world.

## Writing a dissertation involves several steps; some people may not be certain where or how to begin. How did you get started with planning your project?

A lot of it felt like throwing ideas around and seeing what stuck! My first step was using the databases the University Library provides to find historical sources I felt were interesting, and then reading around the topic to understand the context. This process was sometimes as simple as searching for 'birds' and seeing where that led me.

## Has your reading and research taken you anywhere unexpected? Did you visit any libraries or museums? Or did you consult any unusual books or sources?

Since my dissertation is premised on the idea that birds are all around us, it was gratifying to feel like ideas were being thrown at me when I least expected it. I've been seen scribbling notes in a Bratislavan art gallery, a palace in Barcelona and while listening to 1970s radio recordings in Lancashire Archives. I also got surprisingly invested in a 13th-century German romance poem.

## What's been the most surprising thing you've discovered so far?

I was really surprised to see how nature was written about, even up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, almost like a separate deity. I suppose I'd assumed Mother Nature was an invention of the 1960s!

## If you could give one piece of advice to someone starting a dissertation this year, what would it be?

The obvious one is to start as early as humanly possible, but I know students are told this many, many times. The advice to choose a topic you enjoy is similarly well-worn. My advice then is to read (ideally irrelevant) history you enjoy – from undergraduate dissertations published online to journal articles to popular books – in order to write the history you would enjoy. Look at them, and your reactions, analytically so you can apply your taste to your own writing. You're the one who will spend the most time with it!

A word of warning: if you tell your friends and family how much you love researching birds, prepare to receive bird related gifts, articles and funny pictures for the rest of your days. Realise that this is realistically quite a nice problem to have.



**Heather Harrison**  
3rd-year History  
BA Hons



# My placement year...

For my placement year, I have been at BSH Home Appliances working as the Digital Marketing Intern in Milton Keynes. During the whole application process, I had support from the Lancaster Careers Service, who helped me improve my CV and applications and even conducted mock interviews. It really enabled me to feel more confident when applying for different roles.

Since I started my placement, my main responsibilities have been to assist my team in running paid search and social campaigns across platforms like Google and Meta. Alongside this, I work on a variety of ad hoc projects to improve the digital consumer journey. I have also been lucky enough to join at a time of transformation for the company, which, while posing some challenges, has opened up lots of new things to get involved with.

These experiences have given me the chance to develop both professionally and personally. Learning how to work in an office environment, while learning new skills, is something I wouldn't have done otherwise. As a complement to studying History and Politics, a placement in marketing has provided me with real experience in a whole new industry and environment. This has really helped me to understand what I want to do after I finish my degree.

The placement has also enabled me to explore a whole new city as well. It has been amazing living so close to London! Of course, I am looking forward to returning to Lancaster to finish my degree, but this experience has been, and will be, invaluable.

Sometimes known as a year in industry, a placement year is an option on our programmes. If you enrol for a programme with a placement year, your placement will occur between your second and final years of study. This will extend your degree to four years.

The placement helps you gain real-world experience and bolster your CV.

**Ralph Barton**  
Placement-year  
History and Politics  
BA Hons





**The Oak Tree**  
County Main

"My favourite place on Campus is probably County Main ... it's where my accommodation was in first year, [and] it can be very pretty in the summer months, especially with the iconic County Oak Tree. It's also very convenient, containing several well-lit seminar rooms and a nice study room I spend a lot of time in. Because lots of humanities students have seminars there it's also a nice place to bump into and chat to people I know."

Ellie Browne, 2nd Year,  
BA English Lit & History



# Our Alumni...



**Conor Walker**  
Oxford Archaeology

I completed my BA in History in 2020 and an MA in Digital Humanities in 2021. I am now work in the geomatics team at Oxford Archaeology, where my work involves utilising geospatial technology as a recording, visualisation and storage resource for historical data. My studies at Lancaster have left me very well prepared for my current career. My undergraduate degree in history has helped me develop the researching, referencing, writing, problem-solving, communication, attention to detail and project management skills that you would expect from a humanities graduate. The skills developed throughout a History degree are essential to almost every aspect of a successful professional career, and as such, they are incredibly sought after in the current job market.

**Molly Anderson**  
Writer and Social Media Manager,  
Promenades Travel



I graduated from Lancaster with First-Class honours in History in 2022. I am now a writer and social media manager for Promenades Travel, a history holiday travel company, which enables me to use the skills I developed at university, writing critical pieces for the blog, and entertaining pieces for social media. I am also a staff writer for *The Historians Magazine*, which encourages me to continue researching historical topics that interest me. In February, I curated a local history exhibition which was very well-received by the community. I'm also doing other part-time work before starting a Master's degree in Heritage Management at Queen Mary University of London in September. I then hope to start working in museums and historic properties.



## **Emmanuel Adeyemi-Abere**

MA Politics Student,  
Lancaster University

I graduated in the summer of 2023 with First-Class honours in History and Politics. The opportunity to explore the developments of the Global South and racial inequalities across the globe has defined many aspects of my past and present steps as a student. Above all, my degree taught me the 'personal is political'. Critical engagement with the communities I find myself in can produce real change – for myself and others. During my undergraduate degree, I was a member of the 'Why Is My Curriculum White?' campaign and the Race Equality Charter Committee at the University. Action and learning have always gone hand in hand for me, and the self-growth that I have observed led me to stay and study a Master's degree in Politics. I relish research about decolonisation and embrace sharing lessons I have learned. The MA programme allows me to specialise further in the field of Black British studies I first examined in my undergraduate dissertation. The contemporary significance of themes from that piece of work have paved the way for invited talks, widening participation projects and a summer internship over the last six months. The future is looking bright.



## **Estella Shaw**

Communications and Visitor Engagement  
Assistant, The Foundling Museum

I completed my BA in History with First-Class honours in 2020 and my History MA (Heritage pathway) in 2021. I loved studying at Lancaster and chose to stay on for a Master's year. That really helped me get my foot in the door when I started to search for jobs in the extremely competitive museum sector. After I graduated, I managed to find a part time Visitor Engagement position at The Foundling Museum, in London, in which my main focus was accessibility and inclusion. After that, I was offered a full-time position that combined Visitor Engagement and working with the museum's communications team. I'm putting the writing and research skills I learned in my History degrees to use daily, uncovering historical content for social media and communicating with the public and press to promote the museum's work.



# Our Centres

## Regional Heritage Centre



**Promoting and celebrating the rich social and cultural heritage of North West England**


Established in 2014, our Regional Heritage Centre (RHC) promotes and celebrates the rich social and cultural heritage of North West England by engaging with heritage bodies around the North West and our regional community. The RHC offers a programme of public study days and other events on the heritage of North West England, and we also hold archives of national significance, including the Elizabeth Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive. The RHC makes the most of our connections with regional museums, archives and heritage organisations to create opportunities for placements and internships for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Department of History. We also support the PGCert in Regional and Local History by distance learning at Lancaster.

## Digital Humanities Centre



**Applying digital expertise to enhance humanities research**

Our Digital Humanities Centre (DHC) brings together internationally recognised centres of excellence in the spatial humanities, corpus linguistics and natural language processing, and combines these with broad expertise across the digital humanities as a whole. The DHC provides access to an excellent range of digital resources for researchers and students, and we have a very active research community that runs a range of events. In addition, we offer short courses on a range of topics in Digital Humanities through the Lancaster Summer Schools. The DHC supports the MA in Digital Humanities at Lancaster. Recent projects connected with the DHC include 'Unlocking the Colonial Archive: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Indigenous and Spanish American Collections' and 'Digital Innovation in Water Scarcity in Coimbatore, India'.



Extract from *Unhorsed by Bernardino della Carda* by Paolo Uccello, 1438 (Uffizi, Florence)

## Centre for War and Diplomacy

**Confronting today's challenges through the study of the past**

Our Centre for War and Diplomacy (CWD) provides the historical context and strategic analysis to inform understanding of today's geopolitical challenges. Based in the Department of History at Lancaster University, the CWD brings together colleagues from across the Arts and Social Sciences, including History, Law, Politics, Philosophy and Religion as well as the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, and welcomes non-resident and visiting fellows from across the world. The CWD supports the MA in International and Military History and MA War and Diplomacy at Lancaster, as well as a flourishing community of doctoral students. It also hosts a programme of conferences and seminars, and the War & Diplomacy Podcast.



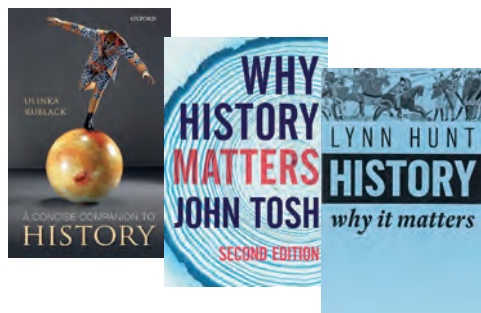
# History Reading

**The best way to prepare for studying History at university level is to follow your interests. If there's a topic you find interesting, dig deeper into it, whether by reading books, listening to podcasts or watching documentaries, TV series and movies. You could even try consulting some primary sources. Immersing yourself in the kind of history that you find interesting is a sure way to develop your knowledge and skills, giving you the ability to hit the ground running when you arrive at university.**

That said, lots of incoming students ask us if there's anything specific that it would be a good idea to read before they join us. To be honest, any history or history-related reading works for us. But you might also want to think about what it means to be a historian, and to delve into some of the big challenges and questions that come with trying to interpret the past. Here are some of our top suggestions:

- John Tosh, *Why History Matters* (2008)
- Lynn Hunt, *History – Why it Matters* (2018)
- Ulinka Rublack (ed.), *A Concise Companion to History* (2011)
- Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft* (1949)

You can also find a huge range of fascinating resources online, especially podcasts and YouTube series. You could try *AskHistorians*, *History Extra*, *History Hit* and *The Rest is History* – but there are many more!



## EPOCH History Magazine

**EPOCH is a history magazine publishing emerging historians' research for international audiences, based in our History Department.**

EPOCH is produced by our History postgraduates. The magazine publishes articles about historical research from all around the world. To date, EPOCH has featured articles from contributors from over seventy institutions across thirteen countries.

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Will Garbett,  
Co-ordinating Editor

# Historic Lancaster



Lancaster and its surroundings are steeped in history. Why not explore some of the historic places and landmarks around the city? If you are interested in venturing further afield, be sure to check out some of the top historic sites in our region as recommended by members of the History Department at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/history/historic-lancaster](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/history/historic-lancaster).






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