



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of History, Classics
and Archaeology

Undergraduate opportunities



History at Edinburgh

Study at one of the world's leading universities and
get a degree tailored to your interests and ambitions.

Why choose History at Edinburgh?

Join one of the UK's largest and most international departments of History where you will be part of a vibrant culture of inquiry and debate led by our dedicated team of staff.

A world-leading university

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently ranked among the top 50 best universities in the world, we're 22nd in the 2024 QS World University Rankings, and we attract some of the world's brightest staff and students. History at Edinburgh is ranked 21st among all history departments in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023) and our ranking as 4th in the UK according to THE Research Power rank reflects the high quality of the research undertaken by the large and diverse group of historians at Edinburgh.

Our historians have won many international prizes, produce award-winning publications, and are often quoted in the media as experts on a wide range of issues.

Join us, and you will experience the best in teaching, working alongside world-leading academics whose research directly informs their teaching.

A historic city

Edinburgh is a modern, thriving, and cosmopolitan city, but also a historic one where the earliest human habitation is traced back to a Mesolithic campsite dated to c. 8500 BC. Since then, the city has seen the rise and fall of kings and queens. It has witnessed wars, rebellions, plagues, and the flowering of the Enlightenment.

Edinburgh's rich historical resources and archives feature prominently in our teaching. This will help you become acquainted with the city you are studying in. It will also allow you to use the events that have happened here to enhance your general understanding of history.

Flexibility and choice

We are one of the largest departments of History in the UK, covering an enormous range of subjects: from Charlemagne to Gandhi, from the Industrial Revolution to the Chinese economic miracle, from Scotland to the Caribbean, and from political radicalism to the history of financial crises.

By taking one of our four-year degrees, you will have the flexibility to study subjects outside of History in years 1 and 2. These may complement your History courses, or be something completely different. This flexibility ensures you are adaptable and allows you to develop a wide variety of skills attractive to future employers.

A degree with employability at its core

A History degree at Edinburgh is not just about studying the past. It's about combining academic study with employability to develop the skills you need, both to become a successful historian and to excel in any career after you graduate. We offer skills courses to support your successful progress through your degree and help you hone the transferable skills that employers value.

A supportive environment

We want you to feel supported throughout your time with us at Edinburgh and a wide range of services is available. The School has a dedicated Student Support and Experience Team, Wellbeing Advisor, and Peer Support.



A flexible four-year degree

Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing a breadth as well as depth of knowledge.

Among the advantages of the four-year degree are:

- Breadth of study. The flexible nature of our degrees enables you to expand your academic range by studying subjects outside your major discipline during the first two years. Year 1 History students have recently taken courses in subjects as varied as philosophy, politics, French, Italian, and economics.
- Joint degrees. A huge range of joint degrees offers you the opportunity to study two disciplines in real depth.
- Third year abroad. An extensive network of reciprocal exchanges with major international universities can give you the chance to apply to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.

www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad

- Final-year dissertation. A feature of the fourth year is a dissertation undertaken by all students. This piece of original research, of up to 12,000 words, represents the culmination of your undergraduate career and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.
- MA (Hons). The added experience and intellectual depth that you will gain over the course of the four-year honours undergraduate degree is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.



Our degree programmes

History degree programmes

- MA History
- MA Ancient and Medieval History
- MA History and Scottish History

Joint honours degree programmes with other subjects

- MA History and Archaeology
- MA History and Classics
- MA History and Economics
- MA History and History of Art
- MA History and Politics
- MA English Literature and History
- LLB Law and History
- MA Scottish Literature and History

You can also combine the study of history with a language:

- MA Arabic and History
- MA Chinese and History
- MA French and History
- MA German and History
- MA Italian and History
- MA Portuguese and History
- MA Russian Studies and History
- MA Scandinavian Studies and History
- MA Spanish and History

Joint honours degrees with Scottish History

- MA Celtic and Scottish History
- MA Scottish Ethnology and Scottish History
- MA Scottish Literature and Scottish History

Degree programmes listed are for 2025 entry and are subject to change. For the latest information visit our webpages:

edin.ac/ma-history



What our students say

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“Having a really tight knit community of people in History, between both staff and my best friends that are in our classes. It’s nice to feel like there’s a place where you know everyone, can study with friends and still have a really social aspect to it. I feel so comfortable going to see the professors and tutors and asking them for help as well as other students. It’s a non-competitive environment which makes learning super relaxed and more fun! It creates a fully uni experience rather than just going to class and going home.”



Scarlett - MA (Hons) History and Politics

“I wanted to be part of a city, and not just a campus! Edinburgh seemed ideal for that. I also really liked the flexibility the History programme in Edinburgh provided. I knew I wanted to take outside courses in social policy and politics, as well as really take my time to settle in. The four-year structure of the degree in Edinburgh drew me in.”



Georgia - MA (Hons) History

“My university courses are helping me develop the key skills in communication, teamwork and analysis which I will need looking forward. The independent study of university also encourages you to manage your time well and work efficiently.”



Jack - MA (Hons) History and Politics



Chat online

Wherever you are in the world, UniBuddy gives you the chance to chat to a current student about their experiences. You will be able to connect with a range of students studying different subjects:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/student-life/student-chat



Life beyond the classroom

The friends you meet, places you discover and the lasting memories you create contribute as much to your university life as your formal learning.

History Society

The History Society is one of the oldest and largest societies on campus, renowned for its welcoming spirit and social events for which it has won many awards.

The History Society hosts guest lecturers, organises careers events, and works closely with the EUSA Liberation groups. It also holds regular social events from film screenings and karaoke to a black-tie Winter Ball. As well as all this, it runs an annual international trip and has five sports teams.

edin.ac/hca-societies

History and Games Society

The History and Games Society is the only society dedicated to examining and critically playing historical games. It holds events every month and collaborates with other groups, such as The History and Games Lab, to host playtests, guest seminars, workshops, and gaming events.

edin.ac/hca-societies

Retrospect

Retrospect is the University's student-led History, Classics and Archaeology journal. Whether you are interested in writing about your subject outside of your studies, or simply want to gain experience in writing, editing, designing or publishing, Retrospect publishes once a semester with an excellent calendar of socials and careers events.

<https://retrospectjournal.com>

Sport and exercise

Whether a recreational gym-user or a performance athlete going for gold, our world-class sports facilities and coaches cater for you.

After your degree

You will gain key transferable skills that employers are looking for. In particular, you will learn to develop intellectually rigorous arguments, based on sound independent research and analysis.

You will also learn to:

- compile and critically evaluate large amounts of complex and conflicting evidence
- formulate and present your views coherently and cogently, both orally and in writing

The research and analytical skills history students develop can be used in any research-based career.

They can also be applied to careers such as:

- journalism
- museum and heritage work
- public relations
- the diplomatic service
- teaching

Previous graduates have gone on to pursue a wide variety of careers, including in:

- the media
- politics
- the civil service
- heritage
- law
- business
- finance





Career advice and opportunities to enhance your CV

Our Careers Service can help with your career choices, and offer practical advice about how to advance your career goals. They organise hundreds of career events and workshops each year, including the annual Creative and Cultural Heritage Career Festival, and regularly invite employers onto campus to meet with our students. They also make occasional contributions to the curriculum ensuring student awareness of the possibilities a History degree offers.

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology has its own dedicated careers consultant who works on a 1:1 basis with students in the School to guide and support their career needs. Most employers expect something extra from today's graduates so the University also runs the Edinburgh Award to help set you apart – this award recognises student involvement in a wide range of co- and extra-curricular activities, and the skills and attributes demonstrated.

Contact us

For further information about studying History at Edinburgh, email:

hca-prospective-ug@ed.ac.uk

For further information about your application,

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+44 (0)131 650 3565

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instagram.com/hcaatedinburghuniversity
blogs.ed.ac.uk/shca

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure before going to print (February 202). However please check online for the most up-to-date information:

www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology

FAQs

Where do I find degree programme listings and entry requirements?

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/degrees

Where do I find out more about history courses?

edin.ac/ug-history

Where can I find out about visits, tours and Open Days?

www.ed.ac.uk/visit

Where can I find out about accommodation?

www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/accommodation

Where do I find out about applying?

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applying

Where do I apply and track my application?

www.ucas.com

What financial support can I apply for?

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding

What information can I get about facilities and support services?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/facilities

Where can I find out about sports facilities?

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/sport

Where can I find out more about transport in and around the city?

transportforedinburgh.com

What do your students think?

edin.ac/student-life

