MSt in History

Dr Samantha Williams
Course Director
Year 1: four residential modules

**Module 1:** Theory, concepts and historiography  
24 – 27 September 2018: 4 days

**Module 2:** British local and regional history *or* Global history  
28 - 30 November 2018: 3 days

**Module 3:** Sources, methods and research skills  
20 - 22 February 2019: 3 days

**Module 4:** British local and regional history *or* Global history  
22 - 24 May 2019: 3 days
All students are taught *together* for modules 1 and 3

**Module 1: Theory, concepts and historiography (24 – 27 September 2018)**
Induction day: an introduction to the course and tours of the University and Seeley History libraries.

Topics might include the Annales School, international history, gender, feudalism, race, class and social status, nations and states, religion.

**Module 3: Sources, methods and research skills (20 - 22 February 2019)**
Topics might include using library resources and archives, the census, microhistory, sources for early modern history, IT for historians practical, quantitative history, oral history, anthropology and history.

**Modules 2 and 4** are thematic pathways:
British local and regional history *or* Global history

Research for the dissertation *must* sit within one of these pathways.
## Sample timetable from a previous cohort:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Wednesday 22 February</th>
<th>Thursday 23 February</th>
<th>Friday 24 February</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Microhistory</td>
<td>Quantitative history</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Samantha Williams</td>
<td>Dr Amy Erickson</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Oral history and its discontents</td>
<td>Sources for early modern history</td>
<td>Sources for early modern political history</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Lucy Delap</td>
<td>Dr Heather Falvey</td>
<td>Dr David Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Anthropology and history</td>
<td>IT for historians I</td>
<td>Environmental history</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Leigh Denault</td>
<td>Gill Newton &amp; Ellen Potter</td>
<td>Dr Paul Warde</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Historians, society and public history</td>
<td>IT for historians II</td>
<td>Essay workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Simon Gallaher</td>
<td>Gill Newton &amp; Ellen Potter</td>
<td>Dr Samantha Williams</td>
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<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Depart</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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Assessment:

Year 1

One 4,000 word essay per module, carrying 10% of the marks each.

Unassessed research proposal essay at the start of year 2.
YEAR 2

There are 3 Day Schools:

Saturday 26 October 2019: Workshop on research design, analysis, evaluation of sources & methods

Saturday 18 January 2020: Linking your topic and the historiography

Saturday 18 April 2020: Structure and presentation

• A dissertation of 16,000-20,000 words, based on primary research, in British local and regional history or Global history, carrying 60% of the marks.
Pathway: British local and regional history

Module 2: Topics might include approaches to local history, manors and medieval Cambridge, the parish, early modern culture, religion and belief, urban history, consumption, family and household.

Module 4: Poverty, disease and medicine, 1601-1914 – topics might include disease, death and doctors, plague and venereal disease, urban mortality, the Old Poor Law and charity, the New Poor Law, charity and the state, workhouse medicine and mortality, smallpox, childbirth, midwifery and the man-midwife, mutual aid and self-help, the ‘professionalisation’ of medicine.
Pathway: Global history, Dr Leigh Denault

Module 2: Topics might include an introduction to debates in global history; colonialism and post-colonialism; local, regional, and world histories; global economic histories; the environment; gender in global context; transnational labour history; oceanic histories

Module 4: **Global urban histories: culture, consumption, connections**
Cities in the ancient world; cultures of sociability in the Ottoman world; Mughal cosmopolitanism; urban lives in colonial Latin America; Chinese port cities and maritime customs; West Africa and the Atlantic world; global London; gender and the city; cities and their hinterlands
See our website: http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/mst-history. Apply on-line.

‘Statement of intended research’
area of research and chronological period
how the research contributes to the existing historiography on that topic
primary sources
600-1,000 words (2-5 pages) in length.

The topic must fall within one of the MSt in History pathways: either British local and regional history or Global history. The research proposal is an essential element of the application since supervisors for the dissertation are secured before admission.

Interviews: 11 and 12 January 2018; 12 and 13 April 2018.