Programme Specification (Undergraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2023/24

Date created: 23/02/2021 **Last amended:** 23/04/2026 **Version no.** 4

1. Programme title(s) and code(s):

BA Modern and Contemporary History
BA Modern and Contemporary History with a Year Abroad*
BA Modern and Contemporary History with a Year in Industry*

*Students may only enter these degree programmes by transferring at the end of year 1 or year 2

a) HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
[100310]	[100]

b) UCAS Code (where required)

[V140]

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

BA Modern and Contemporary History

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration five years

Year Abroad

The normal period of registration is 4 years full-time

The maximum period of registration 6 years full-time

Year in Industry

The normal period of registration is 4 years full-time

The maximum period of registration 6 years full-time

5. Typical entry requirements

ABB at A level or BBB at A level plus B in Extended Project Qualification.

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 30 points including at least one subject with 6 points at higher level.

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the GCSA Year Abroad please see https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case basis and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to

- provide a rigorous, coherent and attractive history curriculum that draws on the research expertise and teaching strengths in the subject in the School of History, Politics and International Relations;
- provide a stimulating and challenging learning experience for all students;
- develop students' knowledge and understanding of the wide geographical range of their discipline;
- develop students' abilities to apply historical theories, techniques, and concepts to analyse and explain specific historical periods and themes;
- enable students to demonstrate a variety of approaches to understanding the past as used by different types of historians;
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of skills necessary for the study of history; and
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of transferable skills necessary for successful career development and a lifetime of effective independent learning.

In addition to the aims of the programme outlined for the 3-year degree in Contemporary History, the 4-year degree also aims:

- to broaden students' learning experience in an international context;
- to provide students with the opportunity to develop their language skills by studying for a year in a European country – this does not apply to those students opting to study in Australia or North America;
- to widen students' cultural experience by living and studying abroad;
- to develop students' transferable skills in order to enhance their employability.
- Intended learning outcomes for the year will be those of the modules they take at the Higher Education Institution they attend during their year abroad.

In addition, for the 'with Industry' variants

- The 'Year in industry' variant of this programme is offered in accordance with the University's standard specification for year in industry programme variants.
- To provide experience of applications of professional and discipline-specific skills in Industry and to reinforce knowledge through its use in different environments.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- QAA Benchmarking Statement for History
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)

- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of historical knowledge	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, resource-based learning	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises.

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate understanding of the complexity of reconstructing the past, the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence. Demonstrate a variety of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, team problem solving exercises. Tutorials, seminars, independent research, computer practical classes, team problem solving exercises, placement-based learning.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, dissertations, contributions to discussions, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises, portfolio, research proposal, group presentations, reflective learning journal.

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Compare and analyse the histories of different countries, societies or cultures. Analyse historical processes through the assessment of continuity and change over extended time spans. Reflect critically on the nature of history as a discipline.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, independent research projects, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises.

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present historical problems and arguments in a variety of written and oral formats.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises, IT and other skills workshops.	Writing tasks, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, posters, podcasts, webpages, research proposal, reflective learning journal.

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain historical arguments, formulating appropriate questions and utilizing evidence. Read, analyse, and reflect critically and contextually upon historical texts and other source materials.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer-aided learning, team problem solving exercises.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, independent research projects, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, group oral presentation, research proposals, reflective learning journals.

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing in history or politics. Present referencing and bibliographic material to appropriate subject specific standards	Independent research, supervisions. Tutorials, seminars, student handbooks, essay and coursework feedback	Independent research projects, Dissertations, research proposals. Essays, dissertations, independent research projects

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression. Participate effectively in group discussions.	Seminars, tutorials, team problem solving exercises. Seminars, tutorials, team problem solving exercises	Seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, oral group presentations, podcasts, poster presentations.

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain arguments in a variety of literary forms. Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression	Seminars, tutorials, team problem-solving exercises Seminars, tutorials, independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, independent research projects, research proposals, reflective learning journals, posters.

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Use IT to effectively support their History studies, including using IT for bibliographic and archive	Induction programme, computer practical classes, independent research, numeracy	Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises, posters, podcasts, webpages,

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
searches, data analysis and written/visual presentation of evidence.	classes, IT and other skills workshop.	seminar presentations, group presentations.

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Consider the uses of numerical data in historical analysis	Lectures, tutorials and numeracy classes. Skills workshops.	Independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Be able to work collaboratively to jointly explore historical issues and arguments and to recognise the value of working closely with others.	Tutorials, seminars, team problem-solving exercises.	Seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, contributions to team problem solving exercises, group presentations

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Address historical problems in depth using contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature.	Tutorials, seminars, team problem-solving exercises	Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises, dissertation, research proposals, reflective learning journal.

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, team problem solving exercises.	Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises, dissertation, research proposal, reflective learning journal.

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate intellectual independence through the setting of research tasks and the solving of historical problems. Reflect upon own learning and achievements and plan	All of the above, particularly Independent research. Tutorials, career development programmes, resource based learning, personal development planning programme, placement based learning.	All of the above, particularly the research proposal, reflective learning journal and dissertation. Portfolio, curriculum vitae.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
for personal, educational and career development.		

Year in Industry

In addition, for the Year in Industry' variants the additional programme outcomes apply

10. Progression points

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

For HS coded modules, certain modules include qualifying elements which students have to pass in order to obtain credits for the module. Please refer to individual module specification forms for further information.

Year in Industry

For the Year in Industry variant, the additional progression points apply

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in Senate Regulation 5.

12. Special features

The School of History, Politics and International Relations includes one of the largest groups of historians in the UK. The Contemporary History degree allows students to specialise in predominantly twentieth-century history and its intersections with the politics and international relations of the modern world. The School is rated excellent for teaching by TQA and 85% of its historians' output was judged at 4* and 3* standard in Ref 2014 (the highest proportion in the UK). Students' learning experience is enhanced by the School's strong commitment to developing synergy between its research and teaching activities

The University recognises that undertaking a work placement as part the programme of study can enhance career prospects and provide added value, and as such this programme includes a 'year in industry' variant.

By experiencing real-world scenarios and applying skills and knowledge to a professional environment, students can gain a unique insight into how their studies can be utilised in industry. This will not only showcase their abilities to future employers but will also enhance their studies upon returning to university to complete your programme.

To understand the special features for year in industry undergraduate programme variants, this programme specification should be read in conjunction with the programme specification content which can be found here. This outlines details including programme aims, support, progression and duration.

13. Indications of programme quality

Students following this programme have consistently been awarded good upper second class or first class degrees.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found here.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Updates to the programme

Academic year affected	Module Code(s)	Update
2023/24	HS1017	Module title changed from "With Liberty and Justice for All? US History since 1877"
2025/26		History special subjects changed from 45 to 30 credits

[BA Modern and Contemporary History]

Level 4/Year 1 2023/24

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits

FIRST YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS1000	Making History	30 credits
Sem 1	HS1002	The Shock of the Modern	15 credits
Sem 1	PL1015	The Global Cold War: International Relations, 1945-89	15 credits

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS1100	People and Places	30 credits

EITHER

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1012	Comparative European Politics	15 credits

OR

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1016	Order and Disorder: International Relations from 1989 to the Present	15 credits

15 credits of approved History modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	HS1012	Global History: Connections and Cultures in a Changing World, 1750 to the present	15 credits
Semester 1	HS1013	Modern Britain: The State We're In	15 credits
Semester 1	HS1017	US History since 1776	15 credits
Semester 1	HS1016	Europe 1861-1991: Emancipation and Subjugation	15 credits

Level 5/Year 2 2024/25

SECOND YEAR MODULES

Route A: with History Dissertation

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	45 credits	60 credits

120 credits in total

SEMESTER 1

Core module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2401	Perceiving the Past	15 credits

Optional modules

30 credits of approved History option modules and 15 credits of approved Politics/IR modules:

History options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2238	Global Cities	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2329	A World Connected: Economy, Wellbeing and Sustainability since 1950	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2346	Slavery, Abolition and Reconstruction in the United States	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2353	Enter the Dragon: An Introduction to Modern China	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2359	The History of Alcohol in North America, 1650-1950	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2362	Living with Dictatorship: European Societies, 1918-1941	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2369	Digital Histories	15 credits

Politics/IR options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL2020	Political Parties in Contemporary Britain	15 credits
Sem 1	PL2021	The Curious Feminist: Gender in Global Politics	15 credits

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2502	Becoming the Historical Researcher	15 credits

30 credits of approved History option modules and 15 credits of approved Politics/IR modules:

History options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2311	Domestic Revolutions: Women, Men and the Family in American History	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2314	Imperialism and Decolonisation	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2348	Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2360	History in the Classroom	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2368	Fight the Power! Race, Rights and Protest in the USA	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2802	Working with History: The Heritage Field Project	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2803	World's End: Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Environmental Crises	15 credits

Politics options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL2016	European Union Politics	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2018	International Security Studies	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2019	Foreign Policy Analysis	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2024	Governing Societies in Conflict	15 credits

Route B: with Politics Dissertation

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	45 credits	30 credits

120 credits in total

SEMESTER ONE

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2401	Perceiving the Past	15 credits

30 credits of approved History optional modules and 15 credits of approved Politics and International Relations optional modules as listed above: 45 credits

Semester total 60

SEMESTER TWO

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL2095	Preparing for your dissertation	30 credits

Level 6/Year 3 2026/27

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	n/a	n/a
Optional	30 credits	45 credits	45 credits

Element	Semester	Credit Value
Dissertation	15 credits – Sem 1 30 credits – Sem 2	45 credits
Special Subject	Year Long	30 credits
Optional Module	30 credits – Sem 1 15 credits – Sem 2	45 credits

Students must ensure that they do not take all three elements in one discipline.

Dissertation

Either:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS3505	Dissertation I	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3506	Dissertation II	30 credits

Or:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL3094	Dissertation 1	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL3095	Dissertation 2	30 credits

Special Subject (History):

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	HS3771	After Hitler: Society, Culture and The Politics of The Nazi Past in The Two Germanies, 1945-1990	30 credits
Year Long	HS3774	Cultures of Struggle and Liberation: Twentieth Century Southern Africa	30 credits
Year long	HS3777	The Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt	30 credits

Options

Semester One

History options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS3677	Sport and the British	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3681	You are what you Wear? Clothing, Fashion & Belonging in the Modern World	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3682	Daring to be Free: The Women's Movement, 1850s to 1970	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3694	Diasporas and Migrations in the Modern World	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3699	The Making of a Nation: India and the British Empire 1857-1947	15 credits

Politics/International Relations options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL3060	Feminism	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3071	The American Presidency	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3098	The Conservatives: Crisis and Recovery	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3122	Political Legacies of Conflict in Northern Ireland	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3129	The Politics of Nuclear Weapons	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3143	International Migration in the Age of Securitisation	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3147	Emotions in Conflict and Cooperation	15 credits

Semester Two

History options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS3614	Britain's Imperial Economy: Power, Wealth and Colonialism 1830-1939	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3627	The Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1968	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3653	The Death Penalty and its Abolition: A Global History	15 credits

Politics/International Relations options:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL3107	Brexit and British Politics	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3114	American Political Development	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3116	Politics of Contemporary War and Conflict	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL3121	The Politics of Slavery	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3137	The Politics of Contemporary British Foreign Policy	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3145	Gender, Race and War	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3150	Politics, Conflict and Statecraft in Africa	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3152	Grenfell: Violence and the Possibility of Nonviolence	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3154	The Political Theory of Disobedience and Protests	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3156	Queer IR: Sexuality & Global Politics	15 credits

BA MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY WITH A YEAR ABROAD

The above four-year degree is also available. Students may only enter the four-year variant of the three- year programme by transferring at the end of the first or second-year and on the recommendation of the heads of the divisions concerned. Transfer is conditional on successful completion of first-year modules. The programme structure is as for first, second and final year modules for the three-year programme (above). The third year is spent abroad at an approved partner institution.

The programme is assessed as a Four Year Programme with a year out, with the year abroad treated as the 'year out'. The year out does not count towards the final classification, but a student must pass all modules taken during the year abroad to proceed to the final year of the programme. The second and fourth years are used in determining the degree class, according to the standard scheme for three-year programmes. Degrees will be classified using the same scheme as for three-year programmes.

To take part in the History Year Abroad programme students must pass all modules in years 1 and 2, and achieve a credit weighted average of 55% in year 2. They must also have learned the language of the destination country, providing the Office with a language certificate as evidence of satisfactory completion of training through the 'Languages at Leicester scheme' or an appropriate alternative. Failure to meet these criteria will lead to the School recommending transfer to the 3-year degree which the student would otherwise have taken.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See undergraduate module specification database [login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).

Appendix 3: Skills matrix