Programme Specification

**Programme award and title:** MRes in Historical Research (The American Revolutionary Era)

| SCQF Level: | Level 11 | SCQF Credit Value: | 180 |

**Educational aims of the programme:**
Concise (e.g. a few sentences), general statement of aims and broad purposes of the programme

- The programme is designed to prepare students for a PhD in the field of the American Revolutionary Era, c. 1760-1790, either at Stirling or elsewhere.

**Intended programme learning outcomes:**
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) of what the student will know, understand and be able to do as a result of their learning, expressed in the categories below. Please consider the contribution made to the student’s personal development planning (PDP) and future employability.

**Knowledge and understanding**

- All the programme learning outcomes listed for the BA with Honours in History (UCAS V100) are assumed for the MRes in Historical Research in Medieval Scottish History. The taught elements of the programme inculcates understanding of the historiographical debates, historical issues and sources and methods pertaining to Medieval Scottish History. The first module is a literature of the field seminar that examines major historical issues and enables students to identify and assess the primary sources relevant to given topics and to apply an understanding of their potential content, problems of interpretation and historical controversy. One of two options will be available: RCRPF—The Imperial Crisis or RCRPXA—The American Revolution. The fourth module (HTRP03) enables students to undertake an a research project based on empirical analysis with a view to contributing to knowledge of the field and to prepare them for a PhD.

**Subject-specific skills and other attributes**

- Each student is given particular training in particular subject skills and generic skills relevant to his or her research project. The second module (HTRP14) is the masters programmes core research skills module. It enables students to study subject approaches and methodologies in political and social history, for example, and practise technical specialisms in areas such as documentary editing, paleography or quantitative and qualitative analyses. Students can choose sessions relevant to their research interests and career goals from a skills suite offered by the Department during a week of intensive training. In the third module (HTRP12) students and supervisors (a) devise a programme of independent study that builds upon HTRP14; (b) co-ordinate the provision of additional training, in the utilisation of British state papers and UK archives generally for the field of study; and (c) discuss how research skills can be applied to the methodologies used in the programme’s dissertation module (HTRP03).

**Generic skills (e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem solving abilities) and other attributes**

- Generic skills are also taught in HTRP14 such as proficiency in an IT process (e.g. database creation and management), and students are expected to attend SGRS sessions relevant to their project and career development.
- Furthermore, the research skills module also trains students in preparing a bibliography (on which they are assessed) writing research proposals and grant applications, and in preparing and delivering seminar and conference papers.
- The dissertation trains students in producing a sustained piece of research and in writing a sustained, persuasive argument over the course of a lengthy document (20,000 words).

**Learning, teaching and assessment strategies:**
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) on overall approach taken to develop and assess learning outcomes, including any distinctive features

- The University Grading Scheme is used to assess performance in the modules and in the dissertation. Modules that are taught wholly or in part in other universities may have their own grading schemes but, for the purposes of the M.Res. and the Postgraduate Certificate, grades will be recorded according to the University Scheme. Assessment of the first module (RCRPFX or RCRPXA) is based on coursework. Assessment of the second module (HTRP14) is by coursework including a preparation of a research bibliography and due performance at subject-specific training sessions. Assessment in the third module (HTRP12) is devised and specified by the Course Director and Supervisor and will involve the completion of skills and aptitude tests and the preparation of a research methodology for the dissertation. For satisfactory completion of the programme students must obtain a grade of C or better for the dissertation and an average grade of C or better in modules 1 to 3.
- In the case of a dissertation being awarded D or less it may, at the discretion of the examiners, be referred back to the candidate for re-submission once only. The candidate may resubmit the dissertation within three months from the date of the formal announcement of the result of the original submission.
- In the case of coursework presented for modules 1 and 3 being awarded D or less it too may be referred back to the candidate for re-submission only once. The candidate may resubmit work for these modules within two months of the formal announcement of the result of the original submission.

Progression arrangements:
- Students who complete the programme satisfactorily may be awarded the Masters degree.
- Students who satisfactorily complete the taught modules but whose dissertation has not reached the standard of C may be awarded the Certificate.

Dissertation
- The dissertation should not exceed 20,000 words (excluding appendices) without the permission of the Course Director.
- Candidates will be appointed a principal supervisor and a second supervisor on the recommendation of the Head of the Department of History.
- The dissertation must be submitted by a date determined by the Course Director in consultation with the candidate’s supervisor. Normally this date will be within 12 months of the beginning of the course of study in the case of full-time candidates, or 24 months in the case of part-time candidates. Any postponement beyond 18 months for full-time candidates or 30 months in the case of part-time candidates is subject to the approval of APAC.

Distinction
- A dissertation graded at A may be awarded a distinction at the discretion of the external examiner.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title, Content</th>
<th>Availability, Module Co-ordinator</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCRPXF</td>
<td>The Imperial Crisis</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
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<td>Dr. C. Nicolson</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>The American Revolution</td>
<td>Dr. C. Nicolson/Dr. B. Marsh</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTRP14</td>
<td>Research Skills</td>
<td>Autumn and Spring</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTRP12</td>
<td>Sources and Methods</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTRP03</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>Spring and Summer</td>
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<td><strong>Professional/statutory body accreditation or recognition:</strong></td>
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**Further details:**

Entry requirements: [http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php](http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php)

Programme structure: [http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/](http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/)

Relevant Subject Benchmark statement (if applicable):
[http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp)


Introduction/revision date: