Programme Specification

Programme award and title: MRes in Environmental History

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 MRes programme has been developed to provide interdisciplinary training at an advanced level, principally as a preparation for, or as an enhancement of, a research-based career, or preparatory to a research degree in the Arts and Humanities or Natural Science.
- This programme is designed (a) to enable graduate students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds to become well-trained, interdisciplinary environmental historians and (b) to demonstrate their fitness to undertake research to doctoral level. The aim is to introduce students to the principles and methods of interdisciplinary research whilst building upon the disciplinary specialisms of their 1st degree subject(s). Through this mechanism, a bridge for dialogue between disciplines can be constructed which will allow genuine understanding of the potential of differing disciplines to offer illumination to research questions in other areas.
- The programme is intended to provide developed interdisciplinary skills in the principal subject areas contributing to the new discipline, and will provide advanced study in the main subject areas of candidates’ primary disciplines, through training in appropriate quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

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

- The programme establishes the student with a broad and substantial understanding of their chosen research topic, ranging from a thorough grasp of the key current literature, through the relevant historiographical and environmental science approaches and issues, to the varying natures of the available source materials.
- Candidates will be provided with a firm foundation in the theory, practice and application of environmental history.
- The student will be grounded in the theoretical base of environmental history and be able to argue persuasively from that knowledge base.
- They will possess skills in the synthesis and integration of documentary, archaeological and environmental data sources.
- They have understanding of the debates within the subject and have the capacity to evaluate conflicting historical and natural scientific interpretations.
- They will possess an understanding of the limitations of historical knowledge.

Subject-specific skills and other attributes

Each student is given particular training in a particular skill relevant to their research, beginning in module ENHP01 and continuing through to the dissertation (ENHP05). This may be History-linked, e.g. palaeography or Latin, but may be more scientific, e.g. GIS or thin-section micromorphology. All students will develop an understanding of the problematic nature, complexity and diversity of the past
An understanding of the limitations of historical knowledge
A capacity to collect evidence to test or support a historical case
An awareness of the importance of debate in history
A capacity to evaluate conflicting historical and natural scientific interpretations
Familiarity with a variety of complimentary but diverse sources
A capacity to collect evidence to test or support an environmental historical case
Generic skills (e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem solving abilities) and other attributes

A range of generic skills which have direct application in both further research or non-academic employment are provided alongside the subject-specific skills. These may range from proficiency in ICT processes relating to the manipulation of data, modern and historical language skills, to presentational experience (e.g. lecture delivery, PPT construction, seminar management). In addition, the MRes provides a broad foundation in:

Written and oral research presentation skills
- Skills in research debate
- The ability to undertake interdisciplinary research
- A capacity for working independently and in groups, and for effective time management
- An ability to formulate interdisciplinary research questions and to analyse and solve those by drawing on a range of disciplinary skills and techniques
- A capacity for organisation, clarity and fluency in written and oral expression of complex interdisciplinary data

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 modules 1-4 is based on coursework. This coursework is divided between a short, conference-style presentation on a selected topic (20%) and a 3,500-word essay or project on that topic (80%). The presentations are delivered in a seminar format to staff and students involved in the programme, and written feedback on presentational form will be given to the students in addition to a formal grade on the work. 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 1-4.

- 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 1-4 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.

**Environmental History (M.Res. and Postgraduate Certificate)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title, Content</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Module Co-ordinator</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENHP01</td>
<td>Principle and Methods</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Prof R D Oram</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENHP02</td>
<td>Rural Environment</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Prof R D Oram</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENHP03</td>
<td>Maritime Environment</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Prof R D Oram</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENHP04</td>
<td>Urban Environment</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Prof R D Oram</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTRP03</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>Spring and summer</td>
<td>Prof R D Oram</td>
<td>100% coursework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional/statutory body accreditation or recognition:**

**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: