

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



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MASTERS

MRES HISTORICAL RESEARCH

REDEFINE AT STIRLING

WHY AN MR_{ES} IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH?

The MR_{ES} is designed to enable students to become well-trained historians and to demonstrate their fitness to undertake research to doctoral level at Stirling or other universities in Britain and overseas.

Both are achieved through the completion of independent study modules, field seminars and skills training, under supervision. It is also

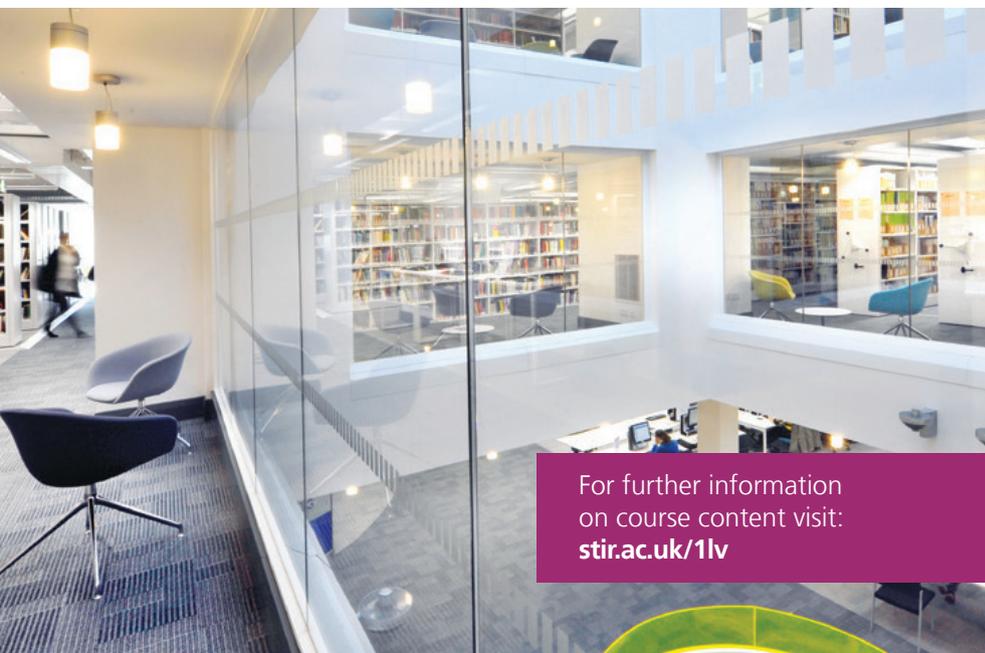
possible to follow an Environmental History pathway and complete an MR_{ES} in Historical Research: Environmental History.

The MR_{ES} programme and all constituent parts are constructed in line with the University's academic procedures and are fully assessed and externally examined. The programme is recognised by both the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council both of whom have given PhD awards to outstanding Stirling graduates.

IS AN MR_{ES} IN HISTORICAL STUDIES FOR ME?

The MR_{ES} offers students the opportunity to undertake a piece of original research, either simply to satisfy their own curiosity or to help prepare them for further study at PhD level. Students, who can undertake the degree either full-time or part-time, follow their own enthusiasm but must have an appropriate supervisor for their study. History staff offer particular strengths in African, American, British, environmental, European, and Scottish history.

Our History staff have common interests in themes including the 18th-century transatlantic world, kingship and lordship, parliament, identity and ethnicity, religion, ideology, war, revolution and counter-revolution, colonialism, gender, health, housing, welfare, historiography, archive record-linkage, land use, urban history, environmental history, mining, natural resources and waste.



For further information
on course content visit:
stir.ac.uk/1lv

RESEARCH AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The MRes will also enhance continuing professional development, particularly in teaching, journalism, marketing, and heritage management through in-depth study of particular fields; by aiming to develop critical analytical skills and research techniques, the programme provides preparation for a wide variety of research-based careers in the public and private sectors.

Many of our graduates go on to study for a PhD either by continuing at Stirling or at another University in the UK, Europe or North America. Recent graduates have secured posts in firms and institutions as varied as Historic Scotland, Sea World, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), and the Massachusetts Historical Society.

In addition, our students have the opportunity to further develop their transferable skills through voluntary internships working on collections of material held within the Division (The Scottish Political Archive and the University's own archive (e.g. the UNESCO recognised Royal Scottish National Institution for mentally disabled children).



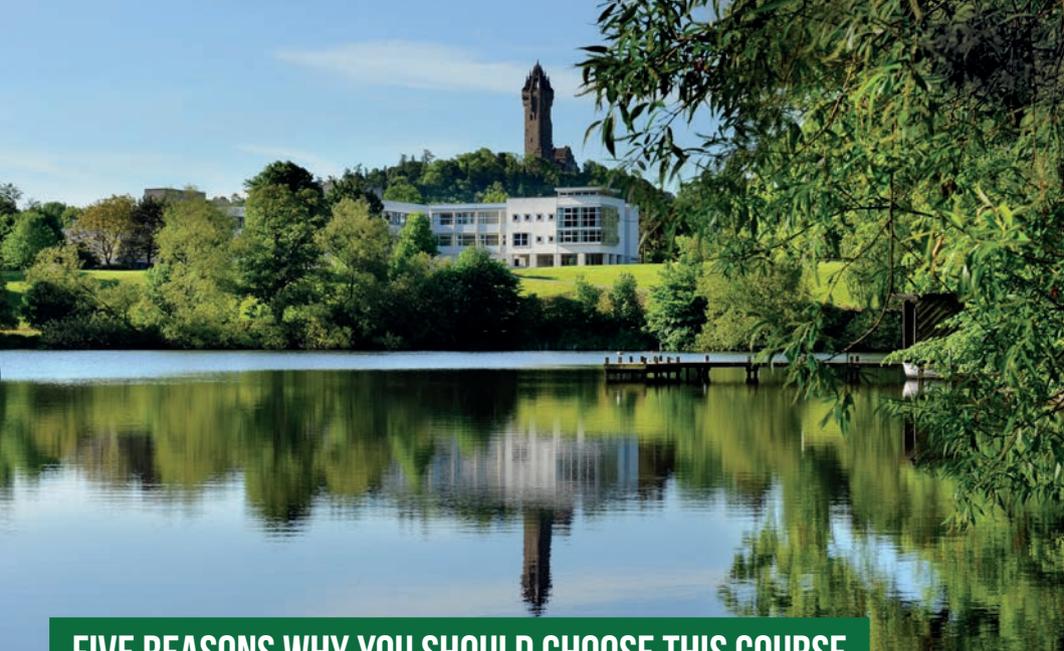
You can find out more about funding opportunities at:
stir.ac.uk/scholarships



Doing an MRes in Historical Studies at the University of Stirling was the ideal preparation for undertaking a PhD. The MRes allows you to develop important skills that are essential for a future career in academia, such as writing for publication, archival research and statistical analysis. The fact that I could conceive my own research question allowed me to pursue a project that catered to my own skills and interests, as well as giving me valuable new experiences. Another advantage of the MRes is that it gives you an idea of what studying for a PhD is like before you make the commitment to several years of study. The university itself is a great place to do research due to its excellent facilities as well as its central position, which allows easy access to libraries and archives across the country. I would strongly recommend the MRes in Historical Studies to anyone who has an interest in the subject or who wants to pursue a career in academia.



CAMERON MCKAY
PhD Student



FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1

You will be supervised by **experienced and committed staff** who are expert in their fields of study.

2

The programme enhances your own **independent research skills**.

3

All potential **supervisors** are engaged in high quality research and publish their findings with leading academic publishers and prestigious historical journals.

4

You will be part of a **thriving academic community** with a rich research culture across a variety of academic disciplines.

5

You will develop abilities that are **transferable to a wide range of job markets** where there is a premium on skilled researchers and innovative thinkers.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The MRes in Historical Research is a one-year course that is research-oriented and allows specialisation in particular research areas. Students are allocated an individual supervisor to direct their independent study and plan the curriculum to reflect their interests and needs.

Delivery is primarily through one to one sessions with the member of staff who will supervise your dissertation and provide direct feedback on Historiography, Sources and Methods, and draft chapters of your Dissertation. Training and skills elements are planned in discussion with your supervisor and these will comprise activities in four areas: generic skills; employability skills' breadth of knowledge, subject-specific skills. Students must attend the one-week programme on history and related discipline skills in early December and must give a short paper on their own research at the Stirling postgraduate conference in early June.

Semester 1:

Historiography:

Students undertake independent study of the historical literature of their chosen field. This is achieved through a 7,000 - 10,000-word paper that critically reviews historians' works and identifies a topic suitable for original research in a dissertation. There are no classes; one-to-one supervisory sessions are scheduled at mutually convenient times.

In addition students must undertake and complete a number of activities which are intended to provide the necessary subject skills and knowledge while encouraging a wider engagement with academic life, career planning, etc. Students also attend the one-week programme and history and related discipline skills in early December

Semester 2:

Sources and Methods: Students examine a body of sources related to their research topic, and practice the methods that they have been learning. This is achieved through a 5,000-word paper explaining the research 'value' and significance of the selected sources and setting out the appropriate concepts, theories and methods to be used in analysis and interpretation, along with a short skills test based on methods and sources. A similar programme of additional events as in semester 1 is completed also.

Dissertation: Having researched the existing secondary literature and the primary sources, and having received training in appropriate research skills, students now go on to complete a dissertation of between 20,000 and 22,000 words. It is assumed that students will be working on their dissertation throughout the programme and must give a short paper on their own research at the Stirling postgraduate conference in early June.

KEY TEACHING STAFF

The Director for the MRes is Dr Jim Smyth and all History staff are involved in their role as supervisors of projects relevant to their area of studies. Chronologically, historical research at Stirling ranges from the Viking era to the present day. The hallmarks of our research is its broad geographical, including a special emphasis on processes of trans-national and global interactions and comparative historical work. Collectively the Historians at Stirling cover American, African, European, British, Scottish and environmental history. We are currently developing our expertise in the history of Europe's most recent past and the study of Heritage.

University courses, services and procedures are continually reviewed, enhanced and revised, and this may result in some changes between the time of publication and the date when the student enters the University. Where any changes will affect an applicant, the University will keep the applicant fully informed.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent in a relevant subject is normally required. Applicants without these formal qualifications but with significant relevant work/life experience are encouraged to apply.

A research proposal is required (1,500 words maximum) with an indicative bibliography attached. The proposal must be prepared in consultation with an academic member of staff who has agreed to supervise your project.

TUITION FEES AND FUNDING

Details of tuition fees can be found at:
stir.ac.uk/1lu

For Scottish students and EU domiciled students, this course is currently approved for PTFL (Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan) funding from SAAS. For more information, please visit:
saas.gov.uk

You can find up to date financial information and funding opportunities here:
stir.ac.uk/scholarships

CONTACT INFORMATION

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stir.ac.uk/1lv

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Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: marketingtools@stir.ac.uk

This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

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