

## Programme change proposals

At York, each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	<a href="#">MA in Medieval Studies</a>
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### Summary of Overall Plans

In the MA in Medieval Studies in 2020-21, students will experience a blended approach to learning, combining timetabled in-person teaching in socially distanced spaces wherever possible, timetabled online sessions where in-person teaching is not feasible, and further online lectures and activities that can be completed in your own time.

This programme of teaching has flexibility built in to allow us to maximise face-to-face teaching in line with any future shifts in the government guidance on physical distancing. The following changes are certain for Autumn term, and will be assessed for the Spring term as circumstances allow. We are currently working closely with Timetabling services and Estates Management, and will timetable as much teaching as we can into classroom sessions, giving all students some physical face-to-face opportunities, but also bearing in mind the pedagogical needs of each module type. For those students who are not able to attend campus, as well as those who might be self-isolating, we will be providing alternative learning provision online which will usually be a timetabled online version of the classroom-based session.

All lectures will be pre-recorded and put on the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which will give you the opportunity to watch and digest them at your own pace, and in a way that best suits your working patterns. In addition, information on reading, presentations, other activities for the week, and face-to-face teaching will all be provided through module-specific spaces on the VLE.

### Programme Structures

There are no changes to the overall programme structure or content of the MA. A wide range of module choices within CMS and the parent departments will still be available to you.

There are some specific changes to the different programme elements and assessment, described below for each module type.

*Core Course (Introduction to an Interdisciplinary Methodology) [Autumn term]*

There are two lectures for the Core Course (Weeks 1 and 5) that will now be pre-recorded and available for you to watch online, but these will now be followed up by timetabled online Q&A sessions with the module leader that will give you the chance to ask any questions and discuss aspects of the lectures with your fellow students. The disciplinary introduction mini-modules (Weeks 2-4; Archaeology, Art History, Texts) and the thematic mini-modules (Weeks 6-8; Physics in the Ancient and Medieval World; The Norman Conquest; The Later Medieval Home) will be a mixture of pre-recorded mini-lectures, online activities, and in-person seminars/workshops, with a replicated online discussion section for those unable to attend in person. The assessment for the Core Course remains a group poster presentation, but these will now be delivered in an online session.

*Interdisciplinary Modules*

CMS will run two interdisciplinary module options next year, 'Vikings in Northumbria' in Autumn Term, and 'Global Middle Ages' in Spring Term. Teaching will be focused around weekly timetabled in-person seminars, replicated in online sessions for those unable to attend in person, so long as travel and health restrictions remain in place. Further mini-lectures and online discussion activities will also be run each week. For single-subject module options, the parent department in question determines the specifics of how they are to be run, but a similar blended learning approach is expected. The assessment (by essay) remains unchanged.

*Skills Modules*

Our range of skills module teaching remains unchanged--all language and paleography module options will be offered in 2020-21. We have taken the decision to teach the Skills Modules entirely in timetabled online sessions for all students until social distancing restrictions ease, as the type of teaching that is so important in these modules (e.g. student group work, multiple people working on a single document, close contact with the module leader 'looking over your shoulder' at work) are impossible to satisfactorily replicate in a socially distanced classroom. We look forward to returning to in-person skills module teaching as soon as circumstances allow. The assessment for the skills modules will change from an in-class, 2-hour closed exam to a take-home, 24-hour open exam.

*Dissertation*

In general, there is no change to the content of the Dissertation module. The summer Dissertation Workshop will ideally be held in person if circumstances allow. However, if needed, it can be held online, with presentations either delivered live, or pre-recorded for those who are unable to attend on the day.

Further changes or information of note

Our lively programme of Centre events, including research forums (eg SCRAMS, Viking Studies), the York Medieval Lectures, reading groups, Lords of Misrule, etc. will continue in online format until we are able to return to in-person meetings of larger groups.