

Department of History: 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.

Overview

Autumn Term: an integrated teaching and learning experience

We expect the vast majority of students to return to York and take part in on-campus activities. However, your teaching and learning will change in some important ways in Autumn 2020.

We currently anticipate that these changes will apply to **Autumn Term only**. We are hopeful that, by January, campus activity will return more or less 'to normal' - but we are also making contingency plans in case the situation does not improve, so that you can continue your studies with us safely. You will be updated accordingly once the new academic session is under way.

We are developing an **integrated** teaching and learning experience. It blends classroom activities with online elements, in which you will benefit from real-time interactions with staff and classmates and in some modules you will be able to access some pre-recorded material when it's convenient for you. By integrating a variety of different delivery modes, the Department will be able to keep you safe while also ensuring that, whatever your circumstances, you will be learning on modules of the same high quality as ever.

Classroom teaching

Most students will take part in classroom learning. This is where students develop the bonds with staff and fellow classmates that grow their confidence and enable them to fulfil key learning outcomes.

Classroom teaching will be reduced and delivered under social distancing, with regular cleaning and sanitising of all spaces. There are some points to note:

- Fewer people can fit into a classroom, so our space is pressured
- Classrooms are set out in fixed rows so that students and staff can socially distance.
- Entry/exit slots have been added in to limit the number of people in buildings at any one time

Online teaching

Classroom teaching will be supported and enhanced by online teaching for all students.

- Small group work and discussion will be stimulating and engaging online, where you can work more effectively in small breakout groups *and* take part in activities with your entire class
- We are planning that our MA modules will be available to students who, for specific health reasons, or because of other personal complications, cannot return safely to campus

Why are we changing our teaching

We want to be back on campus with our students. But the reality is this: Covid-19 remains a serious health risk for a significant minority of people.

The University must act to protect our friends, family and colleagues, and the wider community of which we are a part. We are working hard to ensure that you will still benefit from an exciting, stimulating, and appropriately challenging learning experience.

I am entering the second year of my MA in Autumn 2020: What can I expect?

All students must ensure that they have **regular** access to a computer, laptop, or tablet, with a webcam or built-in camera, and to a **reliable** broadband internet connection.

You will be taking one option module in the autumn term.

- We are aiming to **alternate** on-campus / online teaching week-to-week. As a part-time student you will therefore have a fortnightly campus activity.
- All students will take part in at least **one** real-time online event **weekly** (there will be one event in the weeks in which there is a campus activity and two events in the alternate weeks).

You will also continue to work on your dissertation and will be in contact with your dissertation advisor.