

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)	BA in History and French
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Important note:

You will find below statements of the overall plans for teaching and assessment prepared by the two departments responsible for your programme. Please read these carefully. Note that the approaches taken by different departments will differ at least in details, so please read both sets of notes to see how each department's plans will impact on your modules in the relevant disciplines. If you want to return feedback on the proposals, please specify which department's arrangements you are commenting on, where appropriate.

History

This is both a fascinating and urgent time to be studying history. Debates around decolonizing the curriculum, Black Lives Matter, the response to the global pandemic and Brexit (remember that...?) inform our everyday lives and are informed by history. We are very excited to welcome you to York and for you to engage with staff, use the wealth of resources in the Library, develop existing interests and find brand new ones. You will make new friends and experience the diversity of life in York, from student journalism to sports and the wonderful city itself. The History department is an inclusive, supportive and highly-skilled community and we are working hard to ensure that you have an intellectually challenging and inspiring experience. We have had to adapt *how* but not *what* we teach - and be assured our globally-recognised expertise remains at the heart of our teaching. The skills you will learn on the degree will serve you well at York and beyond. The University is fully committed to student and staff safety and is planning carefully to ensure this through social distancing, track-and-trace, sanitizer, deep cleans, one-way systems and more. We explain below what you can expect in your first term of studying at York.

Autumn 2020: What can I expect?

The Department of History will be unveiling a new set of courses for Stage One students in Autumn 2020. We're looking forward to welcoming you as our first cohort!

Autumn Term comprises 3 courses that are intended to introduce you to themes in World History from the medieval period up to the present day. You can view the course content [here](#).

We have developed an **integrated** programme of teaching and learning activities, in which classroom elements are supported and enhanced by engaging online activities.

For each course, you will receive 2 lectures per week. These lectures will be pre-recorded and made available online for you to view at your own pace and at your convenience. Each week, you will also attend 1 seminar for each course, where you will be able to discuss the lectures, key readings, and your own ideas with fellow classmates and your seminar leader.

Our plan at present is to **alternate** weekly between an online seminar and an on-campus seminar. Some students may need to join an online-only seminar group if they have a reason why they cannot attend on-campus activities.

And we have some additional elements to help you **transition** from school to university-level work and consolidate your learning. Each course includes 1 fortnightly skills session, where you will work with other students on developing the specific skills you need to write good essays. You will also be able to join live chat sessions with your lecturers, so you can ask them questions and meet students from outside your own seminar group.

Single-degree History students can ordinarily expect to be taking part in no less than 9 and up to 11 events every week. As a joint degree student you will take 1 of our lecture courses alongside another subject with its own independent learning outcomes.) But you also need time to read and prepare for classes - your tutors will give you guidance on this - and you will receive regular feedback on your work.

Classroom teaching is where our students make bonds with one another and grow the **confidence** to engage in informed but respectful debate with one another. Some of the people with whom you will be in the classroom this Autumn may become friends for very many years to come. Online teaching supports and enhances what we do in the classroom. We have expertise in delivering online teaching, where we use a range of elements to ensure that **all** students can **get involved** in the discussion and **engage** with one other.

As a new student, you can be assured that the Autumn Term courses will be taught by lecturers and seminar leaders who remain just as enthusiastic as ever about delivering an inspiring, intellectually stimulating, and enjoyable learning experience.

French/German

Summary of Overall Plans

You will be invited to engage in your learning in a variety of ways - both on campus and online - with flexibility built in to allow us to maximise on-campus teaching in line with any changes in the UK government guidance on physical distancing.

A mix of online and on campus

Lectures that are usually delivered to large groups will be pre-recorded and shared online, but timetabled small group teaching will be offered in classrooms on campus and/or online.

Most modules will run in a 'mixed' mode, with some online activities (either a pre-recorded lecture, a timetabled online 'live' class or an hour of asynchronous work) plus some timetabled on-campus classes each week.

A few modules will run 'mostly online' where this will best support your learning. In these modules all weekly activities will be online e.g. a pre-recorded lecture plus a timetabled online 'live' class, but there will be some timetabled on-campus sessions at key points in the module as well, so that you can meet your tutor(s) face-to-face.

Other scenarios

In a few cases a module may need to run 'fully online' throughout (e.g. if one or more of the teaching staff on the module is shielding). If this happens we will write to all students on the module to inform you of how the module will run as soon as it is practical to do so.

For students who are unable to attend on-campus classes regularly, or who might be self-isolating or shielding, we will arrange an alternative way to engage with the learning in those classes. For large modules this might be by arranging for one seminar group to run as a timetabled online class every week, instead of as a timetabled on-campus class. For smaller modules there might be an 'asynchronous' version of the tasks covered in the class available to work through, with an opportunity to receive feedback online or in an online tutorial.

Our [Languages for All \(LFA\)](#) modules for each language and level will be available in two modes: i) 'mixed' mode (with one timetabled on-campus class and one hour of asynchronous work each week) and ii) 'fully online' mode (one timetabled online 'live' class and one hour of asynchronous work each week).

Module overview and assessments

For all modules, online and on-campus classes will run alongside the normal programme of independent study tasks for students to work through as individuals or in groups, such as set reading, seminar preparation and/or practical exercises. The module information sheet will set out the pattern of tasks and activities that make up the module, at the start of the module.

We will assess your learning through a combination of coursework and online exams. For languages we will run oral exams in person on-campus if guidelines for physical distancing permit it, or as online live exams or by submission of a video recording if needed. Group

presentations may be run online or in a safe manner in person on-campus consistent with social distancing. Specific information about the number and format of assessments for each module will be available by the start of the module, but may be subject to changes in the format of assessments later in the year for year-long modules as the advice changes.

Programme Structures

There are no planned changes to the structure of these programmes for students starting in 2020/21.

Further changes or information of note

The Department offers several different support structures intended to ease your transition into university life and study style. These will take place on campus and/or online, depending on what is practical and feasible, and will include (1) additional weekly contact hours with your English Language or linguistics seminar tutors, as well as, in the first term, (2) weekly peer-assisted learning sessions attached to the languages and selected linguistics modules, in which you will work on the skills and content from the module in groups with your peers and be guided by UG students from the year above you with no member of staff present, and (3) weekly informal sessions on different issues relating to adjusting to academic life and culture, led jointly by a 2nd year UG student and a member of staff.

Students on programmes that include a Year Abroad as an additional year of study may find that their study abroad plans are affected by the evolving situation in future years. The Year Abroad Coordinators are supporting current students in their decision-making, with tailored advice for each student's individual placement plans, and this support will continue in future.

For modules which involve data collection, students will be restricted to planning online data collection until and unless the University Ethics Committee confirms that it is permitted to resume in-person data collection with human subjects.