Information for VL12 students considering study abroad at stage 3

In general, it is preferable for students to do study abroad in stage 2 rather than stage 3. It is possible to go away for a semester in your third year, but if you want to do so and also take HIS3020 (Writing History—the history dissertation module) it is more complicated than going away during stage 2. HIS3020 is a 40 credit module that runs all year, so being away for a semester causes problems. If you want to do study abroad at stage 3, it is probably better not to do HIS3020.

However, if you are very keen both to study abroad at stage 3 and to take HIS3020, this can be arranged. It is possible to participate in the first semester of the module while you are away, maintaining contact with your dissertation supervisor via email and possibly skype, and receiving notes about the lectures attended by all students through email/Blackboard. You should be aware that you will inevitably miss some contact time if you choose to do this, but will receive additional tutorial time of one hour for in semester 2 to ensure that you are fully informed about anything you might have missed during semester 1.

If you decide to pursue this, you will need to decide between two options.

Option One: Do the equivalent of 40 credits work at the overseas institution (ICM0102)

If you choose this option, you will study for your dissertation in semester 1 alongside 40 credits of work at the overseas institution. In semester 2 you would take 60 credits at Newcastle (including the second half of Writing History).

The advantage of this option is that your workload is evenly divided between the two semesters.

Option Two: Do the equivalent of 60 credits work at the overseas institution (HIS3100)

If you choose this option, you will study for your dissertation in semester 1 alongside 60 credits of work at the overseas institution. This would mean that in semester 1 you were doing 80 credits. In semester 2 you would take only 40 credits at Newcastle (including the second half of Writing History).

The advantage of this option is that you can take a wider range of modules at the overseas institution. The disadvantage is that you may find it difficult to get as much work as is ideal on your dissertation in semester 1, but you may find that this is compensated for by the fact that you will have more time available in semester 2.

If you require a visa to attend your overseas institution you may find that you are required to be registered as a full-time student at your overseas institution, in which case you will have to take this option. It is your responsibility to investigate visa requirements.