



PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

Syllabus for Historical Studies

Subject Area

This syllabus is for PARTNERS applicants seeking to progress to the degrees of:

- V100 BA Hons History
 - VL12 BA Hons Politics and History
 - VV11 BA Hons History and Ancient History
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Aims

To allow students to demonstrate their potential to succeed in specified degree programmes by showing a grasp of entry-level subject-specific knowledge, understanding, cognitive and subject-specific skills.

Learning Outcomes

A good knowledge and understanding of ...

- To introduce students to the range of sources encountered when studying history, how to find them, and how to use them. Sources studied will include: texts in both manuscript and printed form, monuments, objects, and archival material, with an emphasis on using sources accessed through digital archives.
- To provide students with essential skills in using sources effectively when attempting to understand history, particularly through critical analysis of sources.
- To instruct students in appropriate methods of referencing and the need to acknowledge sources, including how to produce citations and bibliographies following the Chicago system of referencing.
- The different approaches to historical study (e.g. political, cultural, social, and economic history).
- The different types of primary sources available for the study of history and how they can be located and accessed.
- How to work with primary sources in an effective way, evaluating their utility through critical analysis.

The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...

- Interpret and critically analyse a wide range of different types of historical sources.
- Write effective source commentaries, an essential skill within historical studies.
- Successfully and independently locate several historical sources.
- Correctly reference the ideas of other scholars using the Chicago system of referencing

Competence in...

- Locating, understanding and interpreting primary sources, a crucial skill in historical studies.
- The application of their knowledge of the sources to reaching a deeper understanding of the past.
- The effective use of digital and online resources to find and study different historical sources.
- Using methods of scholarly referencing

Summer School Syllabus

1. Content

- Approaches to History
- Introduction to Historical Sources
- Working with Historical Sources
- Academic Writing for Historians
- Library Special Collections Workshop and Library Tour
- Visits to historical sites

2. Teaching methods:

- Lectures
- Workshops / practical sessions
- Group activities
- Online tasks
- Independent study
- Field trips

3. Purpose/objectives

- The summer school introduces students to the range of sources encountered when studying history, how to find them, and how to use them. Sources studied will include: texts in both manuscript and printed form, monuments, objects, and archival material, with an emphasis on using sources accessed through digital archives.

- Students will be provided with essential skills in using sources effectively when attempting to understand history, particularly through critical analysis of sources.
 - The activities will introduce students to appropriate methods of referencing and the need to acknowledge sources, including how to produce citations and bibliographies following the Chicago system of referencing used by the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology.
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Activities for Personal Study

- Asynchronous activities on working with historical sources
 - Asynchronous activities on referencing and citation
 - History taster sessions
 - Preparation for the formative assessment
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On-Campus Teaching:

Sunday 28th (PM), Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th June

Online Teaching:

Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd (AM only) July

Formative Assessment Details

A 500-word source commentary

More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

Hand-in Method

Digital

Assessment deadline

Wednesday 12th July – 12pm