



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

History postgraduate taught degrees

Dr Alasdair Raffe – November 2025

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

What we'll cover

- Why Edinburgh?
- Programme information
- Application process
- Time for questions & answers



Why Edinburgh?

- Based in the Old Medical School in the Historic Old Town of Central Edinburgh
- The University is ranked in the world top 40 (QS World University Rankings 2026)
- School community of approximately 475 graduate students and 150 academic staff



Why Edinburgh?

- History at Edinburgh ranked 13th among all history departments in the world (QS World University Rankings 2025)
- One of the largest departments of History in the UK
- A long tradition of teaching History – Edinburgh was one of the first places that taught History as a separate subject. Some of the world's great minds have studied and taught here

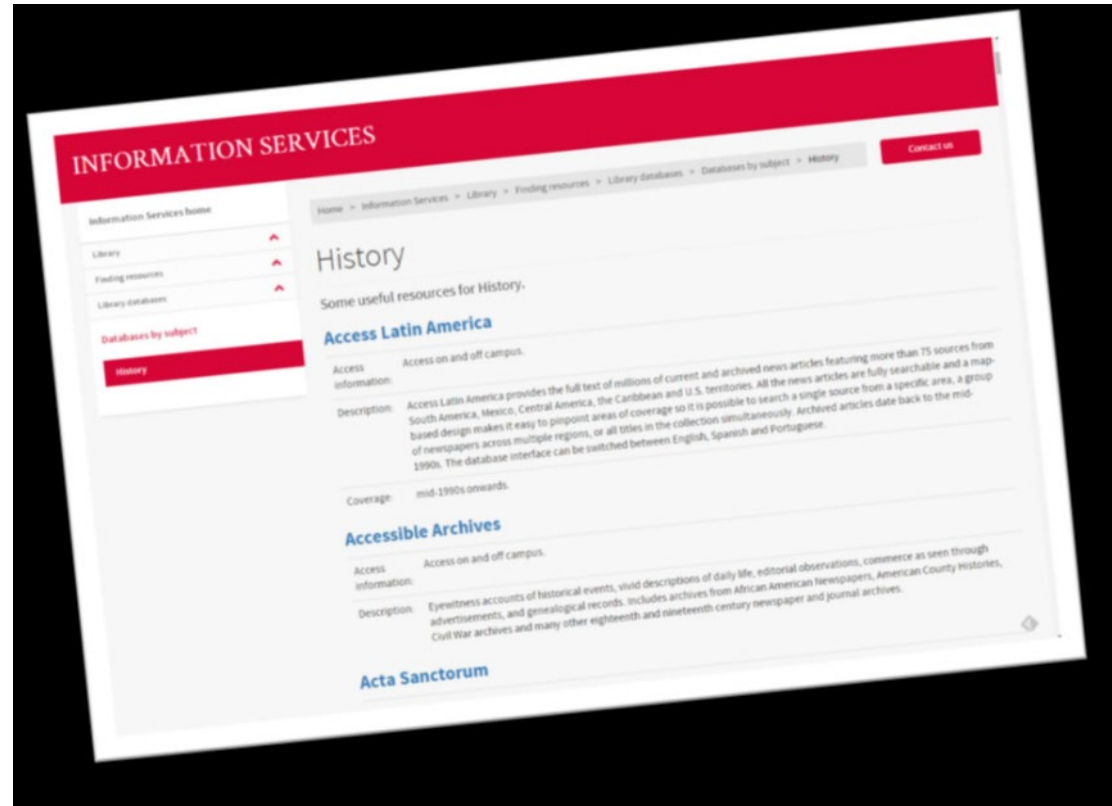
Why Edinburgh? – Resources at your doorstep



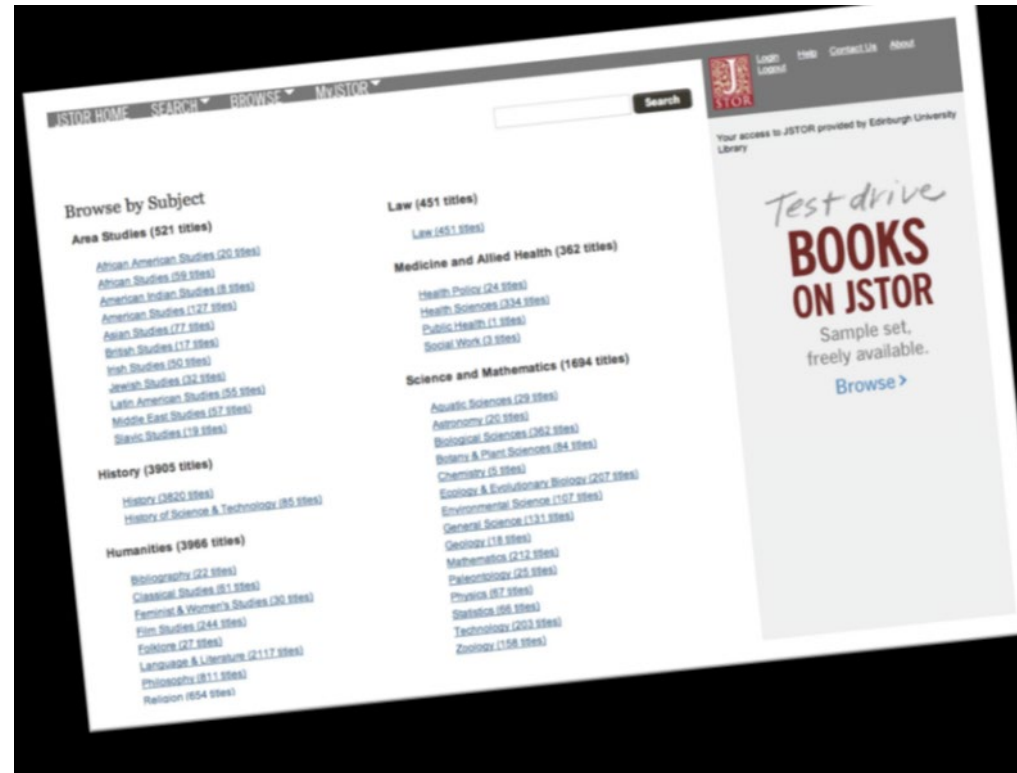
THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Why Edinburgh? – Primary source databases



Why Edinburgh? – Access academic journals



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Why Edinburgh? – Research community

- Diverse and international community
- Graduate and staff common room
- Dedicated postgraduate study areas
- School library
- Seminars and research groups



Our research groups



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

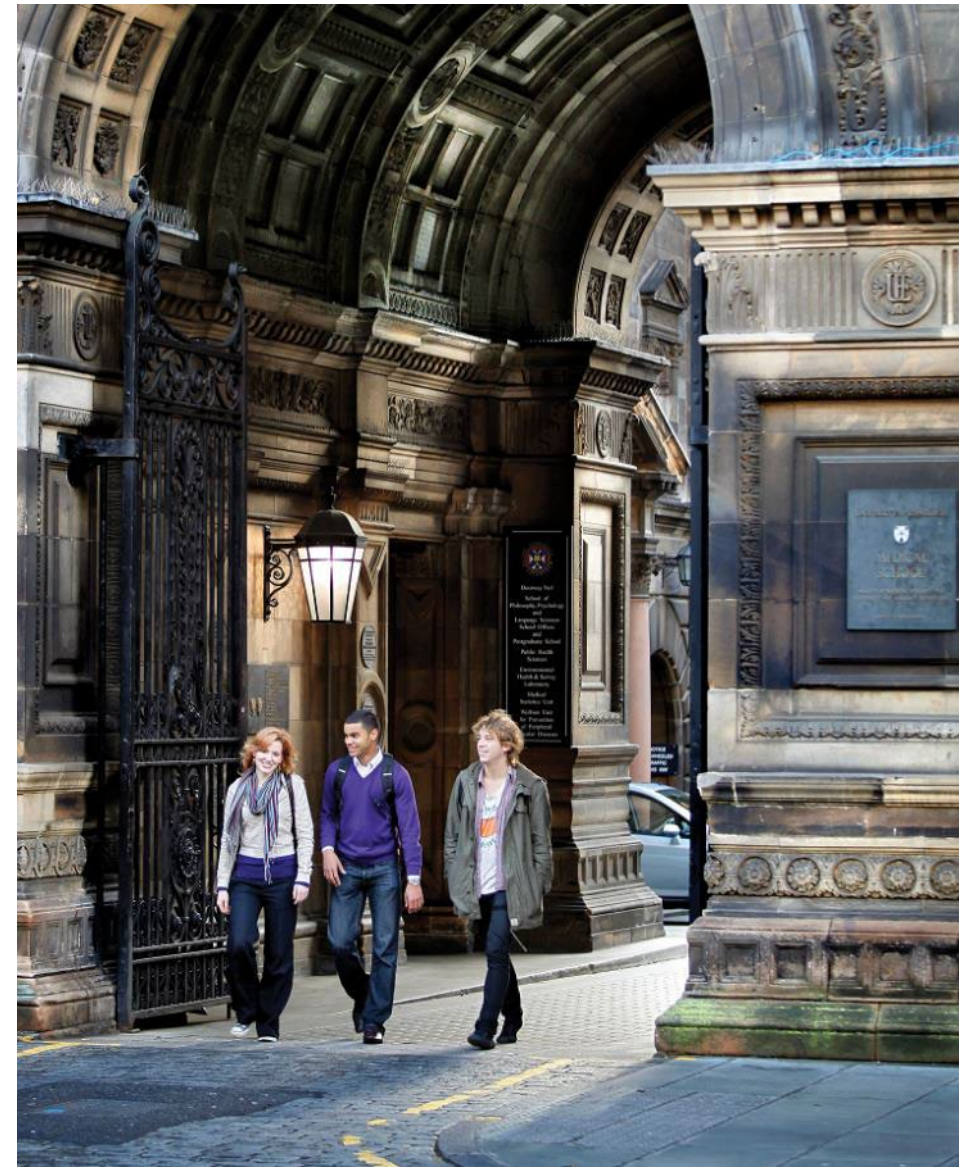
Student Support and Experience Team

- We are your first point of contact for advice and support once you begin your studies here
- We can provide support and guidance for students whose studies are affected by illness or other circumstances
- We can signpost students to the large range of more specialist university services such as:
 - [Student Counselling](#)
 - [Student Disability and Learning Support Service](#)
 - [The Institute of Academic Development](#)
 - [The Advice Place](#)
- Available by email, phone, in-person or online appointments



MSc programmes

- History
- Contemporary History
- Medieval History
- Intellectual History
- History (online learning)



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

MSc in History (Online learning)

- Online full-time, part-time or flexible programme
- Information session taking place **26 November at 17:30 GMT**
- Register here:



Taught MSc(s) in History (full-time)

Semester one

- 60 credits
- Two specialized option courses (20 credits each)
- One of two core skills-training courses (20 credits)

Semester two

- 60 credits
- Two specialized option courses (20 credits each)
- One of two core skills-training courses (20 credits)

Summer

- 60 credits
- 12-15,000 word dissertation, based on primary source materials (60 credits)



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
xtraordinary futures await

Taught MSc(s) in History (part-time)

Year one

- Usually 60 credits, some students do more (e.g. 40 + 40)

Year two

- 60 credits, some students do less

Summer of
year two

- 60 credits
- 12-15,000 word dissertation, based on primary source materials (60 credits)



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
xtraordinary futures await

Core courses

- Provide a solid background and training for the advanced study of history
- Historical Methodology (Semester I)
- Developing Historical Research (Semester II)



Option courses

Choose 4 from a range of options.

Some options below from 2025/26:

- A Modern History of Demographic Angst and Population Control
- An uncertain world: the West since the 1970s
- Art and Cultural Exchange in Mughal India 1500-1900
- Beyond Feudalism: Economy and Society in the Global Middle Ages
- Capitalism and Slavery
- Christianity and Politics in Latin America, 1800 to the present (PG)
- Cinema and Society in England and Scotland
- Creeds, Councils and Controversies: Patristic and Medieval
- Economic and Social Theory for Historical Analysis
- Genocide in Contemporary History
- History of Science and Religion in the Christian Tradition
- Human Nature: Looking at Ourselves and Others in Northern European Art, 1400-1600
- Intellectual History of the American Revolution
- Islamic Africa
- Jewish Texts through the Ages

Courses for
Sep 2026
entry will be
available from
May 2026

Courses are subject to change. Please see the Degree Programme Table for your programme for further information - www.drps.ed.ac.uk/25-26/dpt/drps_hca.htm

- Muslim Societies in Southeast Asia
- Muslims in Europe
- Nepotism and Venality: Corruption and Accountability in the Middle Ages
- Patronage of the Papal Court 1471-1534
- Scottish Reformation Culture, c. 1540-c. 1640
- Studying Women in Late Medieval England: Sources and Approaches
- The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Nations in Collision
- The 'Dark Side': Dark Tourism and Difficult Heritages
- The Global Renaissance
- The History and Culture of Iran
- The Holocaust in History and Culture
- The Medieval Indian Ocean: Climates, Communities and Commodities
- The Nine Lives of the Medieval Church
- The Politics of History in the Arabic-Speaking World (c.1750-Present)
- Unfolding Afghanistan in a Globalised Context
- War and Identities in Twentieth Century Britain and Ireland



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Teaching

- On-campus courses weekly seminars
- Online courses synchronous (live) seminars organized through the Learn Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Plus discussion boards, group exercises, research diaries and blog entries



Assessment

- 4,000-5,000 words per 20 credit course
- Usually a longer essay plus one or more shorter pieces of work
- Non-assessed exercises will be used to ‘feed-forward’ into formally assessed course work
- The Dissertation is a 12,000-15,000 word piece of work, based on primary source material, supervised by one or more members of staff, over the summer period



Dissertation

- c. 60 full time members of staff with global research interests
- Recent dissertation topics include:
 - The Church of Scotland in the Highlands: Presbyterian Approaches to the 'Increase of Popery' in the Early Eighteenth Century
 - Italian Immigration to the United States of America: A Focused History of the Italian-American Community and Culture
 - 'Mad, Bad or Dangerous': The perception of shell-shock in the British medical community 1914 - 1920
 - Detention or Shelter? The Sangatte and Oakington refugee camps, 1999 - 2010
 - Was the Irish Language an Important Aspect to the Identity of the Irish Diaspora in North America and Britain, 1850-1900?



Applying for study

- Online application form
- Evidence of proficiency in English language, where appropriate
- 5 step application process:
 - www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/how-to-apply



Eligibility

- UK 2:1 honours degree, a minimum US 3.25 GPA or international equivalent, in a subject related to your programme
- Cases can also be made for non-standard entry, email
 - HCA-PGT@ed.ac.uk



English language

- IELTS: total 7.0 (at least 6.0 in each module)
 - TOEFL-iBT: total 100 (at least 20 in each module)
 - Oxford ELLT: total 8 with at least 6 in each component
 - CAE and CPE: total 185 (at least 169 in each module)
 - Trinity ISE: ISE III with a pass in all four components
-
- Find out about English Language requirements:
 - www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements



Application deadline

- The application deadline for our on-campus History Masters' degree programmes is
 - 30 July 2026
- If you are applying for funding or require a visa we advise that you apply as early as possible.



Fees and funding

- Find out about the cost of studying with us and what funding opportunities are available:
 - www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/fees-funding



Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- History programme director - Dr Mike Carr - Mike.Carr@ed.ac.uk
- Contemporary History programme director - Professor Emile Chabal – Emile.Chabal@ed.ac.uk
- Medieval History programme director - Dr Emily Ward – Emily.Ward@ed.ac.uk
- Intellectual History programme director - Dr Adam Budd – Adam.Budd@ed.ac.uk





THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Thank you

Dr Alasdair Raffe

Alasdair.Raffe@ed.ac.uk