

University of Exeter – History: Streatham Campus, Exeter

The transition from school to university:

Dr Laura Sangha, a Senior Lecturer in our department, has written an excellent blogpost on how prospective History students can prepare for their future studies, including her 'top 5' summer reads: <https://manyheadedmonster.wordpress.com/2017/06/15/what-should-prospective-history-students-read-over-the-summer/>

We'd also recommend reading newspapers regularly and thinking about the relevance/use of the past in modern-day society and the media. Podcasts can be a great way to access the past in a new way:

- History Extra (<https://www.historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/>)
- In Our Time (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/downloads>)

See also current affairs podcasts that often cover historical topics; Dr Gemma Clark recommends:

- Today in Focus (e.g., on the Bristol bus boycott and civil rights: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2019/oct/28/how-the-bristol-bus-boycott-changed-uk-civil-rights>)
- The Irish Passport (<https://www.theirishpassport.com/>)

Our programme:

Decolonising History

Please read the department's statement on how we're working to 'decolonise' the way we teach, research and work with one another:

<https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/about/aboutus/decolonisinghistory/>; do also follow the link to our Imperial and Global History blog, where you'll find discussions of recent debates over, for example, falling statues (<https://imperialglobalexeter.com/2020/06/15/who-wants-yesterdays-statues/>) and the Covid health crisis (<https://imperialglobalexeter.com/2021/04/30/decolonising-public-health-indias-covid-crisis-is-a-global-one/>)

You can also learn more about the British Empire and the controversies of imperialism via Exeter's free online course: https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/empire_online/

Chronological surveys

Here's a small selection of texts we recommend as general/background reading for our two first-year survey modules, covering Medieval & Early-Modern History (up to 1750) and Modern History. You don't need to read all of them, in depth, but they ought to provide you with a good introduction to some of the general themes for these (very long) periods of history:

- B. H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages 300-1500*, 2nd ed. (Peterborough, ON, 2004)
- B. Kumin, ed., *The European World 1500-1800: An Introduction to Early Modern History* (London, 2009)

- C. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914* (Oxford, 2004)
- C. Bayly, *Remaking the Modern World 1900-2015: Global Connections and Comparisons* (2018)

Historiography and methodology; academic skills

Another way you can prepare for our History programmes is to read up on the wider discipline and key concepts/approaches used by historians today, as well as to develop your skills in critical reading, note-taking, etc. The following is a small selection of the texts we recommend via our first-year skills-based modules:

- John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2000)
- Mary Deane, *Academic Research, Writing & Referencing* (Harlow, 2010)
- John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History* (6th edition, 2015)

Specialist history topics

If you'd like to learn more about the specialist courses we offer on more specific periods and themes, please get in touch with the academic running the module that interests you. See History BA 'Course Content', <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/history/historyexe/#course-content>, and our internal module pages, <https://intranet.exeter.ac.uk/humanities/studying/undergraduates/modules/>, for examples. Staff contact details are available here: <https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/history/staff/>. Summer can be a busy period for exams and marking, as well as academic research projects, so colleagues may be a little slower than usual replying to your emails; but, we will get back to you as soon as possible. We are always happy to talk about our specialisms!

(Please contact the History admissions tutor, Dr Gemma Clark, if you have any further questions: g.m.clark@exeter.ac.uk)