

Becoming an Historian at Essex

Your History course follows a clear progression from the first to the final year, ensuring that you develop the skills you need to produce your Independent Research Project in your final year of study. These skills are also transferable to the world of work after you graduate. In core and optional modules you will learn to:

- analyse primary sources and secondary works critically and with confidence
- identify and find primary and secondary resources in libraries and databases
- convey historical ideas and arguments fluently in writing and verbally
- work effectively independently and with others
- produce an Independent Research Project
- manage your time effectively and respond to feedback

Skill	First Year	Second Year	Final Year
Critically read secondary works	Detect the structure and main argument of an article or book.	Relate the argument to its evidence base; set secondary works into historiographical context.	Critique the author's use of evidence and the strength of his/her argument.
Analyse primary sources	Develop an understanding of the author's purpose; set the source in context.	Detect the techniques of persuasion and bias in a source.	Place a source in dialogue with other primary evidence.
Find and investigate hard-copy and on-line resources	Learn to access a range of materials in differing locations.	Recognise the need to evaluate the material available.	Apply your skills to the research for your Independent Research Project.
Write in a fluent historical style, using footnotes properly.	Construct an essay with each paragraph being a step in your argument; write fluently, using scholarly language and style; learn how and why you need to provide accurate footnotes and a Bibliography.	Develop your writing style to show increasing engagement with historiography and primary sources. Use your writing skills in other formats.	Translate your writing skills to your Independent Research Project and enhance your skills by embedding the fruits of primary research within the argument.
Produce your own piece of independent historical research	Develop key skills of historical research and writing.	Learn how to design and outline an original research project which is do-able with the time and resources available.	Manage the planning, research, writing and submission of your Independent Research Project.
Present your ideas fluently verbally.	Participate in seminar discussions; prepare and deliver an individual presentation.	Participate regularly in seminar discussions; prepare and deliver an individual presentation.	Participate regularly in seminar discussions and debates; do an individual presentation about your Independent Research Project.
Work effectively in collaboration with others	Undertake a group presentation on HR101.	Participate effectively in group work on History Works.	Work effectively with your supervisor on your Independent Research Project.
Manage your time effectively	Submit all coursework on time.	Submit all coursework on time; begin to plan your Independent Research Project.	Submit all coursework on time and manage the research and writing up of your Independent Research Project.
Respond effectively to feedback	Respond to formative assessment on autumn-term assignments.	Develop good habits of responding to coursework feedback.	Respond effectively to feedback from your IRP supervisor and on your IRP presentation.