

# BHASVIC

## Guide to Higher Education

**History, Art History,  
Classics, Archaeology,  
Information Management &  
Museum Studies**

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## What to ask on any History-related open day

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If you've got a penchant for history or philosophy (or perhaps both), don't head to a university open day without printing out these must-ask questions...

### About the course

- How much reading is there each week?
- How many contact hours / lectures are there per week?
- Am I taught research methods?
- How many of my lecturers are still publishing research?
- Do I specialise in a particular period or area, or is it a broad syllabus?

### Books and facilities

- What books are necessary for me to buy?
- Do I need to read anything before I start the course?
- Are there enough books for all history students to access easily?
- Can my reading material be found online?

### Field trips and placements

- Are there any field trips?
- Can I do a placement year? ERASMUS?
- Will companies take on interns from this course?
- Can I take modules in other subjects?

### Assessments

- What is the split between exams / coursework / group work?
- Will I have to do presentations during the course?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation or research-based project?

### Prospects

- Can I move on to a related PhD or Masters after my course? Is there funding for me to do this?
- How could I make the most out this course and get a job at the end of it?

## What to ask on a linguistics, literature and classics open day

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Interested in poets, philosophers or the literary greats, or studying how language actually works? Check out these questions you can ask on your open day visit...

### About the course

- What are the core texts / periods for this course?
- Will I need to do reading over the summer?
- Do I need to have an A-level (or equivalent) in English?
- What's the split between ancient and modern texts?
- What's the split between prose, drama and poetry?
- How many hours of teaching will I get a week? Will that be in lectures, seminars or tutorials?

### Ancient language courses

- Do I need to learn another language to do this course?
- Do I need to have an A-level (or equivalent) in Greek or Latin?
- Will I have to learn Greek or Latin as part of the course?

### Equipment and facilities

- How much reading is involved per week?
- What is a reading week? Do I have one?
- Are all the library resources available online?
- Should I buy all the books on the syllabus?
- Are there multiple copies of texts available to borrow in the library?
- How much will I have to spend on printing?
- Do you have specialist facilities - for example, language or phonetics labs?

### Assessments

- What is the split between exams / coursework / group projects?
- Do I need to complete dissertation or research-based project?
- How will I decide on a subject for my dissertation? Will I have help?
- Will I get the opportunity to do modules in any other faculties?

### Prospects

- What employment opportunities does this course usually lead to?
- What have graduates on this course gone on to do?

## Archaeology

Can you picture yourself exploring the tombs of kings or unearthing the next Staffordshire Hoard? Archaeology could be for you – but remember you'll probably spend your days working with more mundane matters. Archaeology blends history with science, to draw meaning from everyday objects to shine a light on past worlds using innovative techniques. You can specialise by period or take a more generalist route.

- HISTORY
- BSC
- TIME IN LABS
- BA
- SCIENCE
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- PRACTICAL SKILLS
- FIELD TRIPS
- CONSERVATION

### Example course modules

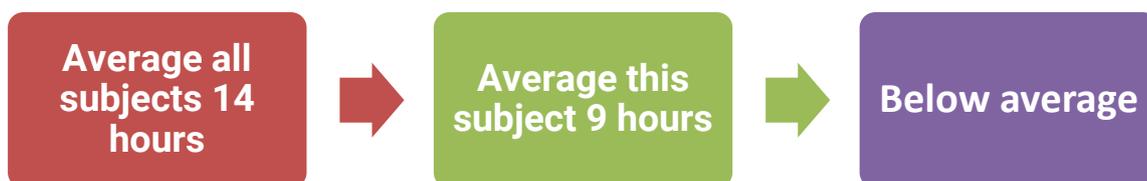
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- Analysis of artefacts
- Apocalypse then: 14th century
- Birth of modern Europe
- Wales: princes to Tudors
- Archaeological excavation
- Introduction to prehistory
- Patterns of the past
- Rethinking archaeology: theory and interpretation
- Interpreting sites and landscapes
- Brooches, beads, swords and shields: early medieval culture

### Teaching hours / week

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The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



### League tables for this subject

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[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

## What students say about archaeology

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We have nine to 12 hours of lectures a week depending on the optional modules chosen, three of which may be practical classes. My course requires several hours of practical work a week outside of the scheduled classes. The course content is really interesting and involves a wide range of content, including art, history, chemistry and physics. I feel that it could be more challenging in the first year, but the workload increases in the second and third years. It also depends on how much research you want to do outside of class hours and how much detail you want to involve. You are required to write essays, scientific reports, do supervised and unsupervised practical work on objects, illustration, photography.

*1st year, Cardiff University*

We have on average nine hours of lectures a week. Content varies from course to course and there's a lot to choose from, so it's always really interesting. The course itself requires two weeks of practical study in the first and second years which takes place in the summer in first year as it's arranged by the uni, where they teach you all of their practical skills in excavation, geophysics and planning.

*1st year, University of Liverpool*

Hard work, but well worth the struggle, because it's such an interesting subject. The course covers a wide range of archaeological concepts, and everything is addressed from a scientific and arts perspective. As part of the course, you'll have access to specific labs and resources relevant to your interests - for example, for your dissertation should you choose to be lab-based, you will have access to collections and tools needed.

*3rd year, University of Bradford*

### **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

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- No Specific Requirements

#### **Useful to have**

- history

### **Application checklist**

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Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

### **Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry**

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- Classical and Archaeological Studies
- Ancient History and Archaeology
- Archaeology and Ancient Civilisations
- History and History of Art/Archaeology

## **Career prospects**

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When you look at the stats, be aware that junior jobs in archaeology are not always well paid at the start of your career, and that temporary contracts or even unpaid work are not uncommon. The archaeology graduates of 2012 found jobs in management and heritage and environment work, as well as more conventional graduate jobs in business and the finance industry.

## **Transferable skills**

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Gathering / analysing information from different sources, exploring different perspectives, developing informed views, presentation skills, constructing arguments, meeting deadlines

## **Jobs where this degree is useful**

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- Field archaeologist
- Exhibitions curator
- Appraiser/valuer

## **Other real-life job examples**

- Historic buildings inspector
- Social sciences researcher
- Youth project leader

## **What employers like about this subject**

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A degree in archaeology will let you develop subject-specific skills that include how to use and interpret very diverse sources of evidence; good fieldwork, post-excavation and laboratory skills, and how to collect and interpret complex data. An archaeology student can also develop useful transferable skills that include IT, numeracy, communication, negotiating and influencing, team-working, research and self-motivation. These skills are in demand from employers including archaeology and heritage, museums, universities, accountancy and audit, defence, hospitals and government.

## Art history

Have a passion for art and like the sound of overseas field trips to study works of art first-hand? A degree in art history involves analysing and writing about art and architecture from classical to contemporary, looking at key themes and art movements, techniques and materials. Careers after this course include art gallery or museum curator or researcher, working in an auction house or traditional graduate jobs such as law and teaching.

- BA
- TIME ABROAD
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- ESSAY-WRITING
- ARCHITECTURE
- MUSEUM
- ART GALLERY
- FINE ART

### Example course modules

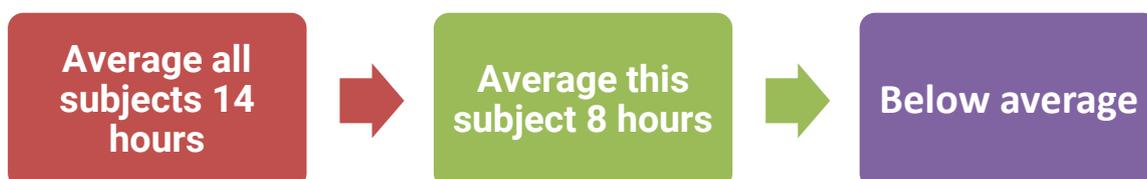
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- Approaching the past
- From medieval to early modern art
- Introduction to art since 1990
- Histories and theories of art
- Ideas of renaissance
- Arts and the industrial revolution
- Form and function
- Makers and making
- Elements of visual culture
- A story of art

### Teaching hours / week

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The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



### League tables for this subject

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[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

## What students say about art history

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The course as a whole is incredibly interesting, very flexible in catering to your interests (with the ability to take modules outside of the department), and challenging. My pathway incorporated philosophical and historical approaches, in addition to chemistry and language modules!

*3rd year, UCL (University College London)*

I am a humanities student and my set teaching hours each week are fairly low - this year I had about eight or nine hours a week. I didn't really know what to expect, but I was surprised by this. They do expect you to do a lot of independent work and due to the quality of the course, you don't NEED the extra reading time, but you aren't really making the most out of your course and your time if you don't expand on the knowledge you've been given. I do history of art and the facilities for the course are really great. The department also has strong connections to galleries, museums, auction rooms etc., so that if you want to do a work placement, then they will do their best to help you.

*1st year, University of Leicester*

The biggest shock about my course is the lack of contact time. I only actually have two terms per year, and for the first year I only had three sessions a week, which is a big change from college. The work is interesting and entirely coursework-based throughout the whole degree, therefore I have no exams (wahoo!). There are not many course-specific facilities for my particular degree.

*1st year, Goldsmiths, University of London*

### **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

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- No Specific Requirements

#### **Useful to have**

- history
- Art
- English literature
- Religious studies
- Modern foreign language

### **Application checklist**

---

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

### **Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry**

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- History of Art
- History and History of Art/Archaeology

## Career prospects

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History is a very popular subject – in 2012, nearly 11,000 UK students graduated in a history-related course. Obviously, there aren't 11,000 jobs as historians available every year, but history is a good, flexible degree that allows graduates to go into a wide range of different jobs. Consequently, history graduates have an unemployment rate comparable to the national graduate average. Many – probably most – jobs for graduates don't ask for a particular degree to go into them and history graduates are well set to take advantage. That's why so many go into jobs in the finance industry, management and sales and marketing. Around one in five history graduates went into further study last year – only law saw more graduates continue on to study. History and teaching were the most popular further study subjects for history graduates, but law, journalism, politics and museum studies were also popular postgraduate courses.

### Transferable skills

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Gathering / analysing information from different sources, exploring different perspectives, developing informed views, presentation skills, constructing arguments, meeting deadlines

### Jobs where this degree is useful

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- Museum curator
- Fine artist
- Exhibition manager

### Other real-life job examples

- Public relations officer
- Periodical editor
- Interior designer

### What employers like about this subject

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An art history student can expect to learn a number of subject-specific skills, including criticism and analysis of art, ideas and visual culture, the ability to clearly and concisely express ideas and to appreciate the impact art has on society - and vice versa. You can also develop useful transferable skills including communication, team-working, critical thinking and observation skills. Industries employing art history graduates include museums, galleries, the creative arts, universities, the government, design agencies, management consultancies, advertising agencies and publishing.

## Classics

If you have an aptitude for studying languages you may be interested in Classics. Classics degrees combine learning Greek and Latin, translating and analysing texts and learning about the art, culture, philosophy and history of Ancient Greece and Rome. Classics graduates go on to work in research, museums, art galleries and heritage management as well as the full range of traditional graduate careers such as law, media, accountancy, management and teaching. **Example degrees:** Ancient History, Archaeology, Classical Civilisation, Egyptology, Combined degree with a range of subjects

- EXAM-INTENSIVE
- BA
- TIME ABROAD
- INDEPENDENT STUDY
- ESSAY-WRITING
- ANCIENT HISTORY
- ARCHAEOLOGY
- LANGUAGES
- CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

### Example course modules

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- Latin language
- Greek language
- History of thought
- Comedy
- The ancient novel
- Receptions of Greek tragedy
- Emotions in the ancient world
- Metamorphosis in Greece and Rome
- Sex and the symposium: Athenian painted pottery
- Greeks on being good (and evil)

### Teaching hours / week

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The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



### League tables for this subject

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[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

## What students say about classics

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I've found the course very interesting and varied. The course is flexible, especially after first year. Assessment is divided equally between essays and exams, which suits me.

### **2nd year, University of Warwick**

As a humanities student, there are about 10 hours of contact time per week, with a mix of lectures and seminars. The content varies over the optional modules, but is usually challenging and engaging. There are lots of essays spread over the term. Exams come in May and are quite different to A-levels. Usually closed book, the exams mostly require good time management to write a few mini essays and one or two full essays.

### *1st year, University of Exeter*

## **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

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- Latin or ancient Greek (check courses for requirements)

### **Useful to have**

- history
- English literature
- Modern foreign language
- Classical civilisation

## **Application checklist**

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Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

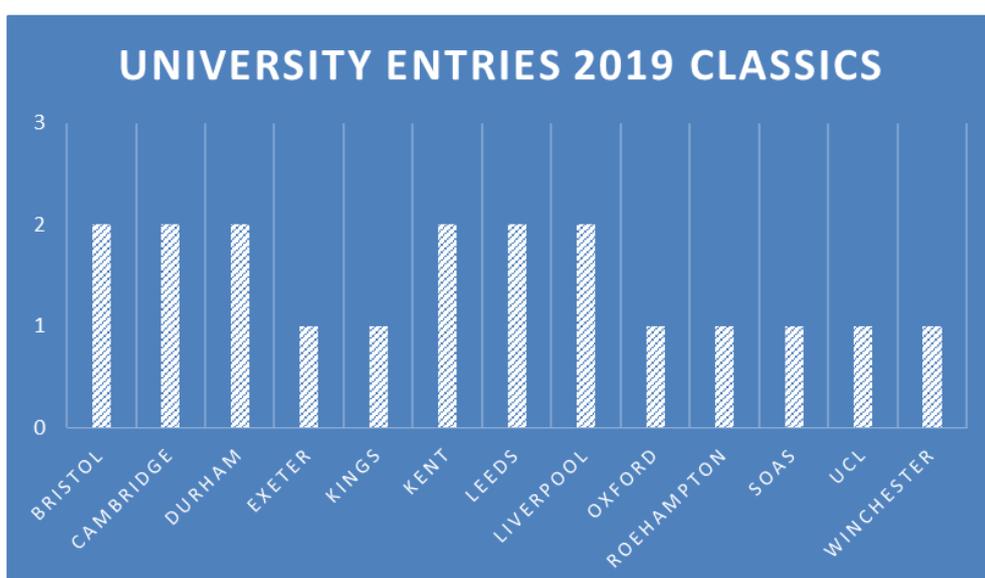
- January application
- Personal statement

## **BHASVIC information**

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**In Sept 2019, 19 BHASVIC students went onto study Classics-related degrees at 9 different universities.**

This included 3 students going onto study Archaeology. It is popular combined with other subjects including English, History and History of Art. 33% of our A2 Classics students went on to study the subject at degree level.



## Top 10 Universities for Classics – Complete University Guide 2020

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- Cambridge, Oxford, St Andrews, Durham, Exeter
- Warwick, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Roehampton – all very high student satisfaction scores
- Birmingham, Bristol, Kent, Royal Holloway - all with top graduate prospects

### Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

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- Ancient, Medieval and Modern History
- Classical Civilisation and Philosophy
- Egyptology Classical Studies Classics
- Classics (4 years)
- Ancient World with a Year Abroad
- Classical Studies
- English and Classical Studies
- Classics II and English
- Classical and Archaeological Studies

### Employability

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Those who did go into work specifically related to Classics tended to find jobs in London or the South East, and be working in education, marketing and advertising or the finance industry. Personal contacts were particularly important for these students in finding their first job, so good networks may help your job search when the time comes. Transferable skills you can gain from a classics degree include communication, critical evaluation, time management and research and analysis skills. Employers who recruited classic students last year included publishers, the Civil Service, market researchers, political advisory and lobbying organisations, schools, universities, the IT industry and the arts.

### What employers like about this subject

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A student studying classics will learn subject-specific skills including a knowledge of the literature, history, mythology, philosophy, civilisation and heritage of classical antiquity; an understanding of the interpretation and analysis of texts and translation skills. Transferable skills you can gain from a classics degree include communication, critical evaluation, time management and research and analysis skills. Employers who recruited classic students last year included publishers, the Civil Service, market researchers, political advisory and lobbying organisations, schools, universities, the IT industry and the arts.

### Transferable skills

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Gathering / analysing information from different sources, exploring different perspectives, developing informed views, presentation skills, constructing arguments, meeting deadlines

### Example careers

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- Chartered accountant
- Civil Service
- Editorial assistant
- Market researcher
- Newspaper journalist
- Public relations account executive
- Secondary school teacher

- Records manager
- Social media manager Museum archivist or curator
- Paralegal
- Fundraising campaign manager

### **Local market information**

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#### **Working in British Intelligence**

MI5 and MI6 have an ongoing recruitment drive. There are also opportunities to work in a technical role at GCHQ.

## History

History involves studying events and people from the past to give us a better understanding of the future. Courses can include ancient to modern day history, and from local to global. You'll learn research skills, how to evaluate archive and source materials and to write clearly. This is a versatile degree with graduates going into politics, law, business, accountancy, international development or further study for careers in the culture or heritage industries, including museums, art galleries and libraries.

**Example degrees:** You can choose to study straight History or a closely related subject, for example Fashion history, Architectural history, History of medicine, History of advertising, History of religion, History of warfare, History of science

- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- TIME ABROAD
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- HERITAGE
- CULTURE
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE
- INDEPENDENT LEARNING
- WORK PLACEMENTS

### Example course modules

- Europe in the 20th century
- Vikings
- Renaissances and reformations
- The history and culture of Ancient Greece
- Contested nation: Germany, 1871-1918
- France 1774-1794: reform and revolution
- History and politics in Latin America: 1930 to present
- The age of the plague: disease, medicine and society in Western Europe 1348-1665
- Growth of the USA
- Russia after Stalin

### Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



### League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

## What students say about history

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We only have a few hours of teaching each week - probably on average about six. The rest of the time is spent reading in preparation for seminars or writing essays - you need this time in order to prepare for the seminars effectively. The content of the course is mostly very interesting and there is a lot of choice for modules so that you can pick the sort of history you are most interested in. We are expected to write one essay per module and also have bigger projects which involve writing longer essays, which are excellent preparation for the dissertation in third year.

### *2nd year, University of Bristol*

My history course content is really interesting. There are modules to suit all with the main focus being on early modern history from 1536 to the present day. The modules don't just focus on Britain either, they give you knowledge of history from all over the world. The type of work set also varies from individual presentations, document commentaries and essays to exams. There is also quite a bit of reading set each week. Don't be fooled into thinking it's not important though! The seminars are more often than not based on what you were set to read. And, of course, there are some really good trips which are always a good laugh.

### *2nd year, University of Suffolk*

History is a course where your independent drive is key. With just eight to 10 contact hours a week, a lot of the reading and writing is done whenever you feel best working. The course of history is varied and you have a lot of choice in modules.

### *1st year, Durham University*

## **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

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- Most courses ask for history

### **Useful to have**

- Economics
- Sociology
- Politics
- English literature
- Religious studies
- Philosophy

## **Application checklist**

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Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

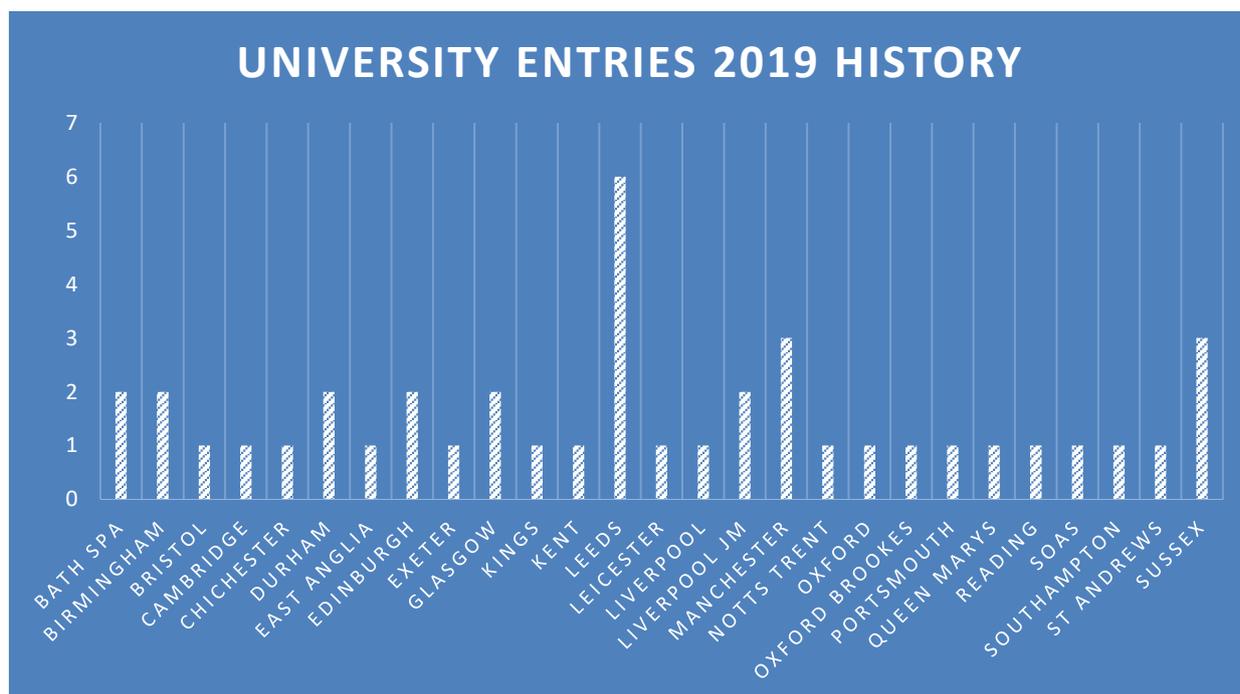
- January application
- Personal statement

## BHASVIC information

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In Sept 2019, 42 BHASVIC students went onto study History degrees at 27 different universities.

It is regularly in the top five subjects our students go onto study at university.



### Top 10 Universities for History - Complete University Guide 2020

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- **Cambridge, Durham, Oxford, St Andrews, Exeter**
- **Southampton, Loughborough** – all very high student satisfaction scores
- **UCL, LSE, Sheffield, Sussex** - all with top graduate prospects

### Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

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- History and Political Science
- History and History of Art/Archaeology
- History and Sociology
- International History and Politics
- History (Medieval/Modern) Sociology with History
- History (Medieval/Modern or Medieval/Modern/Scottish)
- History
- History with Foundation
- Politics and Contemporary History
- Politics and Modern History
- History and Sociology
- International History and Politics
- History and Sociology
- History and Politics
- History and Modern Languages

## Employability

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You'll learn research skills, how to evaluate archive and source materials and to write clearly. This is a subject where students might go into politics, law, business, accountancy, international development or further study for careers in the culture or heritage industries, including museums, art galleries and libraries. Studying history will help you to develop subject-specific skills including an understanding of culture and civilisations and how history has influenced them and how to examine and interpret source materials with many useful transferable skills.

### What employers like about this subject

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Studying history will help you to develop subject-specific skills including an understanding of culture and civilisations and how history has influenced them and how to examine and interpret source materials. Useful transferable skills you will gain from a history degree include communication skills, project management, critical thinking and research skills. History graduates tend to go into more general graduate jobs (for which they are well-suited) as there are not many jobs specifically designed for those who study history. Roles that require a history degree, such as work in museums and archives, are extremely competitive to get into.

### Transferable skills

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Gathering / analysing information from different sources, exploring different perspectives, developing informed views, presentation skills, constructing arguments, meeting deadlines

### Example careers

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- Museum archivist or curator
- Arts or heritage officer
- Newspaper or magazine journalist
- Business analyst
- PR officer
- Subject teacher
- Academic librarian
- Archaeologist
- Broadcast journalist
- Civil Service
- Editorial assistant
- Information officer
- Politician's assistant
- Web content manager
- Teacher

### Local market information

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#### Working in British Intelligence

MI5 and MI6 have an ongoing recruitment drive. There are also opportunities to work in a technical role at GCHQ

## Information management and museum studies

Do you like the idea of collecting and conserving important historical objects or paintings and displaying them so people can enjoy them? Are you interested in helping companies store or use information, or the public access information? There are only a few museum studies or information services courses at undergraduate level; in most cases you'll specialise in one of these areas at postgraduate level.

- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- BA
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- COMPUTER-LITERATE
- HISTORY
- HERITAGE
- LIBRARY

### Example course modules

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- Insight into museum
- Introduction to investigative cleaning
- Analysis of artefacts
- Technology and materials
- Introduction to the museum environment
- Metals: corrosion and conservation
- Inorganic objects: decay and conservation
- Museum exhibition and design
- Bones, bodies and burials: the archaeology of death
- Approaches to history

### Teaching hours / week

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The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



### League tables for this subject

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[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

## **A-levels (or equivalent) usually required**

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- No Specific Requirements

### **Useful to have**

- English
- history

## **Application checklist**

---

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

## **Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry**

- Business Information Systems

## **Career prospects**

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Information services covers a broad range of degree options including librarianship and museum studies, which are usually only taken by a small number of students. These areas tend to be much more popular at postgraduate level - and with a lot of competition for jobs in libraries and museums, most of these jobs go to holders of Masters Qualifications. However, many industries are increasingly looking for professionals skilled in managing data and information - so there are related jobs to be had with just a first degree.

## **Transferable skills**

---

Gathering / analysing information from different sources, exploring different perspectives, developing informed views, presentation skills, constructing arguments, meeting deadlines

## **Jobs where this degree is useful**

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- Public relations officer
- Picture Librarian
- Information manager

## **Other real-life job examples**

- Records manager (with appropriate postgraduate qualification)
- Personnel adviser
- Business analyst

## **What employers like about this subject**

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A degree in information management or museum studies will help you gain subject-specific skills including an understanding of methods of organising information and how to identify and use relevant information sources for yourself or for other users. You will also gain useful transferable skills including research skills, written and spoken communication, IT, budgeting and project management. Information

management graduates find work in industries including education, PR, IT, telecoms, recruitment, manufacturing, hospitals and libraries and archives. Most new entrants to librarian roles have a Masters or other postgraduate qualification, so whilst you can become a librarian with an undergraduate degree, this might be worth considering.

## Sources & Links

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SOURCE: [GRADUATE PROSPECTS](#)

SOURCE: [WHICH? STUDENT SURVEY](#)

SOURCES: [HESA](#) & [HEPI-HEA](#)

<p><b><i>History (Modern and Early Modern)</i></b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can I do with a History degree article?</li> <li>• How do I choose a History course? (2 articles).</li> <li>• Complete University Guide – link to different History degrees.</li> <li>• Alan Bullock article 'The Historians Purpose' – thought provoking read about what historians do and why it matters.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">BHASVLE</a>/Modern History/History at University</p> <p>OR</p> <p><a href="#">BHASVLE</a>/Medieval and Early Modern History at University</p>
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<https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/degree-subject-guides>

<https://www.whatuni.com/advice/guides/subject-guides/>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses>

<https://universitycompare.com/guides/subject/>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/which-subject-should-you-study-university>

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors>