



BISHOP  
GROSSETESTE  
UNIVERSITY

# Social & Cultural History

MA



# Why study at BGU?

Study a creative and rewarding postgraduate programme designed to develop your historical skills through the most up-to-date ways of studying social and cultural history.

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Be inspired by internationally recognised historical researchers whose work is recognised as being at the cutting edge of the discipline.

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Undertake a masters dissertation research project working with specialist resources, and be supported by experienced professionals.

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Be part of a supportive scholarly community of fellow postgraduate historians, sharing ideas and contributing to the university research culture.



# Hello

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# MA Social & Cultural History at BGU

This taught MA offers a wide-ranging introduction to higher level study in social and cultural history. Covering a number of critical areas of historical work the programme will help you to develop and enhance your skills as a research historian. This is an opportunity to deepen your passion for the past through fascinating modules that engage with new and emerging research, approaches and debates.

History at BGU is not just understood through documents, but through a dynamic consideration of words, images, buildings and artefacts. We make excellent use of archives and museums in the ancient city of Lincoln which tell the city's 2,000 year history from Roman foundation to its industrial renaissance in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In addition, the library and online resources for History at BGU are excellent.

Within the library there is a dedicated room housing the Lincolnshire Collection home to every book published on the county's history, and extensive archive holding a range of records relating to the lives of those who trained as teachers and worked at the Victorian Lincoln Diocesan Training College through to the post Second World War period. These materials, and many other resources, are used to support teaching and learning on particular modules and are available for students undertaking research.

This MA is research-inspired. It is designed to capture contemporary disciplinary debates with research-led modules informed by the staff's current interests, publications, and collaborative projects. History has a well-established research culture at BGU and postgraduates will be invited to join our staff at regular events, workshops, and presentations.

For full details of all of our courses, including combinations, module details, entry requirements and much more, visit [bishopg.ac.uk/courses](http://bishopg.ac.uk/courses)







“

The course runs through modules in depths you would never imagine, on topics and theories you had never come across before. The course sets you out as this unique historian whilst leaving you imbued with a sense of citizenship within the scholarly community.”

**Jonah**

MA Social & Cultural History

## KEY FACTS

**AWARD:** Masters (MA)

**DURATION:** 1 year full-time  
2 year part-time

**START DATE:** September

**TYPICAL OFFER:**  
Undergraduate honours degree  
in a Humanities or Social  
Sciences subject  
(or equivalent).

**INSTITUTION CODE:** B38



The tutors are insightful, instructive and intellectually engaging, facilitating learning in a supportive environment where every student counts.”

**Simon**

MA Social & Cultural History

# Social & Cultural History modules

At BGU you can study Social & Cultural History as a **Masters** degree, giving you an in-depth knowledge of the subject. Depending on your year of entry, options and any potential course combinations, you may study some or all of the following modules in Social & Cultural History at BGU.

For full details of all of our courses, including combinations, module details, entry requirements and much more, visit [bishopg.ac.uk/courses](http://bishopg.ac.uk/courses)





## Core Modules

### Social and Cultural History: Introduction, Approaches and methods

This module will introduce you to the particular set of abilities and qualities of mind required by the postgraduate historian. It will set out the character and scope of social and cultural history and will challenge you to critically review its practice through a series of case studies. It aims to introduce you to historical study at postgraduate level and prepare you both intellectually and practically for the programme.

### Society and Culture in the Past: Theories, Debates and Discourse

This module will outline the wide-ranging and often contested nature of social and cultural history as a form of historical practice. It will encourage you to review change and continuity in society and culture in the past in a critical and reflective way. Additionally the role of the historian in the writing of history and related issues, such as recent developments in public history, will also be closely considered.

### Dissertation

You will participate in a small number of introductory research practice workshops and, with tutorial supervision, engage in an independent piece of historical research on a subject of your choosing. You will be required to devise and undertake a substantial written dissertation on a subject of interest to you. This module will deepen and refine your knowledge of your specialist area within the context of a longer piece of analytical written work.

A photograph of Lincoln Cathedral's exterior stone wall and a black metal archway. Below the archway is a large glass window reflecting the cathedral's spires. A black sign with white text is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the archway. The sign includes a 'Welcome' message and a 'Lincoln's Timeline' section with dates from 410 BC to AD 1192. The background shows a clear blue sky.

“

The MA in Social and Cultural History at BGU gave me an opportunity to study new aspects of history. The history tutors are experts in their fields and the interaction with other students in seminars was stimulating and enjoyable. The dissertation was challenging, but I learnt so much by doing it with the support and encouragement of my supervisor. The MA developed me as a historian and gave me confidence as a historical researcher and writer.”

**Janet**

MA Social & Cultural History



## Four modules from the following available options

### **Biography as Historical Practice**

By directly engaging with the biographical writing in historical context you will be encouraged to critique this form of historical practice and so develop your own historical research and writing skills. The module reviews the range of biographical writing created and used by historians with a particular focus on cultural and social context. Issues covered include the history of biography, collective and comparative biographies and autobiography.

### **City and Countryside in Transition: 1870-1914**

Through a critical study of continuity and change this module will consider the tensions between urban and rural life in Britain either side of 1900. You will develop an advanced understanding of the shifting cultural perceptions of the late Victorian and Edwardian city and countryside. The critical inter-relationship between the city and countryside between 1870 and 1914, and where relevant through to the 1920s, will also be reviewed.

### **Early Medicine and the Body: A Cultural History**

This interdisciplinary module will undertake a critical review of the cultural frameworks that structured medieval attitudes toward the body, health and illness. It will also examine the major influence that religious ideas had on the theory and practice of medicine, and the broader role of medical institutions in caring and curing for the sick and poor.

### **A Cultural History of Death, Dying and Disposal**

Death is a critical part of both individual life-cycles and the structuring frameworks of the societies within which those individuals existed. This module will review aspects of the changing religious and cultural attitudes toward death and dying from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The module, through a review the changes in belief and ritual across that period, will critically reflect on the impact this had upon the cultural practices of dying and disposal.

### **Bomber County: Lincolnshire and the Second World War**

Lincolnshire was the focus for much of Bomber Command's activity during the Second World War, to the extent that it gained the title 'Bomber County'. This module will explore the complexity of personal narratives of those engaged with and affected by the building of airfields as well as the day-to-day running of Bomber Command stations. By taking a critical view of the impact of 'total war' upon the county of Lincolnshire, this module provides an insight into the effect modern warfare has on wider society.

### **In need of a tonic? Examining the state of the nation at the Great Exhibition and the Festival of Britain**

Through a study of two important exhibitions, you will compare and contrast the economic, political, social and cultural nature of the Victorian 'Golden Age' with post-war Britain, exploring theories of national identity. This focus on two distant but explicitly connected case studies will engage students understanding of long-term change over time alongside micro-history approaches thereby enabling students to engage in critical discourse at a level commensurate with postgraduate study in history.



# What we offer

## **Delivery**

Teaching is in weekly small-group lecture and seminar sessions that combine expert commentary with vibrant critical discussion. Seminars are integrated with research and presentation tasks to ensure an atmosphere of active and collaborative learning. From academic support to on-line resources, students will experience BGU's longstanding commitment to teaching excellence and student-centred pedagogy.

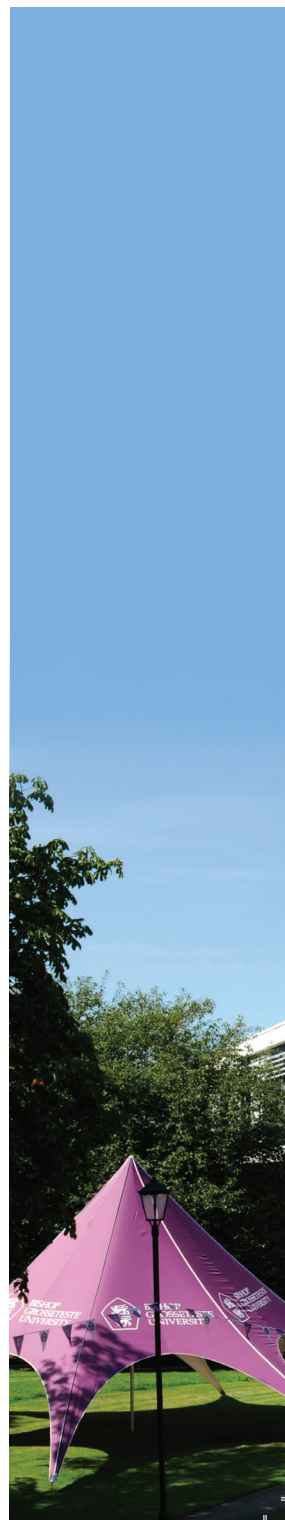
## **Assessment**

Modules are assessed by a variety of coursework tasks intended to develop advanced academic and communication skills. Typically, this will include written essays, presentations, and specialist research tasks.

The dissertation module is your opportunity to undertake a substantial, independent research project. Assessment is supported by one-to-one consultations with specialists in the field.

## **Support**

Studying at BGU is a student-centred experience. Staff and students work together in a friendly and supportive atmosphere as part of an intimate campus community. You will know every member of staff personally and feel confident approaching them for help and advice, and staff members will recognise you, not just by sight, but as an individual with unique talents and interests. We will be there to support you, personally and academically, from induction to graduation.



### **Research at BGU**

Research is an integral part of academic life at BGU and forms one of the defining characteristics of university culture. Research stimulates innovation in learning and teaching, informs our practices, pushes back the boundaries of knowledge and changes lives.

Research is important to us at BGU for its intrinsic as well as extrinsic value and we support research among staff and

students across the institution. BGU offers both a stimulating and supportive research environment, where postgraduate research and collaborative research opportunities are actively encouraged.

The MA in Social and Cultural History provides postgraduate students with essential research skills, so that they realise their potential as historical researchers producing work that merits publication.



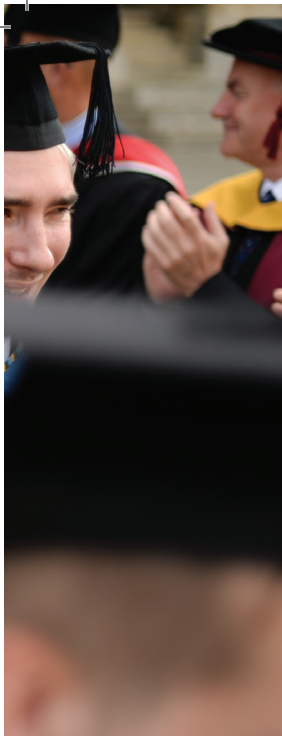


# Your future

Our students have excellent rates of employability when they graduate from BGU, which is great news for you as it means that you can study for a degree knowing that your future is in safe hands. Our employability rates are extremely important to us here at BGU, which is why we offer placement opportunities as an integral part of our courses.

This MA is preparation for professions that depend on advanced skills in research, analysis, critical argument and communication. Specific

abilities in archival research and advanced historical methodologies support students in a range of career choices, from research to archival and heritage-related employment. An MA in History need not result in a career specifically tied to the subject; it equips students with excellent organisational, project- management, and analytical skills sought-after in sectors such as administration and public policy, journalism, publishing and law. The MA is also a good foundation for undertaking a PhD.



Take a look at  
what qualities  
and skills you'll  
develop as a  
BGU student  
[bishopg.ac.uk/  
graduate-attri  
butes](https://bishopg.ac.uk/graduate-attributes)

“

The MA in Social and Cultural History is both a challenging and rewarding course. Taught sessions allow you to develop and share your own ideas within seminar style discussions. The enthusiasm and passion of the lecturers shines through and inspires you to engage in further reading and research, developing a self awareness of your own learning and ownership of your research.”

**Tenille**

MA Social & Cultural History





## Why BGU?

Here at BGU we've been providing first-class education to students for over 150 years. We're based in the heart of historic Lincoln, a beautiful and extremely student-friendly city.

Navigating around Lincoln on foot is simple, from the cobbled streets uphill to the modern city centre and waterfront downhill.

We're located uphill on an attractive, leafy campus just a few minutes' walk from Lincoln's medieval Cathedral, Castle and Bailgate area.

With plenty of live entertainment, cultural attractions and nightlife hotspots, there's plenty to keep you entertained, uphill and downhill.

Visit **bishopg.ac.uk/lincoln** to find out what's on offer in Lincoln.





“

I love being a student at BGU as its historic campus has such a homely feel. There are so many different places where postgraduates can meet and carry on the discussions generated during taught sessions.”

**Georgina**

MA in Social & Cultural History

As a single-site campus, just about everything you need is close by, whether it be your tutors, your friends, your lectures or the places in which you like to relax.

Our students are some of the happiest in the UK, which is incredibly important to us. We really care about our students and aim to support them all of the way through their studies, from application to graduation.

People often say that there's something special about BGU, that the people really care. There's a warm and friendly feel to life here, and we do everything possible to look after our students however we can.

Studying as part of a close-knit community, you'll get to know staff personally and feel confident in being able to approach them for help and

Explore what we have to offer on our campus at [bishopg.ac.uk/campus](https://bishopg.ac.uk/campus)

“

I initially held a different university as my firm and unconditional offer, but the atmosphere about BGU on an open-day drew me in, and the academics kept me.”

**Jonah**  
History



advice. Staff will recognise you - not just by sight but as an individual with unique talents, interests and needs. We'll be there to support you, academically and personally, from the day you start until long after you leave.

Life after BGU is extremely important and we offer many different methods

of support for your future career. This, alongside our talented graduates, is one of the reasons that we consistently achieve impressive employability figures.

This is great news for you as you'll be able to study at BGU knowing that your education is in safe hands!

There's no better way to really get a feel for what BGU has to offer than by coming to visit us. To book your place now visit **bishopg.ac.uk/opensdays**



“

I knew from the moment I attended an Open Day that BGU was the university for me. The knowledge and passion that the lecturers have is something that inspired me to continue and do an MA. The lecturers encouraged my interest in the history of twentieth century warfare, equipping me with the necessary skills of analysis and information management needed for a future career in the armed forces or intelligence services.”

**Sam**

History and MA in Social & Cultural History



# What happens next?

## Open Days

So you've found a course you're interested in - what next? We feel very strongly that coming along to visit us on an Open Day is the very best way to find out everything about BGU.

A BGU Open Day is designed with you in mind, to give you a taste of what it's like to live, study and work here. We try to make everything as easy as possible for you, so you can relax and enjoy the day. You'll have the chance to explore the campus and surrounding area,

speak to members of academic staff about the courses you're interested in, look around our accommodation, and get any questions you may have answered.

Book your place on our next Open Day now - visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk/opendays**

If you think you'd like to apply, need more information or just want to speak to somebody about your options, contact our Enquiries team by calling **01522 583658** or emailing **enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk**




**Ready to apply?** Brilliant. We can't wait to receive your application! For the majority of our MA courses you will apply through the relevant course page on our website. Simply click on the '**Apply Now**' button to download a form – visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk** for all the information you will need. And don't worry – if you need help with anything, we're here to assist. Our dedicated team are ready to answer your queries and questions.

The contents of this booklet are correct at the time of going to print (January 2020). For full and up-to-date information on all of our courses, visit **bishopg.ac.uk**

# Where are we?



## Airports close to BGU

-  Humberside
-  Doncaster
-  Nottingham East Midlands

Where	Road	Rail
Sheffield	55 miles	1hr 20m
Nottingham	39 miles	55m
Leeds	77 miles	2hrs
York	69 miles	1hr 45m
London	144 miles	2hrs



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Telephone: (01522) 583658  
[enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk)

“

The high standard of teaching and training on the MA in Social and Cultural History prepared me well for subsequent part-time employment as an historical researcher and speaker.

During the course, the flexibility of the assignment briefs within each of the modules enabled me to develop personal research interests, supported by experienced, professional guidance from the tutors.”

**Elaine**

MA Social & Cultural History

@BGULincoln

