

Welcome from Professor David Hayton, Head of the School of History and Anthropology

History at Queen's takes two things very seriously: the study of the past and the welfare of the students for which it is responsible. Whether you come to us as a single subject, major, joint or minor student, our aim is to help you to get as much as possible out of your years at university, and to introduce you to the varied possibilities that make History such an engrossing subject.

As a student in the School you have the opportunity to work with specialist historians, whose areas of expertise range from the ancient world to the twentieth century, taking in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. The latest official survey of research at UK universities (RAE 2001), which graded all departments in terms of the national and international standing of their research, assessed Queen's as grade 5 (scale 1–5).

At the same time as it offers excellence in research, the School is committed to teaching of the highest quality. To achieve this we offer a combination of courses: broadly based surveys to provide a foundation for interpretation and understanding and specialised options, where you will work in small groups exploring the most detailed and up-to-date literature on particular problems. Methods of assessment likewise vary. There are examinations, of course, but you will also submit assessed essays and longer pieces of independent work. A growing number of modules also assess participation in group work. In all cases the aim is to ensure that every student gets full credit for whatever he or she brings to their work within the School.

History provides a range of material on its website to support students with the day-to-day queries they may have and to keep you up-to-date with the ongoing seminar programmes and conferences which students are encouraged to attend. However if you have any questions or difficulties, your first point of contact is the History General Office where our friendly and efficient staff will either solve your difficulty or help you make contact quickly with any member of staff to whom you need to talk.

This is what we try to provide. Other parts of your student experience are up to you. There is an active Historical Society, run by students, which organises talks, social events and field trips. There is also a Staff-Student Consultative Committee, which meets regularly to discuss issues of concern to students. Here, as in the University as a whole, the opportunity is there for every student to make his or her own contribution during their time with us.