UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

Master of Arts
in
Cultural History, Memory & Identity

comprising three pathways:

Cultural Memory
Making Histories: Public History and Heritage
‘Race’, Nation and Ethnicity

Awards available
MA Cultural History, Memory and Identity (Cultural Memory)
MA Cultural History, Memory and Identity (Making Histories: Public History and Heritage)
MA Cultural History, Memory and Identity (‘Race’, Nation and Ethnicity)
Pg Cert/Pg Dip Cultural Memory
Pg Cert/Pg Dip Making Histories, Interpreting Archives
Pg Cert/Pg Dip Histories and Cultures of ‘Race’, Nation and Ethnicity

The Cultural History, Memory & Identity postgraduate programme
The postgraduate programme in Cultural History, Memory and Identity (formerly known as Histories and Cultures) encompasses a Masters (MA) degree of that name together with opportunities to study for the intermediate awards of Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) and Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip). The programme as a whole is concerned with the cultural practices and media of history-making with the cultural representation and interpretation of history and ‘memory’; and with the role of constructions of the past in cultures and societies, and in the formation of identities. In ethos the Cultural History, Memory & Identity programme develops a connection between critical understanding and analysis of the origins, forms and effects of cultural constructions of history and memory, and a practical, hands-on emphasis upon the skills and methods involved in the making of new historical accounts and representations. Emphasising the close relation between academic study and broader cultural interest in the past and its significance in everyday life, the programme enables investigation of a wide range of cultural forms and practices, including oral history, life-story work and auto/biography, drama and performance, architecture and the built environment, material artefacts, monuments, exhibitions, museums, written histories, imaginative literature, archival collections of documents and other material, painting, graphic design, photography, film, television, video, multimedia/virtual reality, commemoration, and heritage.
The CHMI programme is grounded in current interdisciplinary methodologies informed by cultural and critical theory, and draws on the course team’s specific areas of expertise within cultural, social and political history, cultural studies, literary studies, film and visual studies, and the history of ideas. Teaching is undertaken by active researchers including internationally recognised scholars, within a humanities research grouping which contributed to the University of Brighton’s top 4* grade in the art and design area in the last Research Assessment Exercise in 2008. Students on the Cultural History, Memory and Identity programme benefit from its close relationship to the University’s Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories.

The three pathways
The general concerns of the Masters programme as a whole are developed in relation to three pathways, each of which explores a particular field of enquiry with its own distinctive thematic and methodological focus. MA students enrol on one of these pathways. The pathways also provide the basis for the PgCert and PgDip awards.

**Cultural Memory** explores distinctive approaches to questions of history-making, historical consciousness and the cultural significance of the past developed in the recently emerged, interdisciplinary field of memory studies. It focuses on the social, cultural and political processes that produce a sense of the past for particular societies and social groups; and the inter-relation between these collective, public dimensions of remembering and forgetting, and the domain of personal memory. It develops a critical investigation of the key concepts and theories that define cultural memory as a new object of study, and of the key themes and issues entailed: the representation of the past, and of the past-present relationship, in diverse cultural practices and forms (oral, textual, visual and digital); the role of cultural memories in the formation of beliefs, ideologies and identities; conflict over the significance of the past; the relation between memory and politics; the relation between cultural and psychological dimensions of memory; memory and place; cultural memories and historical truth; and the ethics of remembering and forgetting. These general, critical concerns are brought to bear in the study of cultural memories in particular socio-historical contexts, and of specific practices and representations of memory in diverse sites, forms and media. The pathway begins by introducing the field of memory studies and key concepts, theories and methods in the study of cultural memory. It does so thematically by focusing upon studies and debates mainly concerned with the cultural memory of war; the importance of cultural memory to national identities; and cultural memory and racial or ethnic oppression and persecution. On this foundation, the pathway continues by developing more detailed investigation of particular contexts and cases, such as the memory of the Holocaust, and the relation between cultural memory and conflict resolution in the Irish Troubles.

**Making Histories: Public History and Heritage** This unit critically examines the fields of public history and heritage in a variety of contexts and through analyses of a variety of cultural sites and forms. Key concepts and critical frameworks are introduced, applied and critically assessed in relation to three specific case studies: Following introductory reading that lays the foundations for subsequent critical engagement, the first case study is the city of Brighton and Hove. Students examine specific public history sites in the city, the representation of the city in film, fiction and in oral history and web based community histories.

The second case study explores the complex place and absence of transatlantic slavery within the context of public history and heritage by drawing on examples from Britain, France, the USA, the Caribbean and Africa. The first part of the course critically examines Britain’s recent public engagement with this history by contextualising, historicising, and analysing the Bicentenary of the British Slave Trade in 2007. The complex relations between
the public history of transatlantic slavery and commemoration are then examined through an investigation of a variety of memorials, museums, tourist sites and the Atlantic wide reparations debate. The last part of the case study explores the representation of slavery in textual form including film, autobiography and imaginative fiction. Throughout, the making of public history is considered as a means through which identities are understood and expressed, and also as a contested realm of social and political struggle.

The third case study focuses on the complex relationship between history, public history and the heritage industry concerning the Second World War in Britain. The first area considered is the archive, with students drawing on material collected by and held in Mass-Observation as a means of analysing the production of a public history of the war both at the time and since. The second area of focus is the representation of the war through museums and memorials, with students considering site specific instances of the memorialization and museum representations of the war in Britain, linking these, where appropriate, to the concept of a heritage industry. Finally, students consider the Second World War as an object of both commemoration and consumption, considering the relationship between acts of commemoration and the selling of the war, both through dark tourism and commodities.

‘Race’, Nation and Ethnicity focuses on the relation between the historical processes that have produced modern imagined communities of race, nation and ethnicity (as these intersect with other factors, including class, gender and locality); and the cultural processes and forms in which these formations and identities have been represented. It investigates how collective experiences, myths and memories are drawn upon in narratives that construct the histories, identities and destinies of racial national and ethnic groups, which in turn underpin those groups’ ideological and political claims. The pathway begins by examining the historical formation and cultural representation of British national identity in relation to racial and ethnic others, with a particular emphasis on histories of migration and empire. It introduces key theoretical paradigms that underpin historical accounts of the significance of migration and empire for cultural constructions of Britishness, and develops methods for the critical investigation of practices of history-making in terms of ideology, cultural representation and identity-formation across various sites and forms, visual and linguistic. History-making and identity-formation are also analysed in relation to imaginative geographies of nation and diaspora; involving cultural perceptions, significances, images and memories pertaining to places of origin, of belonging, of journeying and of settlement. Case studies are likely to focus on the British island story and its critique and transformation; Islam and the Middle East in British cultural imagination; and Jewish migrant cultures in Britain. This work provides a foundation for more detailed investigation of these themes in particular historical contexts, such as the Atlantic and diasporic cultures resulting from European slavery and colonialism in the Caribbean; and in particular forms of representation, such as the colonial and postcolonial novel in English. There is also scope for primary research into the local areas of Brighton and Hove and Sussex using local archives and collections, and the resources of local communities.

The structure of the MA
One or more of these pathways run each year, at the discretion of the Course Leader. Each pathway comprises five component elements that together constitute the MA degree, as follows:

**Element 1: Core Course**
Each pathway has its own discrete, compulsory Core Course unit taken in Term One of the programme. This establishes the field of enquiry, the themes, issues and questions that characterize it, and the theories and methods of its investigation. These units are:

Cultural Memory: Concepts, Theories and Methods
Element 2: Core Option
Following on from the Core Course, each pathway will normally offer two designated Core Option units, offered consecutively in Terms Two and Three of the programme. Core Options enable detailed investigation of particular critical debates, practices, representations, archives and collections, and/or historical contexts, informed by the theoretical and methodological considerations introduced in the Core Course. Students must take one of these two units (and it is recommended that both are taken - see Element 3 below). The designated Core Options for each of the pathways will normally be as follows:

Cultural Memory pathway
Cultural Memory in Ireland: Conflict Resolution and the Irish Troubles
Holocaust Memory

Making Histories: Public History and Heritage pathway
Making Histories: Making the History of Slavery in the Atlantic World
Making Histories: Making the History of Britain in the Second World War

‘Race’, Nation and Ethnicity pathway
The Making of the Black Atlantic: Transformations of History, Representation and Identity
Memory and Identity in Postcolonial Cultures: Fictions and Histories

Please note: the units available may vary, and not all will be available in any one year. For up-to-date information, contact the Course Leader at the address below.

Element 3: Free Option
For this element, students choose one further Option unit from those available that year. It is recommended that they choose the second Core Option unit designed for their particular pathway (thereby following the recommended route). But students may also choose (with the agreement of the Course Leader and subject to academic suitability and availability) either a unit from one of the other pathways of this MA; or a unit in a related area of study available through the Faculty of Arts Postgraduate Option scheme; or on an MA offered elsewhere in the University. The availability of these postgraduate units varies from year to year, and is currently contingent on the finalising of optional units available within the new Postgraduate Option scheme. Further information is available from the Course Leader. A sample of the range is listed below.

MA in Cultural and Critical Theory (Philosophy and Critical Theory)
Foundations of Critical Theory
Critical Traditions

MA in Cultural and Critical Theory (Aesthetics and Cultural Theory)
Continental Aesthetics
Cultural Theory

MA in Cultural and Critical Theory (Globalisation, Politics, Culture)
Politics of Globalisation
Cultures of Globalisation

MA in Sport, Culture and Society (Chelsea School)
Sport and Nationalism
MA in History of Design and Material Culture
Design, Retailing, Consumption

MA in Linguistics/MA in English Language
Topics in Sociolinguistics
Discourses of Culture

MA in Applied Ethics
The Politics of Applied Ethics

Free-standing option unit
Writing: Craft and Creative Practice

Where students follow a Free Option from another MA programme, thereby departing from the recommended route, this alternative route through the degree must be agreed with the Course Leader who will advise on timetabling arrangements, assessment, and how to take advantage of the flexibility afforded by the structure of the Cultural History, Memory and Identity programme to achieve a balanced workload.

**Element 4: Research Methods**
This prepares students to undertake and complete an extended research project. Students are introduced to relevant research methods in cultural studies, historical inquiry, literary (textual) analysis, philosophical analysis, and cultural and critical theory; and are guided towards the formulation of a research topic with clear aims, methodology and sources, and a rationale for their intended treatment of the topic. Students following the recommended route begin Research Methods at the start of Term One. For students following an alternative route, the timetable and arrangements for this unit must be agreed with the Course Leader.

**Element 5: Research Project**
The culmination of the MA degree experience, the Research Project enables students to develop individual research and presentational skills by investigating in depth a critical debate, or a body of cultural material, or an historical context, relevant to the broad concerns of their particular pathway. Research normally leads to the production of a 17,000-20,000-word dissertation. The use of alternative modes of presentation - for example, the production of a video, an exhibition or a CD-ROM - is also possible, subject to agreement.

**The Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma awards**
Units from each of the three pathways may also be studied for the intermediate awards of PgCert and PgDip in Cultural Memory, or Making Histories, Interpreting Archives, or Histories and Cultures of Race, Nation and Ethnicity, with the possibility of undertaking additional study at a later stage for the higher award. These courses are designed for suitably qualified applicants with the potential to benefit from this programme, who seek the stimulation and challenge of historical study at postgraduate level but are unable to commit from the start to the MA. They may appeal particularly to:

- those with relevant degree-level qualifications who want to reflect critically upon practices of cultural representation, or remembrance, or history-making (including popular, public and local history), and/or to produce their own historical accounts from primary sources;
- professionals in the education, library, museum, archive and/or heritage, charity, health and welfare sectors who seek personal and/or career development opportunities; as well as to those seeking a career in these sectors;
local or family historians with experience of practical historical investigation (with or without formal educational qualifications), who wish to develop their skills of critical reflection and interpretation.

The **PG Cert** is awarded on successful completion of the Core Course and one Core Option from one of the MA’s three pathways. This takes two terms of study.

The **PGDip** is awarded on successful completion of the Core Course, one Core Option and one Free Option on one of the MA’s three pathways, plus a Bibliographical Essay developing a critical ‘literature review’. This takes one year of study. Students who begin studying for a PgCert may apply to transfer onto a PgDip. Similarly, PgDip students may apply to join the MA in Cultural History, Memory and Identity, for which they would take a further unit in Research Methods before designing and carrying out a substantial research project.

Please note: The PgCert and PgDip opportunities available in any one year are dependent upon recruitment onto the postgraduate programme in Cultural History, Memory and Identity as a whole. Not all the MA Core Course, Core Option and Free Option units will be available every year. Potential applicants should seek advice on this from the MA Course Leader.

**Assessment**

All Core Course and Option units (Elements 1-3), are assessed by a 5,000-word essay. On the MA, Research Methods is assessed by a 3,000-word Research Proposal and a 45,000-word draft introductory chapter for the dissertation; and the Research Project by a 170,000-word dissertation (or its equivalent utilizing an alternative mode of presentation, normally either an artefact or cultural product accompanied by a 10,000 word analytical essay, or a more substantial creative outcome accompanied by a 5,000 word critical commentary). On the PgDip, Bibliographical Research is assessed by a 5,000-word essay.

**Flexibility of study/accomodating students’ interests**

The degree may be undertaken via full-time study over twelve months or part-time over a period from a minimum twenty-four months to a maximum of five years. Full-time students take two elements per term. Part-time students take one element per term to complete the degree in two years; this may be extended by periods of intermission according to personal circumstances up to the maximum period. All students take a Core Course in Term 1 and complete their Research Project over the summer vacation at the end of their period of study. In other respects the pattern of study is flexible in order to allow all students to take advantage of the full range of available Options. Once enrolled, guidance is available from the Course Leader to help students choose their two Options and design their own personal routes through the degree.

Applicants are advised to discuss their particular interests with the Course Leader at the time of application to explore how these might be accommodated and developed on this MA programme. Applicants’ interests are among the factors taken into account in determining the Option units available in any one year. In cases where students’ preferred Option units are not available, there is usually scope to pursue these interests elsewhere on the programme, whether in relation to other units or through the Research Project.

**Time commitment**

The structure and content of the degree are predicated on the broad assumption that a part-time student (taking one element per term) will have some 20 hours a week available for the
pursuit of their studies, and a full-time student (taking two elements per term) some 40 hours. The bulk of this is taken up by independent reading and writing. Teaching sessions for all Core Courses and Core Options normally take place on a weekday evening (usually Monday) and last between 2 - 3 hours. (Option units taken from other MAs vary according to the timetabling arrangements made for each separate programme.) Research Methods takes place on several half-days (currently Wednesdays), plus individual tutorials. The Research Project involves individual tuition at times agreed between student and supervisor.

Using the MA: education, research training, career development

The MA Cultural History, Memory & Identity offers various kinds of educational, professional and personal benefit to its students. Praised by external examiners for its 'outstanding intellectual quality' as 'rigorous', 'challenging', and 'one of the most impressive degrees in the country' in the field of historical cultural studies, it has also won praise (not least from its students) for 'accessible' teaching, 'exemplary' tutorial support, 'excellent supervision for research projects', and 'outstanding support' for international students, non-native speakers of English, and those returning to study after a gap. The knowledge, intellectual skills and confidence acquired through study on this MA provides an excellent research training in preparation for doctoral research. All CHMI students are encouraged to participate in the rich programme of seminars, symposia and conferences, including an annual postgraduate conference, organised by the Centre for Research in Memory, Narrative and Histories, the Centre for Applied Philosophy, Politics and Ethics, and the School of Humanities. CHMI graduates have a direct route onto our Humanities PhD programme here at Brighton and have also gone on to doctoral research at other universities. CHMI students have used the MA to secure work in the education, heritage and museum, health and voluntary sectors, and the course has proved attractive to those looking to develop their careers by augmenting existing skills and experience or by opening new professional paths within their workplace or organisation. In 2010 we established a small number of voluntary work placements for our students with the local community history group, Brighton and Hove Black History, and we hope to maintain this opportunity as well as establish further volunteering opportunities in future. Some students follow the programme purely out of interest and the pleasure of intellectual stimulation.

Admissions criteria

It is expected that the programme will recruit students from a wide variety of intellectual backgrounds and traditions. Candidates for admission will normally hold a BA (Hons) degree or its equivalent in relevant or related subjects. These include social, cultural and political history; cultural studies; film, media and communications studies; humanities; sociology; history of architecture and design; literary studies; visual and performing arts; history of ideas; politics; information studies; anthropology; visual culture and the history of art; historical and cultural geography; and other disciplines. Candidates with experience of multi- or interdisciplinary study are particularly encouraged to apply. Academic qualification for entry is normally attained by securing an upper-second-class undergraduate degree, or better. However, applicants with lower-second-class awards will also be considered. International applicants should normally have a qualification recognised as equivalent to the British BA (Hons) degree by UK NARIC.

Candidates with suitable professional experience though without degree qualifications, and those with proven experience of historical studies at other than degree level, may be offered places on the programme. Thus non-academic qualifications and/or experience that demonstrate a high level of critical, analytical and/or historical ability may be a substitute for academic qualifications. Applications will be welcomed from, for example, professionals in the fields of teaching, journalism, museum and archive curatorship, oral history, video- and film-making, digital media and arts, heritage, cultural policy, health and social welfare,
community activism, charity and campaign work. Similarly, applications are encouraged from
members of local history groups and other local and/or amateur historians with experience of
historical enquiry and research. Such applications will be considered in the light of the
Faculty of Arts Academic Framework, which identifies clearly the process for transfer and,
where relevant, admission 'with advanced standing' or accreditation of prior learning.

Candidates with English as a second language will need to display their proficiency in
English, normally through an oral interview and a certificate of competence from a
recognised body (such as Cambridge Proficiency [CPE] language qualification or its
equivalent). A minimum level of 7.00 on the IELTS scale (or 600 TOEFL paper test, 100
TOEFL iBT test) is normally required, with a particular emphasis placed on the writing and
reading elements.

**Application procedure**
Postgraduate applications are now made online via the Course Finder facility on the
University’s website [<http://courses.brighton.ac.uk>]. Search for course name; follow link to
Online applications.

Applicants are requested to use the Personal Statement section of the form to
indicate the relevance of their academic and/or other experience to their application,
the pathway(s) and units which interest them most, their provisional ideas about a
dissertation topic (where possible), and the reasons why they believe they will benefit
from pursuing this particular programme of study. This statement, together with existing
qualifications and/or experience, will normally be discussed at interview. Candidates from
overseas, or at some distance from Brighton, may elect to have a telephone interview.
Offers of a place will normally be dependant upon a successful interview which will focus on
the candidate’s potential to benefit from and contribute to the programme of study.
Requests for references, and the reference forms, should be sent directly to their referees by
applicants. The referees may forward the completed forms directly to the Course Leader. It
is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that references are received by the University.

Applicants seeking scholarship or grant support for their studies are advised to apply as
early as possible for entry onto the programme which begins in late September each year. It
is in the interests of all other applicants to apply before the end of June, though applications
will be considered right up to the commencement of the programme.

**Fees and funding support**
Up-to-date information about fees and funding support may be found on the University’s
website: <http://www.brighton.ac.uk/studentlife/money>. Part-time students in receipt of
state benefits are entitled to apply for fee reductions up to a maximum of £400. Students
over 60 years of age and graduates or members of the University of Brighton are entitled to
apply for a fee waiver. Any enquiries about fee levels, payment dates, payment methods etc.
should be directed to Registry Fee Enquiries: <fees@brighton.ac.uk>, tel. +44 (0)1273
642449.

The University of Brighton is currently unable to offer any scholarship or bursary support
dedicated specifically to the MA Cultural History, Memory and Identity. International
students who have been offered a place on the course may apply for one of the University's
competitive International scholarships (see web address above for details). Further
information about potential sources of funding can be found in the annual The Grants
and Funding for Postgraduate Study (2009), a document produced by the University of
Sheffield Career Services, downloadable at:<
http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/content/1/c6/03/00/88/funding.pdf>
Admissions enquiries and further information
For further information contact the (job-sharing) Course Administrators, Amira Driscoll and Clare Baker, MA in Cultural History Memory & Identity, School of Humanities, University of Brighton, 10-11 Pavilion Parade, Brighton, BN2 1RA, UK;
tel. ++ 44 [0]1273 643089;
email: <a.k.driscoll@brighton.ac.uk> or <cb267@brighton.ac.uk>

To discuss the academic content of the course and/or a potential application, contact the Course Leader, Dr Lucy Noakes: email <L.Noakes@brighton.ac.uk>
telephone: direct line: ++ 44 [0]1273 643311; or School Office ++ 44 [0]1273 643089.