



INSTITUTE OF  
ENGLISH  
STUDIES

SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# MA or MRes in the History of the Book

[ies.sas.ac.uk](http://ies.sas.ac.uk)

# About the degree

The University of London's MA degree in the History of the Book is the oldest postgraduate programme in this growing area in the humanities. Each year, the Institute of English Studies (IES) welcomes a range of students from varied educational and professional backgrounds and from many different countries. The University's location in central London provides easy access to unrivalled library and museum resources, and the programme draws on a range of tutors, each of whom are international experts in their field. There are opportunities to undertake placement work in the rare book trade.

This programme can also lead to the award of an MRes degree. All of our graduates are awarded a University of London degree.

The history of the book is concerned with the making, manufacturing, distribution, and reading of books, and thus offers a unique way of understanding different literary, cultural, social, intellectual, and technological processes in history. The subject extends to include newspapers, magazines, chapbooks, ephemera, digital text, and all kinds of printed or written media. It also includes the manuscript book in all its forms from the pre-classical, classical, and medieval periods.

In this programme we explore the different material forms the book has taken over time, from clay tablets to computer screens. Core modules provide a comprehensive overview of the book from the medieval period to the present day. Optional modules allow for in-depth analysis of the history of specific components of the book, such as bindings, and book illustration, as well as focused modules on key topics, including textual editing, digital publishing, and the history of reading. There is also an exciting opportunity to work as an intern in the London rare book trade.

In addition to weekly taught seminars, students undertake a comprehensive induction week and a research methodology module where you will be introduced to the use of sources and resources in preparation for your coursework essays and dissertation.



## Degree overview

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The programme aims to:

- Give students a broad understanding of book history from c. 3000 BCE to 2000 CE.
- Introduce you to the range of disciplines that make up the subject, including historical bibliography, palaeography, codicology, history of printing, bibliometrics, history of publishing, history of reading, and library history.
- Provide frequent opportunities to handle archaeological and historical objects relating to the subject.
- Give you the ability and confidence to deal with primary sources for book history (both manuscript and printed).

In addition, the MRes will:

- Provide students with a foundation of three appropriately specialized taught modules (60 credits in all), which will equip you to undertake a more extensive programme of master's-level research.
- Provide the opportunity for students to write an extended dissertation (30,000 words) on a subject that requires treatment at a much greater length and depth than the usual MA topic.
- Offer students a degree programme that satisfies the needs of those who wish to undertake more extensive research or go on to do an MPhil or PhD.

# Structure and assessment

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The MA consists of a series of six taught modules (including one compulsory module and two core modules) plus a dissertation of 15,000 words.

The MRes consists of a series of three taught modules and a 30,000-word dissertation. Each taught module will be

examined by one 5,000-word essay on a topic to be agreed with the tutor.

You may also choose courses from the London Rare Books School programme under the guidance of the Course Director and Course Tutor.

## Modules

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### Compulsory module

- Research Methodologies and Resources for the History of the Book

### Core modules (students select a minimum of two)

- The Medieval Book
- The Book in Early Modern England
- The Book in the Industrial Age

### Option modules 2018–19

- The Book in the Ancient World (autumn)
- Provenance in Books (spring)
- Book trade internship (summer)
- Any LRBS course (summer)





## Teaching and supervision

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Teachers are recognised experts drawn from the Institute, the British Library, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Lambeth Palace Library, and other institutions, at which some of the teaching takes place.

## London book trade internship

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Students have the option to substitute one of the modules with an internship at a London bookselling firm. The internship offers the opportunity to experience life in the rare book trade and to undertake projects for the company (everything from stocktaking to cataloguing to running a book stall at a fair). In the past, students have been placed in Maggs Bros., Jarndyce Booksellers, Robert Frew Ltd., and Ash Rare Books. Several students undertaking the internship have gone on to secure successful careers in the trade.

## Careers

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Beyond the degree, previous students have gone on to careers in the rare book trade, academic librarianship, museum curatorship and publishing, as well as PhD study.

## The University of London experience

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As part of the School of Advanced Study (SAS), University of London, IES students benefit from a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment. SAS is a national research hub and the Institute enjoys close links with its other members, including the Institute of Historical Research and the Institute of Modern Languages Research. Cross-institute collaboration is actively encouraged, making us an ideal location for interdisciplinary research.

IES students join a community of more than 300 students in SAS. They are encouraged to participate in the wider activities of the University and are able to use the libraries of other colleges in addition to Senate House Library.

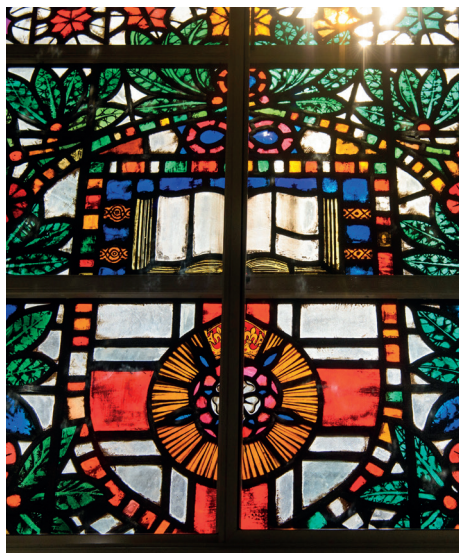
# London Rare Books School

The London Rare Books School (LRBS) offers a range of individual week-long postgraduate courses in book history and related subjects taught by distinguished international scholars during the summer. MA/MRes students can, with the approval

of the Course Director and Course Tutor, take an LRBS module for credit by submitting a pass-quality 5,000-word essay. The dates for LRBS 2019 are 17–21 June, 24–28 June, and 1–5 July.

## London Rare Books School Courses 2019

- Introduction to Bibliography
- Blocks and Plates (held at St Bride Library)
- The Book in the Renaissance
- Digital Scholarly Editing: An Introduction
- Digital Scholarly Editing: Advanced Methods
- English Bookbinding Styles 1450–1850
- European Bookbinding 1450–1820
- History of Book Illustration (held at Victoria & Albert Museum)
- History of the Book in India
- Incunabula: Medieval Printed Material
- The Medical Book: 1300–1900
- The Medieval Book
- The Medieval Manuscript Book in the Celtic World
- The Modern Rare Book Trade
- Music Printing and Publishing
- Provenance in Books
- A Publishing History of the Novel
- The Queer Book
- Using Publishers' Archives
- The Woman Reader



## Entry requirements

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The normal minimum entrance requirement is a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree from a university in the UK or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. We will consider applications from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

English is the language of instruction and applicants are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency.

For more information on entry requirements, please visit [sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements](https://sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements).

## How to apply

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Applications should be made online via the SAS website. For full details of the application process, please visit [sas.ac.uk/study/historyofthebook](https://sas.ac.uk/study/historyofthebook).

## Accommodation

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Full-time students, and part-time students with disabilities, may apply for accommodation in one of the University of London's award-winning intercollegiate halls of residence. Our Registry office will send you housing information after you have been offered a place. To learn more about accommodation options, please visit [halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation](https://halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation).

## Course summary

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### Degree structure

The degree can be taken full time over one year or part time over two years, with entry in October only. MA: six modules, including one compulsory module and two core modules, plus a dissertation of up to 15,000 words. MRes: three modules and a 30,000-word dissertation.

### Fees 2018–19 (subject to annual uplift)

Home and EU students: full time, £6,430 | part time, £3,545

Overseas students: full time, £14,900

### Funding

One full-fees bursary (Home/EU rate) is available through the Institute's Sambrook Fund. Home/EU and international students are eligible to apply. The School of Advanced Study offers a number of funding options, including bursaries, scholarships, grants, and awards. For details, please visit [sas.ac.uk/funding](https://sas.ac.uk/funding).

## Learn more

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Institute of English Studies:  
[ies.sas.ac.uk/study-training](https://ies.sas.ac.uk/study-training)

School of Advanced Study:  
[sas.ac.uk/study](https://sas.ac.uk/study)

The **Institute of English Studies** is an internationally renowned research centre specialising in the history of the book, manuscript and print studies, and textual scholarship. Our activities include providing postgraduate studies, hosting major collaborative research projects, providing essential research training in book history and palaeography, and facilitating scholarly communities in all areas of English studies.

The **School of Advanced Study** is the UK's national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities. Located at the heart of the University of London in Bloomsbury, the School provides an unrivalled scholarly community in which to pursue postgraduate study and research. Students learn from leading specialists in their fields, hone their research skills in highly regarded training programmes, expand their knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars. Funding opportunities include AHRC-sponsored London Arts and Humanities Partnership studentships, SAS studentships, and a number of subject-specific bursaries and awards.

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*Please note that tuition fees are subject to annual uplift. The University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice.*



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