UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

MRes

Archives

Study mode	Duration	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Combine training in archival research skills with tailored theoretical and methodological approaches aligned to your proposed research project. Under expert supervision, you'll produce a major piece of independent research that makes an original contribution to knowledge and offers ideal preparation for PhD study.

Introduction

This MRes provides a personalised and focused introduction to postgraduate research. It will enable you to develop into an independent researcher and produce an original research project, supported by an expert in archives.

The programme provides intensive preparation for doctoral research and your future career. We'll guide you through the research process, equipping you with transferable skills, including critical thinking, project management, written and verbal communication, and problem solving.

Training in research methodologies will be tailored to archival research and your specific research proposal. You'll co-design a bespoke reading list and individual assessment tasks in preparation for a substantial piece of research.

You'll discover how to develop a research proposal, identify relevant evidence and sources, plan and undertake the research, and analyse and present your findings. Record-keeping theory and best practice will be complemented by a two-week placement at an archive repository. This will develop your cataloguing skills and test your understanding of archival description.

You'll be supported by academic experts in the Department of History. Our team of MRes supervisors are actively engaged in archival research that spans medieval record keeping through to contemporary public policy and open government.

Who is this course for?

You should have a very well-developed research proposal that has already been discussed and approved by your prospective supervisor in the Department of History prior to submitting your application.

What you'll learn

- Record-keeping theory and skills and their application to records management and archives
- Record-keeping standards and best practice for the identification, classification, cataloguing and indexing of records
- The value of records and their effective management in legal, financial, political and cultural contexts
- How to design a robust research proposal
- How to identify relevant evidence and sources
- How to plan and conduct a major piece of original, independent research
- How to collect, interpret and analyse data and present your findings
- Project management and problem-solving skills
- How to prepare a bibliography

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Please note, work towards the dissertation runs across the length of the programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RECORD-KEEPING THEORY AND PRACTICE (HIST577)	30
RESEARCH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BY DIRECTED STUDY (HLAC503)	30
HLC RESEARCH MASTERS DISSERTATION (HLAC501)	120

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Please note, work towards the dissertation runs across the length of the programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
HLC RESEARCH MASTERS DISSERTATION (HLAC501)	120

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Please note, work towards the dissertation runs across the length of the programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
[HLC RESEARCH MASTERS DISSERTATION (HLAC501)](#)	120

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The programme involves a combination of seminars, one-to-one supervision, small group work, independent study and a two-week placement at an archive repository.

The course structure enables a student-centred approach with tailored reading and additional skills development, as well as guidance on ethical approval protocols as needed.

How you're assessed

You'll be assessed through a learning blog, literature review and workplace practice report, as well as two additional written assignments you'll co-design with your tutors.

These tailored assessments could include source analyses, written reports, critical reviews, feasibility studies, annotated bibliographies, historiographical review essays and formal research proposals. The most suitable forms of assessment will depend on your intended research.

The main piece of assessed work will be your dissertation.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

Careers and employability

The programme will immerse you in research and practical analytical techniques and develop a wide range of transferable skills. You'll demonstrate communication skills, problem-solving, time management and the ability to work on your own initiative.

You'll graduate ready for further study at postgraduate level, including MPhil or PhD research, and be prepared for a range of specialised careers. The MRes also meets the training requirements of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

Many MRes graduates continue their studies and progress to doctoral research, studying an MPhil or PhD.

MRes History graduates have also gone into a wide range of professions. These include:

- Academia
- Media
- Public sector management
- Business consultancy
- Civil service
- Non-governmental organisations.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £5,006
Part-time place, per year - £2,503

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £24,600
Part-time place, per year - £12,300

MRes tuition fees are for the academic year 2025/26. We will update the 2026/27 fees shortly.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

Please note, this programme may have additional costs associated with it depending on your choice of a lab or computational/fieldwork-based project.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree can be in any relevant subject discipline.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet the entry requirements for a master's degree at Liverpool, a pre-master's, delivered by our partner, University of Liverpool International College, can help you gain a place. Although there's no direct pre-master's route to this MRes, completing a pre-master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses which may interest you.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our Pre-Sessional English courses to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

120 overall, with no component below 105

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or the equivalent score in selected other English language tests, to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.