

# UNIVERSITY OF KENT

## New Research Programmes of Study

### **1 Proposals for new programmes should contain:**

1.1 PhD in History

### **1.2 Length and Mode of Registration**

Doctor of Philosophy

Full-Time (three to four years)

Part-Time (five to six years)

### **1.3 Entry Requirements**

A candidate should have an MA, either taught or by research, in History or a related subject.

In certain circumstances the School will consider candidates who have not followed a conventional education path. These cases will be assessed individually by the potential supervisor and the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research).

A candidate should have a DALF or equivalent, certifying proficiency in the French language.

### **1.4 Campus**

Upon registration, students will be offered the opportunity to undertake some skills training at the Canterbury campus (see 1.10a below). However, the majority of the research training students will be expected to attend Ateliers pédagogiques of the Archives Nationales. Registration costs will be covered by the School of History. Students will also have access to Graduate School training online.

Students will be expected to spend the bulk of their time (research, writing etc.) in Paris. Reid Hall provides graduate students with office space, and students will be able to share ideas, use the available facilities, and participate in the intellectual life of the University of Kent at Paris.

(see 1.10a below).

### **1.5 Anticipated Total Student Registrations**

One or two students per year.

### **1.6 Programme Management**

School responsible for management of the programme: History.

The management of the programme will be overseen by the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) and the School's Graduate Studies Committee. The management of the programme will also be reviewed at Faculty and Institutional levels by the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee and the Graduate School Board as outlined in the University's Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance for Research Programmes of Study (see:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html?tab=research-programmes>).

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The School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) will travel to the Paris campus as necessary in order to oversee and monitor the programme. Equally, Supervisory Chairs registered at Paris will travel to Reid Hall as necessary to take part in milestone review meetings. Supervisory monthly meetings may take place in Paris, Canterbury or virtually depending on location of student during each month.

### 1.7 Proposed Start Date

Academic year 2014/2015.

### 1.8 Opportunity and Need

The interpretation of the past is dependent on dynamic and rigorous research and reappraisal of sources. Global and transnational history is a field of ever-growing importance. It is the intention of the School to use the Paris campus to further these exciting new research agendas, by providing students with a base at the heart of Europe with which to engage with these burgeoning research networks.

Historical research does not provide a direct career path. However, it offers many advantages to students and employers by equipping students with the following skills:

- 1) an ability to communicate well, both orally and in writing
- 2) an ability to put forward arguments and ideas in a concise manner
- 3) an ability to gather and assess material, facts, ideas and arguments
- 4) an ability to draw conclusions from research and to synthesise complex ideas

Such qualities are much in demand in the modern information- and skills-based economy.

History Research degrees open the gateway to a career as an academic, as well as careers in the Civil Service, archival and museum work, journalism, commercial, business and consultancy worlds. This degree programme will also provide students with the opportunity to enter the trans-European job market.

The School Plan commits the School to develop further its postgraduate numbers and offerings in order to develop the research quality of the School. Furthermore, the School wishes to build on the success of the taught MA in Modern History programme which currently runs at the Paris campus, and provide interested students with a base from which to explore and research French and European history. This aim coincides with the University's internationalisation goals.

### 1.9 Aims and Objectives (including assessment criteria)

#### Aims:

- 1) To provide students with the ability to demonstrate a systematic knowledge, and critical awareness of the current issues debated and explored within their specific area of the discipline of European History.
- 2) To provide a comprehensive understanding of the techniques applicable to the research of historical matters.
- 3) To provide students with the ability to research independently and instil the confidence to formulate their own conclusions.
- 4) To provide students with advanced skills in dealing with primary and secondary sources.

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- 5) To provide students with the skills to choose between and deploy differing methodological approaches with confidence.
- 6) To provide students with the ability to pursue historical knowledge which extends to the forefront of the discipline of History through original research and to provide students with an ability to think comparatively in transnational terms.
- 7) To provide students with the ability to design, conceptualise and implement projects for the generation of significant new knowledge or forms of understanding.
- 8) To research original historical source material available in French libraries, archives and museums thereby gaining a fuller understanding of the methodological and epistemological stakes involved in conducting primary research at a European level. In particular, students will be encouraged to consider the difficulties inherent in translating a different historical culture for an Anglo-Saxon audience.
- 9) To develop students' knowledge of French language skills as they apply to the advanced study of history, through immersion in French culture and society, and the option to undertake language training at the Paris campus.

### Objectives:

Through the completion of this programme, students will:

- 1) gain the ability to deal with complex issues in a systematic and creative way, allowing them to make sound and defensible judgements and conclusions. They will be able to communicate these findings in an accessible manner to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 2) become capable of planning, undertaking and investigating problems and issues independently and with confidence.
- 3) obtain the skills necessary to advance knowledge at a high level.
- 4) obtain skills and qualities capable of transferring to many fields of employment.
- 5) obtain the ability and confidence to make decisions, assess complex situations and devise robust solutions.
- 6) gain experience in creating and engaging with international research networks.
- 7) become capable of entering fields of employment that demand an ability to make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields.

Specifications in agreement with the relevant QAA statements. See <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ/EWNI/default.asp#annex1>)

The University's assessment criteria for research programmes of study are outlined in Section 8.4 of the Regulations for Research Programmes of Study at: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/phdres.html#examination>

### 1.10 Programme Outline

A brief overview of the core components of the programme (eg: Research Training, School Seminars) to include:

#### 1.10a Details of the research training that the student will be expected to complete:

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## School level

Based on the recommendation of each student's supervisor, or the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research), students may be expected to engage and participate in the graduate life and open research seminar series at, amongst others, the following French institutions:

- Institut d'histoire de la Révolution française
- Cercle d'études de la Fondation Napoléon
- Institut d'histoire moderne et contemporaine
- Sciences-Po centre d'histoire
- University of London, Institute in Paris
- Colloques of AAE (Archives of the French Foreign Ministry)

Students must attend the training and orientation programmes offered by the Archives Nationales and Bibliothèque Nationale and the seminars and courses offered by the Ecole des Chartres. The School of History will cover all fees and expenses related to attending these sessions.

## Institutional level

All new PhD students are required to undertake a researcher development assessment, including attendance at a researcher development assessment workshop (part of the Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme). The completion of the assessment is a requirement for successful completion of the probation review. The School of History will cover all costs involved in students travelling back to the Canterbury campus to complete this programme.

### 1.10b Details of other courses students may benefit from:

#### School level

Students will benefit from attending and engaging with the sessions, seminars, workshops and other events offered by the French institutions listed above (1.10a). Although the School of History does not run these sessions, it will facilitate arrangements for students to attend them (for example by providing a cover letter and financial support).

SLAS, the library and the counselling service at Kent remain the service providers for all students based in Paris and students will have access via Skype with services here. In addition, they will liaise with local (Parisian) providers.

#### Institutional level

- Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme (including online training provision), [www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/tstindex.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/tstindex.html)
- Student Learning Advisory Service provision, <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html>
- Information Services (Library and Computing Services), [www.kent.ac.uk/is/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/)

### 1.10c Details of progression milestones that the student will need to reach and successfully pass:

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Students will be subject to the progression milestones as outlined in Annex K (Progression and Examination) of the Research Code of Practice, <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/research/annexknew.html>).

### 1.10d Details of the assessment method:

The length of research degree theses are outlined in the Instructions to Candidates for the Examination of Research Degrees at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/pgdipresc.html>.

Methods of assessment of research degrees and the regulations and the regulations that govern them are given in the Instructions to Examiners of Research Degrees at:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/pgdiprese.html>.

### 1.11 Chairs of Supervisory Teams

All students will have a supervisory team as required by Annex H (Supervision of the Code of Practice for Research Programmes of Study).

Appointment of supervisors is overseen by the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) in line with the Faculty of Humanities Code of Practice ([www.kent.ac.uk/human/pg/codeofpractice.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/human/pg/codeofpractice.html)). The School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) takes into account the research profile, teaching and administrative loads of staff before passing on applications. All research students are allocated a supervisory panel of specialists (consisting of first and second or co-supervisor), who comply with clearly defined roles.

Internal candidates often make informal contact with potential supervisors during their Masters and research plans are sketched out. This contact often improves the initial proposal but it is not always the case that the staff member who has assisted will be appointed supervisor, as the final decision is with the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research).

#### List of Supervisory Chairs who can/will serve at Paris

- Dr Barbara Bombi
- Dr Philip Boobbyer
- Professor Mark Connelly
- Professor Kenneth Fincham
- Dr Stefan Goebel
- Professor Gaynor Johnson
- Dr Karen Jones
- Dr Juliette Pattinson
- Dr Will Pettigrew
- Professor Ulf Schmidt
- Dr Charlotte Sleigh

### 1.12 Research Environment

While the School of History has a lively research environment which includes 30 research active staff at Canterbury, the opportunities provided by the higher education

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institutions present in the French capital is without par. There are over three dozen higher education institutions in the Ile de France. Each run innumerable research seminars, workshops, conferences, colloquia, etc., which will provide students with an opportunity to engage with some of the most cutting edge discourse in the field.

In addition, students will be encouraged to travel back to Canterbury to take part in the School's own research seminars, graduate conferences etc., as relevant. Moreover, a number of the research seminars will be available either as podcasts or as live link-ups with post-paper discussions. All costs for travel to such events will be reimbursed by the School.

Reid Hall itself holds a large number of conferences, workshops and academic events which students will be able to take part in.

Students will have access to some of the most impressive and voluminous repositories of primary source material in the world. Indeed, many of the buildings which house these archives are UNESCO World Heritage sites, and consequently have played host to research environments of the highest order. There are also significant manuscript collections at the many research libraries present in the French capital. These include the Bibliothèque Nationale, Arsenal, Mazarine and St Genevieve.

Paris was fundamental in the very creation of the concept of the modern museum. Therefore, students with interests in the history of art and heritage and conservation will find a wealth of resources to enable them to pursue their research interests.

This PhD programme is pioneering in terms of providing UK students with the opportunity of remaining within the British university system, whilst simultaneously reaping the benefits of advanced study in Europe.

### 1.13 Student Support and Guidance

#### School level support services

Full-time students will meet their supervisors at least once a month. These meetings will either take place in one-to-one meetings at Canterbury or Paris, or via Skype (with an expectation that at least 50% of monthly meetings conducted during the duration of study will be undertaken face-to-face in Paris). Students are advised to contact their supervisors to discuss any issue of concern to them. Meetings will be logged on SDS by both parties.

#### Institutional level support services

Students at Paris will benefit from the support of the University administrative team at Reid Hall. In addition, they will also have access, via email/Skype etc., to support from the following services based at the Canterbury campus:

- Student Support and Wellbeing (SSw) <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/>
  - Student Learning Advisory Service <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html>
  - Kent Union [www.kentunion.co.uk/](http://www.kentunion.co.uk/)
  - Graduate Student Association (GSA) [www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/community/woolf.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/community/woolf.html)
  - Graduate School (Provision of (i) Researcher Development Programme (workshops and on-line courses) (ii) institutional level induction and (iii) student-led initiatives such as social events, conferences and workshops [www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/index.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/index.html)
  - Information Services (computing and library services) [www.kent.ac.uk/is/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/)

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- Postgraduate student representation School, Faculty and Institutional levels
- Careers and Employability Services [www.kent.ac.uk/ces/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ces/)
- International Development Office [www.kent.ac.uk/international/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/international/)

These services continue to be in charge of organising support for the student. Support might be offered in Canterbury or similar support will be made available in Paris. Staff at Reid Hall will aid students in registering with local providers of all necessary health and wellbeing services in Paris. This service is already currently provided for all the MA students studying in Paris.

### **1.14 School Quality Assurance and Enhancement**

- The programme will be overseen by the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) and the School's Graduate Studies Committee.
- Student feedback will be obtained from the School's Staff/Student Liaison Committee, postgraduate student representation on School committees, the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey and from the representatives of the Paris student union.
- The programme will be reviewed via the annual programme monitoring process and the periodic programme review process.

The School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) acts on student comments made through these committees and via the report system (see 1.13 above).

### **1.15 School Resource Implications**

The Head of School in conjunction with the School's Director of Graduate Studies (Research) and the School's Senior Management Committee monitor the on-going implications for resource allocation.

### **1.16 Professional Accreditation**

N/A.