

University of Kent

Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Research Students)

Approval of New Research Programmes

Medieval & Early Modern Studies: MA (Research)

1.1 Award and Title

MA (Research) in Medieval & Early Modern Studies

1.2 Length and Mode of Registration

One year full time

Two years part-time

1.3 Entry Requirements

A good Upper Second Class Honours Degree from a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject. Holders of other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

1.4 Anticipated Total Student Registrations

It is anticipated that there will be on average 1 student registration each year

1.5 Programme Management

Medieval & Early Modern Studies programmes are the responsibility of the Canterbury Centre.

1.6 Proposed Start Date

1.7 Opportunity and Need

The Canterbury Centre for Medieval & Early Modern Studies has an established record of supervising MA (Research) students to completion. The city itself provides fascinating topics for investigation and the dramatic and literary associations of the city are exceptionally rich. Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library have unparalleled holdings of manuscripts and early printed books. Both Rochester Cathedral Library and the Centre for Kentish Studies at Maidstone have strong links with the University. Members of staff in the Centre are experienced in supervision and have published extensively in their fields within Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

1.8 Aims and Objectives

The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute new knowledge to the discipline. The MA thesis should be an original contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field of medieval and Tudor studies and should demonstrate the candidate's ability to test ideas, both his/her own and those of others, and to understand the relationship of the theme of investigation to the a wider field of knowledge. Medieval and Early Modern research students secure employment not only in academic and teaching posts but also in other areas such as the Heritage Industry, Media, Marketing and the Civil Service.

1.9 Programme Outline

- All students receive initial guidance on how and where to identify and use material available in the library, archive centres and online. Comprehensive reading lists are provided for all module at the beginning of the academic year, as are guidelines for the production of essays and oral presentations.
- Students will be required to meet with their supervisor/s on a regular basis to ensure that they are making satisfactory progress.
- The final assessment of the MA by Research will be made by an internal and external examiner and where necessary by oral Viva Voce Examination.

1.10 Approved Supervisors

Appointment of supervisors is overseen by the Director of Research, in consultation with their home departments and in line with the Faculty of Humanities Code of Practice www.kent.ac.uk/human/pg/codeofpractice.html. All research students are allocated a supervisory panel of specialists (consisting of first and second or co-supervisor), who comply with clearly defined roles.

1.11 Research Environment

- The Canterbury Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies was founded in 1996 as an interdisciplinary Centre within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Kent. It has four main purposes: to administer postgraduate teaching for the long-standing MA by Coursework and Dissertation, to promote research through our MA, MPhil and PhD by research, to encourage publications in the medieval and early modern periods, and to develop links with Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library and Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Museum.
- Staff members of the Centre are drawn from the constituent Schools of the Faculty, and we enjoy special support from English, History and Drama, Film and Visual Arts and Archaeology. Among these staff there

is a wide variety of research interests, many of which cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

- There is a vigorous, enterprising and supportive graduate community made up of MA and research postgraduates in medieval and early modern studies. Typical of its activities are the organisation of reading groups, research seminars, conferences and the occasional drama production.
- One of the distinctive and enjoyable features of being a postgraduate student at the Centre is that there is a group of like-minded people, all pursuing closely related interests. Regular Postgraduate Forums give students a chance to discuss aspects of postgraduate study with their peers. Additionally, from time to time graduates set up conferences.
- Postgraduate students have access to the History and English Postgraduate rooms which have computing and printing facilities.
- All research students are expected to attend the weekly Centre Research Seminar.
- All members of staff in the department are actively involved in research and regularly publish and present papers at conferences.
- Students are expected to meet with their supervisors on a regular basis.

1.12 Student Support and Guidance

Each student is allocated a supervisor or 2 co-supervisors. Supervisors will be expected to offer guidance to students with regard to services offered by the Centre as well as central University resources available to all students.

- Student progress will be monitored bi-annually via a Progress report which is sent to both student and supervisor. This report will outline progress made and expected. These reports are sent to the Director of Research for consideration.

1.13 Departmental Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- There is an opportunity for students to give feedback to the centre via their progress reports.
- The Centre provides its own subject-specific training in palaeography, manuscript, Latin and other areas of research.

1.14 Departmental Resource Implications

- It is not anticipated that the programme will require any additional resources.

1.15 Professional Accreditation

Not applicable to this programme.

2. Departments should submit all documentation to the appropriate committee [\[1\]](#) for detailed discussion
3. After consideration and, where necessary, revision, the committee may *recommend* to the Board for Research that *approval be given* to the new Research Programme and forward the documentation to the Secretary of the Board for Research
4. After approval, Faculties and departments must have regard to *Information for Research Students*

[1] *Explanation of 'the appropriate committee':*

- *For the University of Kent, the appropriate committee will be the Faculty Research Committee*
- *For Canterbury Christ Church University College and Kent Institute of Art and Design the appropriate committee will be the Research Degrees Committee of the University College and Institute respectively; these committees shall have all the powers and responsibilities (in relation to this code) of a UKC Faculty Research Committee and shall include as a full member one nominated member of the UKC Board for Research*
- *For London Contemporary Dance School the appropriate committee will be the Research Committee of the University of Kent's School of Drama Film and Visual Arts, and proposals will then proceed as proposals from that School.*