

University of Glasgow, School of Historical Studies**MSc in Social History****Report for 2009-10****Introduction**

This taught MSc was established in 1997 as a joint degree of the University of Glasgow and the University of Strathclyde. The MSc is taught jointly by the School of Historical Studies at the University of Glasgow and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS), University of Strathclyde. It is administered by the University of Glasgow, but students are enrolled on the basis of having full status in the two universities. The programme has been successful in obtaining ESRC recognition in the various Recognition Exercise which have taken place since its inception.

Recruitment

When it was first established the course attracted four students, three of whom were part-time. In the academic sessions 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 the programme has attracted fourteen, ten and ten students respectively. In the academic session 2004-05 of the ten students, one was part-time and three were ESRC funded. In the 2008-09 session there were five students, four of whom were full-time and one part-time. In 2009-10 there were eight students (six full-time and two part-time). In 2010-11 there are four full-time students and one part-time, with two of the former having ESRC 1+3 funding. In addition, one of the students who graduated from the 2009-10 cohort was awarded ESRC +3 funding for his PhD studies at Glasgow, which have now commenced.

Student Progress

A significant number of students have gone on to take, and been awarded PhDs. The programme has been particularly successful in attracting external funding for students. In the academic year 2009-10 one distinction and three merit awards were made; this reflects in part the high standard of students coming through the programme with ESRC 1+3 funding. The lower proportion of distinctions awarded may reflect the changing criteria for these awards in the University of Glasgow Generic Regulations for Taught Master's Degrees.

Teaching

Research training is provided by the College of Social Sciences, and also in the Research Resources and Skills for Historians (RRSH) course. The latter is organised and administered by Economic and Social History subject area, within the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS), at Glasgow. However, RRS and the other core social history class, Social Theory and Social History (STSH), are team-taught by staff from SSPS and the School of Humanities at Glasgow, and from HaSS at Strathclyde. The core courses and the specialist options draw on staff from both Strathclyde and Glasgow, and dissertation supervision is provided by staff at both institutions.

Since the last Annual Report the following options have been introduced:

- American Material Culture
- Poverty and Inequality in the Modern World (to run from 2011-12)

The external examiner's report for the academic session 2009-10 was very favourable, and commented that 'the course is especially valuable in the contribution that it makes to research culture in the department[s], universit[ies], and Scotland more broadly, providing a highly successful route through to PhD completion'.

Student Feedback

Student feedback is very positive and the students enjoy being integrated into a vibrant postgraduate culture.

Management and Monitoring

Although the course is administered by the University of Glasgow, it is managed and monitored by a committee drawn from staff from both Strathclyde and Glasgow Universities. This committee meets regularly, and includes student representation.

Summary

In 2009-10 the MSc in Social History continued to generate external validation of high quality teaching – notably in the external examiners' feedback and the re-recognition of the course by the ESRC, together with the provision of quota awards. The ESRC commended such inter-University consortia and the programme continues to be supported by committed and dedicated staff across the two institutions. With the introduction of the block grant and the Scottish Doctoral Training Centre, we face significant challenges in winning postdoctoral grants, as we are now competing with other social science subjects.

Although numbers recruited to the programme may seem small in comparison with other postgraduate programmes which are vocationally, professionally or policy-related, the MSc in Social History has been important to our recruitment of postgraduate research students. The programme provided around one half of all the UoG Department of Economic and Social History's PGRs and several of the UoS Department of History's PGRs during the ten years prior to 2009-10. In addition, the teaching commitment is made manageable by the use of team teaching and offering courses to those on other programmes. For example in 2009-10 our two core courses, RRSB and STSH, were taken by 23 and 18 students respectively, and were team-taught. Other training courses are delivered by the College of Social Sciences. The training courses and core courses significantly reduce the number of options which students are required to take which again makes efficient use of staff time. The new course for 2011-12, Poverty and Inequality in the Modern World, will also be a core element of the new MSc in the Global Economy. Some courses – notably, in 2010-11, Social Investigation in Britain and Gender Politics and Power – recruit significant numbers of students from other historical Master's degree programmes.