

Career opportunities

The skills, knowledge and experience acquired in completing an M.Litt or a PhD in History have prepared our graduates for careers as academics, professional researchers, teachers at second and third levels, archivists and librarians, as well a wide range of roles in the cultural heritage sector, civil and diplomatic service, international aid organisations and multinational companies.

Entry requirements

Admission to both the M.Litt. and the PhD programmes is based on the suitability of the applicant and the proposed research topic. Applicants wishing to undertake a research degree are usually required to have a primary degree or equivalent in History or in a cognate discipline. The minimum admission requirement for the M.Litt is a 2:1 Honours in the BA or equivalent. For the PhD, it is either a First Class Honours BA or a 2:1 Honours in an MA or equivalent degree.

Key details

- Apply online: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/how-apply/postgraduate-applicants>
- Codes: M.Litt – MHP04 (FT), MHP05 (PT); PhD – MHP02 (FT), MHP03 (PT)
- Closing date: 11 July 2025
- Qualification: Master of Letters Degree/PhD
- Award type and NFAQ level: M.Litt (level 9)
PhD (level 10)
- Commences: September 2025

For more information

- Programmes Director: Professor Marian Lyons
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Email: Marian.Lyons@mu.ie
- Website: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history



Research Postgraduate Programmes (M.Litt & PhD)

The Department of History, Maynooth University
Celebrating 70 years of Excellence in Teaching,
Research and Publication 1953-2023

Research Postgraduate Programmes

Overview

The Department of History offers two Research Postgraduate programmes, the M.Litt and the Structured PhD. Both involve attending some classes and completing coursework but the main piece of work is a thesis on a topic that is approved at application stage by the Department. In addition to training in the skills and methods of professional historians, these programmes provide an opportunity to conduct in-depth research on a topic that fascinates you and to write an original study.

Why Maynooth?

The Department has a proud record of successful supervision of postgraduate students at all levels, many of whom have been awarded prestigious Government of Ireland and National University of Ireland doctoral scholarships. Our faculty are delighted to welcome inquiries about possible avenues for research and to direct postgraduate research students in a supportive, collegial environment.

For details of our research specialisms logon to www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history/our-people.

Programme content

You can choose from a wide range of History modules and modules outside the discipline over the course of your programme. The suite of options is updated every year.

To view the current offerings, logon to 'Coursefinder' at www.maynoothuniversity.ie/current-students.

Full- & Part-time options

The M.Litt and PhD are offered on a full-time and part-time basis (M.Litt F-T over two years, P-T over three years; PhD F-T over four years, P-T over six years).

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PROF MARIAN LYONS, CO-ORDINATOR
OF RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDIES



PROF TERENCE DOOLEY, HEAD OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

