

Guide to Modules 2021/22

BA (Hons) History with Foundation Year

Level 3

The Level 3 Foundation Year will equip you with a number of key study skills that will enable you to excel as an undergraduate. After completing a Foundation Year, you will be ideally placed to start the next stage of study with confidence. The Foundation Year will allow you to develop a range of transferable skills, adding value to your employability and career potential.

There are many benefits to the Foundation Year:

- It will get you used to university life and your course, allow you to make friends, and you will get to know Liverpool and the wider region.
- It will help you to decide which undergraduate degree is right for you.
- It will build on existing skills and increase your confidence, so that you start your undergraduate degree from the best possible position.

The modules that you will undertake as part of the Foundation Year blend content and approaches from History, English, the History of Art, and Culture, Media and Communication, along with some programme-specific modules. Crucially, we will be equipping you with the skills that you will need in your undergraduate degree. Amongst other things, you will learn how to reference, present, think critically and write academically. Your personal tutor and a dedicated team of staff will support you all the way.

	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Multi-disciplinary	Preparing for Academic Success: Academic Skills	Investigating Liverpool
	War: Conflict in the Arts and Humanities	Peace: The Pursuit of Harmony in the Arts and Humanities
Programme-specific (history)	The Spirit of 1914	Thirteen Days: the Cuba Missile Crisis in Retrospect

SEMESTER 1

Preparing for Academic Success: Academic Skills

This module focuses on helping students transition to university level work. By focussing on the development of key academic skills needed to achieve in Higher Education this module ensures students are fully equipped for undergraduate study.

War: Conflict in the Arts and Humanities

This module approaches the study of war from a number of disciplinary perspectives, including English, media, History and the History of Art. You will learn about how war has been recorded, interpreted, remembered and represented. Topics will include film, war reporting, memorialisation, war and museums and the literature of war.

The Spirit of 1914

The Spirit of 1914 introduces students to historical debate through a close reading of secondary material about the response to the outbreak of war. Although the module focuses on Britain, it is informed by work that has been carried out on Germany, France and Russia. Students explore three perspectives on the public response to the declaration of war. Firstly, they look at the so-called orthodox view that holds that the inhabitants of Britain, Germany and France welcomed the war with a jingoistic fervour. Then they move on to the more widely held, in academic circles at least, revisionist perspective that sees the response as being more ambiguous than that the image of flag-waving crowds presented by the orthodox view. Finally, students are introduced to the post-revisionist view. This perspective has not gained much momentum as yet. As well as examining examples of this position, students are encouraged to put forward arguments against some of the revisionist works. In short, the students get to be at the cutting edge of historiography. Now, that is as exciting as being outside Buckingham Palace on the eve of war on 3 August 1914.

SEMESTER 2

Investigating Liverpool

Students are introduced to independent research as well as the history and culture of the city in which they study. The module highlights how to identify key primary material and engage in scholarly debates, culminating in an independent research project.

Peace: The Pursuit of Harmony in the Arts and Humanities

This module approaches the study of peace from a number of disciplinary perspectives, including English, media, History and the History of Art. You will learn about how peace is fought for, maintained and represented. Topics will include peacekeeping, reconstruction, peace and art, and protest.

Thirteen Days: the Cuba Missile Crisis in Retrospect

This course explores the historiography, controversies and legacies of one of the defining moments of the Cold War; a two week period when the US and Soviet Union clashed over the island of Cuba and appeared to be on the brink of nuclear war. By utilising a combination of historical tools the events of October 1962 will be placed in a domestic, regional and international context. The module will examine, in part, how perceptions and interpretations of the crisis have changed with the declassification of key documents and the opening up of archives in the Soviet Union and students will gain an appreciation of the fluidity of academic evaluations of the past. Students will examine a wide range of relevant primary sources, secondary literature and cinematic material, enabling students to reach informed conclusions on the 'lessons' of the crisis and the merits and drawbacks of various approaches to studying historical episodes.