



COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Naval History (DL)

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>MA Naval History</i>
Final Award	<i>MA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C2457F/P, P247FTD/PTD</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time and Part time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Distance Learning</i>
Normal length of course	<i>1 year (full time), 2 years (part time)</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2020 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Humanities and Social Science</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Area Studies, History, Politics and Literature</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www2.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-naval-history
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
<u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u>	<i>Level 7</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme for the study of the history of the Royal Navy and its relationship between British and other societies between circa 1500 and 1960
- To provide a framework within which students in relevant fields may acquire the research skills essential for the pursuit of their subject(s)
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required for further postgraduate study opportunities
- To provide an awareness of the need to conduct research ethically and safely and a framework within which to do so

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
A1	A substantial body of historical knowledge relating to the history of the Royal Navy and its relationship with British and other societies during the early modern and modern periods	DL online learning materials via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), supported by real time 'webinars' (student engagement enabled by Webex) and online group discussion boards in the first three core modules. In the research project and dissertation knowledge and understanding is developed through individual study supported by	Blog, document commentary, essays, report, research project, dissertation, and presentation
A2	The complexity of reconstructing the past and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence in regard to the Royal Navy from the early modern to the modern period		
A3	The continuity and changes in the relationship between the Royal Navy and society, from the early modern to the modern era		
A4	Comparative perspectives and the variety of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past.		
A5	How to address historical problems in depth, including the use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature		

		structured tutor guidance via email, Google Meet and, where possible, face-to-face tutorials.	
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B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
B1	Analyse complex and contradictory areas of historical knowledge and communicate the outcome effectively	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections	Essays, report, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B2	Critically evaluate historical research, advanced scholarship and methodologies, and where appropriate, advance alternative approaches	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections, especially Naval History Research Skills module	Report, essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B3	Collate, synthesise and analyse materials from diverse historical sources, using knowledge and/or methodologies at the forefront of the discipline	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections; individual research supervision	Report, essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B4	Against a framework of relevant and current historiography, plan and conduct research through self-formulated questions	Individual research supervision, via online meetings or telephone discussion, as best suits the student.	Research project, dissertation
B5	Synthesise historical scholarship and practitioners experiential knowledge through opportunities to undertake projects guided by partner organisations	Individual research supervision and collaboration with staff from the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), The National Maritime Museum (Greenwich) or Lloyd's Registry (London)	Research project

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
C1	Manage the process of undertaking bibliographic and literature surveys	Online exercises, class-discussion boards, email correspondence with module tutors; Individual research projects and dissertation tutorials	Essays, research project and dissertation
C2	Gather, retrieve and select appropriate information from a range of information sources including databases and archives	Online searches aided by online seminar tutors and individual project supervisors	Research project, dissertation, presentation
C3	Apply critical skills in close reading of a range of primary and secondary texts	Preparatory reading and online seminar discussions; Individual research projects and dissertation tutorials	Report, Document commentaries, research project, dissertation
C4	Select appropriate research methodologies and demonstrate an awareness of historiography	Online seminars, research project and dissertation tutorials	Report, document commentary, essays, research project, and dissertation
C5	Use bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, demonstrating an awareness of ethical and legal issues and applying appropriate scholarly conventions and practices	<i>Online seminar discussion exercises, correspondence with module tutors; repeated practice across the range of assessments.</i>	All written assessments require and enhance this skill

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
D1	Demonstrate advanced literacy and written communication skills, including the ability to present rhetorically effective, coherent, well-supported, and sustained arguments	Preparatory reading, and develop initial ideas and reflections prior to seminars and tutorials	Blog, essays, report, research project and dissertation
D2	Demonstrate effective self-management, initiative and personal responsibility in designing and conducting extended research projects	Research project, dissertation	
D3	Demonstrate an ability to work to deadlines	D1-4 are advanced through the various written assessments. All students are required to take personal responsibility for managing their learning and to proactively seek academic guidance/technical sources of help at various stages of the programme.	All forms of course assessment require students to work to deadlines.
D4	Communicate effectively in a format appropriate to the discipline and professional expectations of practitioners working in the field of Naval History.		Blog, document commentary, essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides assigned personal tutors from the very beginning of the course. In the first year these will be one of the MA Naval History teaching team or course leader. In the second year this will typically (although not necessarily) be the student's dissertation supervisor.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)

Course specification for [MA Naval History \(DL\)](#)

- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for *History*](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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