



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Naval History (DL)

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	MA Naval History
Final Award	MA
Exit Awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2457FTD/PTD
Mode of study	Full time and Part time
Mode of delivery	Distance Learning
Normal length of course	1 year (full time), 2 years (part time)
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2022 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Humanities and Social Science
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-naval-history
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	None
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7

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	The problems inherent in the historical record itself 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 synchronous online sessions and online group discussion boards in the first three core modules. In the research project and dissertation knowledge and understanding is developed through	Blog, document commentary, essays, report, research project, dissertation, and presentation
A2	The range of problems involved in the interpretation of complex, ambiguous, conflicting and often incomplete material in regard to the Royal Navy from the early modern to the modern period	individual study supported by structured tutor guidance via email, Google Meet and, where possible,	
A3	How people have existed, acted and thought in the always-different context of the past, reflecting on the continuity and changes in the relationship between the Royal Navy and society, from the early modern to the modern era		
A4	The complexity and diversity of situations, events and mentalities in the past and, by extension, present		
A5	The importance of asking relevant, cogent, and focused historical questions		

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
		face-to-face tutorials.	

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
B1	Display analytical skills, including the recognition that not all statements are of equal validity	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections	Essays, report, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B2	Demonstrate awareness of academic integrity and ethical issues and responsibilities that arise from research and the reuse of the research and writing of others	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections, especially Naval History Research Skills module	Report, essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B3	Conduct structured enquiry that consists of setting tasks, gathering, sifting, selecting, organising, synthesising and analysing appropriate and often large quantities of evidence, including primary sources and secondary scholarship	Online seminars and preparatory reading/reflections; individual research supervision	Report, essays, research project, dissertation, and presentation
B4	Formulate and pursue clearly defined questions and enquiries against a framework of relevant and current historiography	Individual research supervision, via online meetings or telephone discussion, as best suits the student.	Research project, dissertation
B5	Work independently, while engaging with supervision and guidance, to synthesise historical scholarship and practitioner's experiential knowledge through	Individual research supervision and collaboration with	Research project

	opportunities to undertake projects guided by partner organisations	staff from the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), The National Maritime Museum (Greenwich) or Lloyd's Registry (London)	
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C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
C1	Undertake the analysis of sources through the writing of 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	Know where and how to access relevant and precise historical knowledge	Online searches aided by online seminar tutors and individual project supervisors	Research project, dissertation, presentation
C3	Critically and empathetically analyse primary sources, addressing questions of genre, content, perspective and purpose	Preparatory reading and online seminar discussions; Individual research projects and dissertation tutorials	Report, Document commentaries, research project, dissertation
C4	Demonstrate appropriate means of identifying, finding, retrieving, sorting and exchanging information	Online seminars, research project and dissertation tutorials	Report, document commentary, essays, research project, and dissertation
C5	Employ effective bibliographic skills appropriate to the discipline, demonstrating an awareness of ethical and legal issues and applying appropriate scholarly conventions and practices	Online seminar discussion exercises, correspondence	All written assessments require and enhance this

		with module tutors; repeated practice across the range of assessments.	skill
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D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment Methods
D1	Sustain a reasoned line of argument in the face of others, to listen, to engage in sustained debate, to amend views as necessary in the light of evidence and argument	Preparatory reading, and develop initial ideas and reflections prior to seminars and tutorials	Blog, essays, report, research project and dissertation
D2	Exhibit structure, coherence and clarity of oral and written expression, as well as digital literacy		Research project, dissertation
D3	Work as part of a team as an effective collaborator	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	Comprehend the limitations of knowledge and dangers of simplistic explanations		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](#)
- [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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