UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries		
Course Code(s):	HS016P31UM	Part-time	28 Months
Course Title:	MA History (First World War)		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Arts History (First World War) Postgraduate Diploma History (First World War) Postgraduate Certificate History (First World War) University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of first cohort:	05/Oct/2026		
Specification valid from:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Spencer Jones
Head of Department:	Dr David Hussey

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

A 2:1 in a relevant degree is desirable, but applicants with other qualifications and non-graduates will be considered on individual merits.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This MA is a focused, research led degree that combines academic rigour with a format designed for busy lives. Teaching is delivered through monthly, in-person Saturday Schools, each blending expert lectures, student led presentations, and discussions which allow you to learn from leading scholars while actively developing your own voice as a historian. Between teaching days, you will engage with online evening seminars. Themed modules span strategy, operations, and society, keeping the curriculum current with debates across the field. Your studies culminate in a supervised dissertation, allowing you to undertake an in-depth research project on a First World War topic of your own choosing.

The course is taught by leading military history scholars with a particular specialism in First World War history and takes place within a vibrant military history research culture at Wolverhampton.
Students can expect a supportive, discussion-rich learning community; clear scaffolding from foundational debates to specialist research; and a portfolio of advanced skills including critical reading, archival practice, structured argument and persuasive communication, preparing them for careers in heritage, education, media, policy, or further study.
What makes this course stand out:

- Saturday School and evening seminar model: teaching model designed to suit those with limited weekday availability, such as working professionals. You will attend monthly Saturday teaching days and between those teaching days engage in online weekday evening seminars.
- Thematic breadth: study the war through strategic, military, imperial, and social lenses.
- Research active staff: bringing the latest scholarship into the classroom.
- Longest running of its kind: a well-established programme with an outstanding track record in First World War studies.
- Active research environment: teaching is underpinned by the University’s Centre for Historical Research, whose scholars advised nationally during the First World War centenary and run major conferences.
- Assessment that mirrors practice: each taught module builds toward a final essay, giving you structured opportunities to test arguments and sharpen evidence based writing.
- Personalised dissertation: one-to-one supervision to design and deliver a specialist project aligned to your interests and next steps.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

October

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2026/7	H	31	£5508.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

October (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WR050	Politics and Strategy	30	INYR	Core
7WR052	The Western Front	30	INYR	Core

October (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7WR053	The Wider War	30	INYR	Core
7WR051	Total War	30	INYR	Core
7WR049	Dissertation: Research and Writing	60	CRYRA	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

N/A

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGCERT01 Critical evaluate and apply current theories, concepts and insights informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice (Knowing)	
PGCERT02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and practical and/or professional skills in your discipline. (Knowing)	
PGCERT03 Make informed decisions on complex issues, and communicate your conclusions clearly to different audiences. (Doing)	
PGCERT04 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level. (Doing)	
PGCERT05 Critically analyse, identify and utilise various study methods to improve your own performance. (Being)	
PGCERT06 Reflect on your own achievements, identify future goals and plan for a further career or study (Being)	
PGDIP01 Demonstrate critical evaluation of current theories, concepts and insights informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice. Show how you have applied this knowledge in original and insightful ways. (Knowing)	
PGDIP02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and practical and/or professional skills in your discipline. (Knowing)	
PGDIP03 Make informed decisions on complex issues, and communicate your conclusions clearly to different audiences employing discipline conventions and expectations. (Doing)	
PGDIP04 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, acting independently and autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level. (Doing)	
PGDIP05 Critically analyse, identify and utilise various study methods to improve your own performance. (Being)	
PGDIP06 Reflect on your own achievements and plan for a future career or further study (Being)	
MA01 Analyse critically the key issues and debates informing the history of the First World War. (Knowing)	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
MA02 Critically analyse how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. (Knowing)	
MA03 Negotiate, design and undertake independent research based on secondary, primary, archival and digitised sources. (Doing)	
MA04 Communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. (Doing)	
MA05 Establish and maintain self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems (Being)	
MA06 Critically apply the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment (Being)	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

This MA is taught predominantly in monthly, in-person Saturday Schools. Each School blends expert lectures with student led discussion, so you can confidently engage with core debates and sources before moving into more complex analysis across strategy, operations, empire and society. The Saturday Schools will prepare you to write and submit your essay for the module giving you repeated cycles of taught input, guided practice and summative work. Between Saturdays you'll work independently with clear guidance from tutors and engage in online evening seminars. You'll use the University's extensive digital collections (e-books, e-journals and inter-library loan) to deepen your reading and locate primary material. Early modules explicitly develop level 7 research skills - historiography, evaluating interpretations, and using the library and the Internet as research tools - so you know how to study effectively in seminars, group tasks and solo research. In-person and online elements are designed to complement each other: face-to-face teaching gives you rich, debate-driven learning; your independent study period uses digital resources to prepare, extend and refine your ideas for the assessed essay in each module. Regular presentation opportunities and practical exercises provide formative feedback you can act on before the final submission. There are no formal placements, but the course integrates practice-based scholarship. You'll complete an original dissertation designed with your supervisor that develops advanced project management, evidence handling and communication skills valued in research, heritage, education, media and policy. Many students go on to publish aspects of their thesis, reflecting the course's emphasis on real-world outputs and audiences. Digital fluency is embedded throughout. You will search, appraise and reference digital archives and datasets; manage notes and bibliographies; and engage critically with online materials and debates. Ethical research practice such as accurate citation, clear evidencing and responsible use of digital tools, is taught as part of methods training and reinforced across modules and supervision.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

The taught module follows a clear rhythm: monthly Saturday Schools mixing lectures, student-led presentations and discussion, followed by online evening seminars and a single summative assessment (a final essay). This predictable pattern spaces the workload, gives you time to read and reflect, and ensures you practice key skills before major assessment submissions. You'll get multiple chances to rehearse ideas and receive feedback. Seminar presentations and discussions during Saturday Schools act as stepping-stones toward the final essay, helping you test arguments, refine structure and strengthen your use of evidence in a supportive setting. Furthermore, you will have opportunity to receive personalised feedback on your essay plans and ideas from your tutor before you submit your final assessment. Assessments are built to develop core intellectual abilities: critical reading of primary and secondary sources, evaluation of competing interpretations, and clear, evidence-based argument. Early teaching explicitly equips you with Level 7 research methods, including historiography, source analysis, effective library use and using the Internet as a research tool, so you know how to study efficiently for both coursework and the dissertation. Accessibility and inclusion are supported through varied formats across the course (oral presentations, student debates, and written essays) and through a consistent assessment timetable that enables planning around work and life commitments. University library access to hard-copy holdings, extensive e-books/e-journals and inter-library loans reduces

barriers to finding the materials you need for assessed work. Personalisation is built into the course. In addition to being provided with a varied list of questions for each assessment, there is opportunity to devise a question in cooperation with your module tutor. Personalisation is fundamental to the dissertation where you will choose an original research topic in cooperation with a supervisor and work through milestones together. This major project consolidates your skills in project management, evidence handling and scholarly writing. Many students go on to publish aspects of their thesis, reflecting the programme's emphasis on real-world research outputs. By the end of the course, your assessment profile will show that you can read critically, argue persuasively and conduct independent research at Masters level. These skills are highly valued in doctoral study and in sectors such as heritage, education, media, policy and battlefield guiding.

Further Information for Student:

The course is structured to help you settle quickly and succeed. Teaching takes place in monthly Saturday schools and in evening online seminars so your timetable is predictable and easy to plan around. Each day blends expert lectures with student led discussion, which means you're introduced to expectations while also having supported space to practice postgraduate skills. Each module builds your research skills through embedded classes which guide you through working with primary and secondary sources, structuring essays, as well as practical skills such as using the University Library and other digital research tools. These activities are embedded within teaching and are designed to be accessible to students from varied educational backgrounds. Assessments are staged so you can build confidence before major submissions. Within each taught module, students are encouraged to submit their essay plans for formative feedback that can be used to shape the final essay for the module. You'll also have clear guidance on scoping questions, planning reading, and managing time. You'll be supported throughout by a strong research environment and resources. The course sits within a vibrant history community, with access to a well-stocked library, extensive e-books/e-journals and an inter-library loan system so you can reach the materials you need without hurdles. As you move toward the dissertation, you'll choose a topic with your supervisor and work through milestones together. Supervision meetings and feedback will help you refine questions, sources and structure, and many students go on to publish aspects of their thesis, providing a clear example of how the course actively develops your scholarly voice. We use ongoing dialogue to keep support relevant: seminar discussions, presentations, tutorials and supervision check-ins give you frequent opportunities to ask questions and signal where you need more help.

Currency:

This MA is designed to stay current with the field. Teaching runs in themed Saturday Schools and reading lists and case studies are refreshed regularly to reflect new research and debates. Each taught module comprises a series of Saturday Schools and is assessed by a final essay, so new scholarship can be introduced and debated in the classroom, and then incorporated in your assessment.

You'll engage directly with research methods from the start. Early activity develops Level 7 skills - historiography, working with primary and secondary sources, and effective use of the University Library and the Internet as research tools - so you can interrogate emerging interpretations with confidence. The degree culminates in an original dissertation supervised one-to-one; many students publish elements of their thesis, evidencing authentic participation in live scholarly conversations.

The course encourages creative and critical thinking about real-world issues. You'll analyse how societies mobilised for total war; evaluate competing interpretations; and practice clear, evidence based communication to specialist and public audiences. These skills are valued in heritage, education, media, policy and beyond.

The University's Graduate Attributes are embedded throughout:

- Global Citizen: modules examine imperial, international and societal dimensions, inviting responsible engagement with contested histories.
- Knowledgeable: you'll gain advanced subject understanding and the ability to evaluate complex evidence and historiography.
- Professional: you'll plan and deliver independent research, manage milestones, and present arguments clearly in writing and discussion.
- Digitally Fluent: you'll search, appraise and reference digital collections; manage sources; and use online tools ethically as part of method training.

Interdisciplinary thinking is built into the course: strategic, military, social and imperial perspectives are studied side-by-side, building a flexible research approach that supports lifelong learning. Structured supervision and regular feedback help you adapt to new questions and methods as the field evolves, ensuring that you graduate ready to keep learning, contribute responsibly to public understanding, and apply advanced historical thinking to contemporary challenges.

Personalisation Opportunities:

This MA is designed so you can shape it around your interests, goals, and experiences. In each taught module you'll have freedom to select case studies and questions that matter to you, whether that's a particular theatre of war, a regiment or community, themes such as medicine or morale, or perspectives such as class, gender, race, or empire. Teaching days mix expert lectures with student-led presentations and discussion, so you can bring your own insights (including family or community histories) into the room in a structured, respectful way. Assessments are exclusively by essay, with scope to negotiate topics that reflect your aims. The monthly Saturday schools, online evening seminars and thematic

modules (e.g. politics and strategy, the Western Front, total war/home front) provide the scaffolding and allow you to choose the angles of study within them. As you progress, you'll work closely with tutors to refine a personal pathway. The dissertation is chosen in cooperation with a supervisor and lets you specialise deeply in a specialist topic. ideal preparation for doctoral study, heritage and museums, education, journalism, or battlefield guiding. You'll get guidance on framing research questions, finding and using archives (including digital collections), and linking your topic to next-step goals. The University Library's Skills for Learning resources support you in developing advanced research and writing. University of Wolverhampton Inclusivity runs through the course design. Modules invite multiple viewpoints - strategic, social, cultural - and encourage you to interrogate contested histories with empathy and evidence. You'll have opportunity to reflect on your learning through formative feedback, tutorials, and supervisor meetings; together we'll set realistic milestones, review progress, and adapt plans as your interests evolve. By the end, you will have studied the First World War at a high level and built a personalised body of work that speaks to your ambitions and identity.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

This MA builds professional skills through research-led teaching and regular, structured practice. Teaching runs in monthly Saturday Schools that blend expert lectures, student-led presentations and discussion. This predictable rhythm lets you test ideas in a supportive setting and develop confident, professional communication before major submissions.

From the outset you'll sharpen the core tools employers and researchers value at Level 7: working with primary and secondary sources, evaluating competing interpretations, and using the University Library and digital resources effectively. Method training is explicitly embedded in the course (including historiography, source handling, and using the Internet as a research tool), while access to hard copy holdings, extensive e-books/e-journals and inter-library loans helps you reach the materials you need without barriers.

Assessments are designed to mirror real scholarly practice. Across the taught modules you'll prepare and deliver short presentations and build evidence-based essays; these activities develop project planning, argumentation and a clear written style. These are transferable skills for roles requiring research, analysis and communication. Saturday Schools also bring you into contact with specialist tutors and guest scholars, supporting your professional identity and networks.

As you progress, one-to-one supervision helps you design a dissertation that aligns with your interests and future goals. You'll set milestones, refine research questions and structure, and produce an original study that demonstrates independent enquiry at Masters level. Many students go on to publish aspects of their thesis, showing how the course encourages outputs for real audiences.

While the programme focuses on research intensive, campus-based learning rather than formal placements, employability is woven through teaching, feedback and supervision. You'll practise presenting to peers, receive detailed formative guidance, and learn to translate complex evidence into clear, persuasive conclusions. These are capabilities valued across public history and other professional contexts. By graduation, you will have a coherent portfolio of work, a sharper scholarly voice, and the confidence to apply advanced historical thinking to the next step in your career or further study.