History MPhil/PhD – FAQs

1. **How will I be supervised?**

Every student has two supervisors, one of whom may belong to another department. Students meet regularly and work most closely with their first supervisor, and at certain intervals with the second supervisor. The Graduate Tutor provides general help. Progress is closely documented and monitored by the Department and the UCL Doctoral School.

2. **What seminars are available?**

The departmental *research training seminar* meets about every fortnight. It aims to provide graduate researchers with the practical, intellectual, and emotional skills they need to carry out research in history, and to provide a supportive community of fellow researchers. It is supplemented by workshops and social events run jointly with other departments at UCL, King's, as well as subject-specific seminars and reading groups run by students and staff members.

3. **Are there other seminars, workshops and conferences?**

There is a huge number of specialist seminars and other *events in the department* and at the *Institute of Historical Research* and other institutes of the *University of London School of Advanced Study*, which research students are expected to attend regularly.

4. **Do research students take part actively in national and international conferences?**

Supervisors encourage students to take an active part in conferences and they are often invited to present papers, usually in their final year. Generous funding is available for conference attendance and to organise events at UCL.

5. **What research facilities are available?**

London has an unquealed range of research facilities for the study of History. All students have access to the British Library, the largest library in the UK, National Archives (Public Record Office and Historical Manuscripts Commission), the UCL Library and University of London Library, together with the specialist libraries of the institutes of the School for Advanced Studies (especially the Institute of Historical Research, Warburg Institute, Institutes of Commonwealth and Classical Studies, and the Institute for the Study of the Americas). Supervisors will also advise students on the many other libraries, archives and information centres that exist in London and its environs, such as the Guildhall Library, Wiener Library, the German Historical Institute and Wellcome Library for the History of Medicine - to name but a few. And this is before taking into account the excellent resources of the other colleges and schools of the University of London (for example, King's College London, SOAS and the Courtauld Institute).

6. **Are part-time students encouraged?**

The cohort of research students always includes a substantial proportion of part-time students.

7. **What is the composition of the student body?**

The postgraduate body is very diverse in every respect. Our intake is always a cosmopolitan one, and students come to us from all continents.

8. **What is the difference between an MPhil and a PhD?**

All students are initially registered for an MPhil. To be upgraded to the status of PhD student, the candidate is required (after consultation with both supervisors) to give a short paper to the departmental research training seminar, and to submit a more detailed piece of written work to a small panel appointed by the department. Some students decide to study for an MPhil
rather than a PhD. An MPhil is a highly regarded degree, embodying research at an advanced level that is shorter than a PhD.

9. **What working facilities are available to the research students within the department?**

All students have access to a common room and a computer room within the department. All UCL libraries make computer terminals available to students and there is a specific graduate student computer cluster room available in the DMS Watson Library.

10. **Do research students work together?**

A committee of research students organises academic and social events. Students regularly organise their own seminars and reading groups on particular periods, themes and issues. They have organised successful conferences on such inter- and trans-disciplinary themes as poverty and religion.

11. **What can you do with a History PhD?**

A large proportion of the department’s successful PhD candidates, in recent years, received post-doctoral fellowships or have gone on to academic employment as lecturers and researchers within higher education in the UK, continental Europe, the USA and elsewhere. Recent success stories include lectureships at Durham, St Andrews, London and Bristol. A small number have worked in archives, museums, galleries and libraries.