Master of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

The Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CMEMS) at The University of Western Australia (UWA) offers an inter-disciplinary master’s degree by coursework in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MMEMS), which explores key texts and themes in the history and culture of Europe from the sixth to the eighteenth centuries.

About the course
Learn how to read manuscripts, historical records and literary works of the period AD 500-1800, and to interpret key issues and events in thought and society. Conduct your own research projects in history, literature, philosophy and art, with expert staff guidance. Two core seminars introduce skills – paleography, editing, early document study and early language – and explore major ideas in areas such as science, medicine, religion, economy and trade.

Career prospects
MMEMS graduates are well prepared for employment in areas such as journalism, the media, cultural and heritage institutions (e.g. museums and art galleries), the diplomatic corps, publishing, education, business and private administration, the Commonwealth and state public service.

Course structure
The course consists of units to a total of 72 points for non-honours graduates and 48 points for honours graduates. Research training is provided through dedicated units and the dissertation. Core units cover central themes and methods, while electives allow specialisation in chosen fields.

Study may be completed full or part time. International students may only study on a full time basis. The course can be commenced in Semester 1 or 2 of each year.

Core master coursework seminars
Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 1: Reading the Pre-modern World
This unit consists of three four-week modules, designed to prepare students to understand a variety of medieval and early modern document sources in manuscript and print form. Attention is paid to the construction of medieval and early modern documents in relation to their particular historical contexts and functions.

Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 2: Interpreting the Pre-modern World
This unit analyses three key themes of the pre-modern world in order to provide a deeper understanding of this era. Each theme will draw on a diverse range of evidence, from the literary and historical to the artistic, and is examined from different disciplinary perspectives.

Elective coursework seminars:
Students complete three elective seminars, covering a range of topics including English and Cultural Studies, History and Visual Arts.

Research units:
Research Project (Optional)
Individual Reading Contract (Optional)
Masters Dissertation (Mandatory)
Parts 1 & 2 (15,000 words) (24 points)

MMEMS students continuing from the honours degree or equivalent complete 24 points chosen from elective, reading contract and research project units, in addition to the dissertation.

About UWA
UWA is recognised internationally as a leading university and is ranked in the top 100 in the highly respected Shanghai-JiaTong University’s Academic Ranking of World Universities. It is the only Western Australian university to belong to the Group of Eight, a coalition of the top research universities in Australia.

In the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation, Literary Studies at UWA is ranked 5 ("outstanding performance well above world standard"), the highest possible score, and Historical Studies 4 ("above world average").
The UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies

UWA CMEMS promotes excellence in all aspects of humanities research in the period AD 500-1800. The Centre draws on UWA’s nationally acclaimed research and teaching expertise in this area. It has links to national and international research networks and collaborative projects, and to the UWA-hosted ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE).

CMEMS staff are representative of a broad range of disciplines including Archaeology, Classics and Ancient History, English and Cultural Studies, European Languages and Studies, Fine Arts, History, Medicine and Music.

Some key staff teaching in the MMEMS:

- **Associate Professor David Barrie (History)**
  Crime, policing and punishment in 18th-19th century Scotland; urban and municipal history.

- **Winthrop Professor Susan Broomhall (History; ARC Future Fellow)**
  Late medieval and early modern European history; women and gender; science, medicine and technologies; religious change, poverty and work.

- **Dr Michael Champion (Classics and Ancient History)**
  Late-antique cultural and intellectual history, particularly interactions between ancient philosophy and early Christianity.

- **Professor Yasmin Haskell (Classics and Ancient History; CHE)**
  Neo-Latin literature; didactic poetry from antiquity to Romanticism; early modern Jesuits; classical tradition; history of medicine.

- **Assistant Professor Brett D. Hirsch (English and Cultural Studies)**
  Shakespeare and early modern drama; bibliography and scholarly editing; digital humanities; authorship and computational stylistics; history of the book and publishing.

- **Professor Andrew Lynch (English and Cultural Studies; CHE)**
  Medieval literature and culture; war and peace writing; Arthurian studies; modern medievalism.

- **Associate Professor Jenna Mead (English and Cultural Studies)**
  Middle English literature, critical theory and medievalism; serves on the editorial boards of Postmedieval, Cultural Studies Review and Paragon; and has an active interest in the digital humanities.

- **Dr Stephanie Tarbin (History)**
  General interests span late medieval and early modern social history; history of gender and sexualities; history of families and households; urban history.

- **Professor Jacqueline Van Gent (Women’s Studies; CHE)**
  Gender, body and self in early modern Europe; religious change; witchcraft and magic.

- **Winthrop Professor Bob White (English and Cultural Studies; CHE)**
  Shakespeare and early modern drama; history of emotions; Renaissance literature and thought; romantic literature.

Admission requirements

Admission to the MMEMS is a UWA Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in a related area of study, or equivalent, as recognised by the Faculty of Arts.

Prior to applying for admission, make an appointment with the Director of the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies to discuss your course program and obtain the necessary approval.

For more information on how to apply please contact the Director of CMEMS
Dr Michael Champion
Arts building (M204) Room 1.21
Tel: +61 8 6488 3234
Email: michael.champion@uwa.edu.au
mems.arts.uwa.edu.au

Enquiries at any time are welcome, however please note that the admissions process can take several months.

Faculty of Arts
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009
Tel: +61 8 6488 2091
arts.uwa.edu.au