



UCD SCHOOL OF HISTORY & ARCHIVES

MA IN HISTORY - EARLY MODERN HISTORY

Early Modern History

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Why study Early Modern History?

How different would the modern world be if the Religious Reformations of the sixteenth century had not occurred? Where does modern parliamentary democracy come from? The answer to these, and many other similar questions, are to be found in the Early Modern MA programme at UCD. Students are provided with a unique insight into the religion, politics, economics, culture and society of the early modern world (c. 1500-1800), as part of a programme that equips its participants with the necessary skills for original research, analysis and critical thinking, and for the development of excellent oral and written communication capabilities.

What will I study?

☑he programme is centred upon two core modules.
☑he first module is Reason and Faith: Religion in the early modern world, which focuses upon the centrality of religion in the period c.1500- 1800. It examines the extent to which the social, cultural and political spheres of people's lives were defined by the seismic shifts occurring within the early modern religious world. Crucial to that under-standing is the level of intellectual engagement with religion by both clergy and laity, and the impact that such engagement had upon the early modern world.



☑he second module is Representative assemblies and governments in the early modern world, which explores and analyses the relationship between representative assemblies and governments. It exam-ines the changes that occurred within that relationship – and the reasons for those changes – in a variety of countries, regions and timeframes, with a view to addressing why some parts of the early modern world saw an increasing absolutism in government while others saw the emergence of early aspects of western parlia-mentary democracy.

Students will take one other optional module from a range on offer in the School, together with a research training module. ☑he culmination of the course is a 15,000 word dissertation, which is based on original research and due at the end of July.

Careers for MA graduates in Early Modern History

For those wishing to continue their academic studies, the MA in Early Modern History offers a direct pathway to advanced historical research either on an MLitt or PhD programme in the School or elsewhere. Some thereafter follow that pathway on to postdoctoral research and careers in academia and other research-led professions. Many more MA graduates go on to professions in law, administration, politics, diplomacy, the media, public service, education, and the financial and NGO sectors, among others.