

# Welcome to History at Brunel

A dark blue circular logo with the text "Discover Brunel" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including a snapshot of the topics you'll cover and useful resources.

If you have any questions please email [cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk).

## Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

**For those doing Politics and History. Please read the below articles and answer the following question:**

- Is no trade deal with the EU a bad deal?

Collins, D. (2018) '[Why a no-deal Brexit is nothing to fear](#)', Spectator, 4 August 2018

Dunt, I. (2020) '[Brexit 2020: Everything you need to know about Boris Johnson's trade deal nightmare](#)', Politics.co.uk, 23 January 2020)

**For those doing degrees in either Modern History or Military and International History. Please read the below articles and then think about the following question:**

- Should statues of slave traders be pulled down?

Evans, R. (2020) '[The History Wars](#)', New Statesman, 17 June 2020

Hitchens, P. (2020) '[Iconoclasm returns to Oxford](#)', First Things, 18 June 2020

BBC News (2018) '["Racist" Gandhi statue removed from University of Ghana](#)', BBC News, 13 December 2018,

## Sample lecture topics

As you progress through your degree, these are the types of questions you'll be able to answer with confidence:

1. What is History?
2. Why do new types of and approaches to History develop?
3. Do some types of History offer greater challenges to the historian than others?
4. How do we conduct 'history from below'?
5. Why do empires rise and fall?

## Reading list

- Jones, M.A., *The Limits of Liberty: American History, 1607-1992* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1995, 2nd Edition).
- Thomas, M. *Fight or Flight: Britain, France, and their Roads from Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).
- Tosh, J., *The Pursuit of History: Aims, Methods and New Directions in the Study of History* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2015, 6th Edition).

Students are also encouraged to expand their methods of preparation by listening to the BBC's History Extra Podcast, available here: [historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/](https://www.historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/)

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September)

History Team



Find out more about Welcome Week  
[brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week](https://brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week)

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