

School of Historical Studies
Northern Centre for the History of Medicine



MASTERS PROGRAMME IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

For students with backgrounds in the
Humanities & Social Sciences as well
as Medicine and Physical Sciences

Why study the History of Medicine?

Throughout human history, people have been concerned with health and disease, birth, life and death, pleasure and pain – both as patients and as providers of treatment, care and guidance. History of Medicine as an academic discipline is interested in the question of how individual people, and societies at large, have experienced, understood and responded to these fundamental givens of the human condition, how these responses have changed through time, and how these changes can be explained by reference to the historical contexts in which they occurred.

History of Medicine is an interdisciplinary field involving collaboration between students and scholars from a wide variety of backgrounds in the arts, humanities and social sciences as well as medicine and the physical sciences. It is much more than the history of a small elite of doctors and medical scientists making great discoveries in hospitals or laboratories. The patient is also very much part of the picture. Historically, health and disease have affected everyone, having a profound effect on the way people organised their lifestyles, diets, and hygiene, and how they coped with pain, illness and death. Thus the History of Medicine studies not only the writings and ideas of learned doctors, but also the role of health, disease and healing in the lives of ordinary people and in the imagination of artists and creative

writers. It examines the relations between patients and doctors and their mutual expectations, the variety of health-suppliers in the 'medical market-place', the social position and careers of healers, and the ethical standards and expectations they were required to live up to. It also covers the history of diseases and the history of the body and demands the examination of a wide range of sources, from the textual and visual to the artefactual and palaeopathological.

For further information see www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/about/medicine/

W. C. Roentgen looking into an X-ray screen. Chromolithograph. Wellcome Library, London.



History of Medicine at Newcastle University

Newcastle University has an international reputation for its research and teaching in the History of Medicine. It has been notably successful in attracting Wellcome Trust and Research Council funding.

In our teaching, we cover the whole Western history of medicine from the prehistoric and classical age to the 21st century and, more recently, the history of medicine in India. Particular areas of interest are the following:

- Greek and Roman medicine and its reception in later times
- Historical responses to mental illness and disability
- The history of medical ethics
- The history of the body, gender, sexuality and contraception
- Medicine, language and literature
- Medicine and fine art
- The history of nutrition, famine, death and mortality
- Bio-archaeology and the history of disease
- Colonial medical history

History of Medicine at Newcastle features a regular seminar series (the Pybus Seminars) with distinguished speakers from across the world. We have hosted a number of international conferences, such as the International Hippocrates Colloquium, as well as high profile public lectures in the History of Medicine.

Our University benefits from excellent History of Medicine research collections in the Robinson (University) Library, including the Pybus Collection (a rich array of historical medical works from the 16th century onwards) and the Medical Collection (an extensive range of 18th-19th century medical books and pamphlets).

For further information see www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/about/medicine/

A surgeon binding a woman's arm after bloodletting. Oil painting by J. Toorenvliet, 1666. Wellcome Library, London.





Operating theatre, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. c. 1913; photograph. Wellcome Library, London.

As a Masters student in Newcastle, you will benefit from Newcastle's partnership in the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine (NCHM). The Northern Centre is a collaborative research centre consisting of the medical historians at Newcastle and Durham Universities, generously funded since 2003 by the Wellcome Trust's Enhancement and Strategic Award schemes.

Our 2007 Strategic Award (the highest level of Wellcome Trust support), places the Northern Centre in the top league of History of Medicine Centres in the UK. The activities of the NCHM comprise a strategic research programme, Masters training programmes in the History of Medicine and in the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (HPSM), a number of PhD projects, a series of seminars/workshops/conferences, teaching initiatives within the medical curriculum, and a series of public engagement activities. The Northern Centre's current research agenda comprises a 5-year programme of activities under the title Knowledge, Ethics and Representation of Medicine and Health – Historical Perspectives.

It includes collaborative projects focusing on 6 key areas:

- Histories and Traditions of Medical Knowledge
- Histories of Medical Practice, Ethics and Expertise
- Historical Responses to Mental Illness and Disability
- History of Bodies, Sexualities and Reproduction
- Geographies and Archaeologies of Health and Disease
- Representation of Medicine in Literature and Fine Art

For further information on the staff and activities of the Northern Centre, see www.nchm.ac.uk

The MA in the History of Medicine

This MA in the History of Medicine is a Wellcome Trust recognised postgraduate course that meets a growing demand from the academic and medical community. The programme provides the necessary research training that will either link into further PhD study or act as a stand alone MA. Candidates who have successfully completed the programme will be eligible to take part in the annual Wellcome Trust PhD studentship competition.

Who is the programme for?

The programme is open to highly motivated graduates from a variety of backgrounds, including subjects within the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Those with a medical or science background, or people wishing to add a historical dimension to their work in the health care professions, are also strongly encouraged to apply. (Each year we have a mixture of medical and non-medical students.)

Structure of the programme

The programme incorporates a compulsory core module 'Introduction to the History of Medicine' (30 credits); 2 special study options (30 credits each); 3 compulsory formal research training components (10 credits each), during which students develop research skills and methodologies; it culminates in the completion of an intensively researched dissertation (60 credits). Study consists mainly of seminars, tutorials and independent learning.

Duration of the programme – Full-time and part-time study

The programme can be taken both full-time and part-time. When taken full-time, the programme takes 12 months (October-September); when part-time, 24 months. The part-time route through the programme normally involves doing no more than 40-60 credits per semester over 2 years, but is devised flexibly in consultation with the Degree Programme Director.

Lecture on pneumatics at the Royal Institution, London. Col. etching by J. Gillray, 1802. Wellcome Library, London.



Core and Compulsory Modules

The core module 'Introduction to the History of Medicine' examines the ways in which health and disease have been historically, socially and culturally embedded through time, via thematic study of the historical relationship between medicine and other major aspects of human society and culture. This module, in combination with the compulsory research training modules, 'Research Training in the Arts and Humanities', 'Research Methods in History', and 'Dissertation Training', provides you with the key intellectual, written and oral skills needed to complete a successful Masters in the subject. These modules develop critical engagement with major historiographical and theoretical approaches and debates pertinent to the history of medicine (and historical studies more broadly). They also embrace a range of more practical guidance and skills acquisition, from source identification, referencing and analysis, to oral presentation and completion of written assignments.

Special Study Options

As well as these core and research training modules, the Newcastle History of Medicine programme offers a number of special study options, taught via a combination of tutorial/ seminar/lecture style meetings and tutor facilitated self-study. What follows is a sample of typical options (NB options may vary from year to year):



The History of Health and Colonial Medicine in South Asia

This module analyses key issues in the history of colonial medicine in South Asia. It examines the nature of the medical and public health infrastructure established by the colonial state. The state's response to epidemic diseases are examined with reference to attitudes towards its colonized subjects and the military and financial needs of maintaining the empire. Other important themes addressed include an analysis the experience of patients in colonial medical institutions. The role of diverse indigenous medical traditions is examined, while taking into account the privileged nature of biomedicine within the colonial system. The module will also incorporate themes such as missionary medicine and marginalized subjects. asking whether it was 'colonial'/ 'imperial', and whether it may be more useful to move away from such a framework.

John Banester giving the visceral lecture at Barber-Surgeons' Hall, London, 1581. Oil by J. Orr after an English painter. Wellcome Library, London.

The “Hippocratic” Oath

The “Hippocratic” Oath is one of the most remarkable texts in the history of Western medicine and culture. Its continuous reception in Roman, Byzantine, Persian-Arabic, Latin Medieval, Renaissance, Early Modern and Modern times has resulted in a popularity in modern societies unrivalled by any other ancient text. Yet, to this day, fundamental questions remain about its authorship, date, provenance, original reading and transmission as well as the meaning of its covenant and undertakings. This special study module will take us on a journey through Western medical history from ancient to modern times, and will provide us with a case study highlighting the inseparability of medicine from language, philosophy, politics, religion, sociology, economy, and the art(s).



Warfare and Medicine in Mid-Nineteenth Century America

This is a module about the interaction between warfare and medicine in the mid-nineteenth-century United States, with a particular focus on the American Civil War (1861-65). The module explores a period in the history of medicine in America when medical practitioners were beginning to cohere into a modern profession, and so not the least of the battles being fought on the battlefields of the Civil War was one over the appropriateness of treatments, drugs and intervention. The module does not confine itself to an examination of front-line triage or treatment, however, but covers the public reactions to disability during and after the war, the social pressures and expectations that informed reactions to the wounded, the psychological impact of the war and how that was understood at the time and since, and the gender and racial imperatives that informed post-war attitudes toward the war veteran. The module will conclude with a comparison between the Civil War and the First World War in order to contextualise the material.

Hospital of Bethlehem [Bedlam], at Moorfields, London. Col. engraving 1810. Wellcome Library, London.

Representation of Hippocrates. From a late 15th cent. Latin translation of the Aphorisms. Wellcome Library, London.

Medical and Social Responses to Madness and Mental Disabilities, ca. 1650-1850

This option examines changing notions of mental afflictions and social responses to them from the mid-seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Focusing primarily on British source materials, we examine the shift from 'mad-doctoring' to mental medicine, and changes in the professional practice, status and identity of lunacy specialists before the term 'psychiatry' had been invented. We explore the shift from familial and community-based provision for the mentally disordered towards institutional and state provision, addressing themes such as the so-called 'Great Confinement' of the insane and 'the trade in lunacy'. We also analyse the transition from 'terrific' forms of treatment to a 'moral' therapy from the 1790s. Rather than focusing merely on medical actors, we investigate a range of social players, especially patients' own views of their treatment and experiences.

Death and Burial Cultures in Britain, 1550-1832

This is a module about death, burial and commemoration. It takes as its starting point the belief that by studying what might be thought to be a gloomy topic, we can uncover a great deal about the past. The attitudes, practices and beliefs that

surrounded the dead in early modern England put our twenty-first century attitudes to death and dying in a new light. Seminar topics for this module include: 'death rates and their causes'; the 'art of dying'; 'funerals and their meanings'; 'memorialization and the deceased'; 'burial practices and their meanings'; 'the corpse and its treatment'; and 'post mortem, bodysnatching and resurrection'. The course also includes a fieldtrip to St Nicholas Cathedral (Newcastle) and its monuments.

History of Birth Control, 19th and 20th century

Until 1870s fertility in Britain was not controlled. From 1870s onwards the control of fertility started and gradually expanded reaching virtually the whole population. A similar transition occurred everywhere in Europe though the exact timing differed from place to place. This module examines the availability of birth control methods prior and after the change and the knowledge and

A physician by his patient's death-bed. Col. etching by R. Newton after T.Rowlandson, 1813? Wellcome Library, London.



acceptance of the various methods by the people. It also investigates the significance of the major technological advances but also the intellectual debates concerning the acceptability of using birth control - or some methods of birth control - within marriage. These debates address issues concerning sexuality and its cultural variation.

Dissertation

The dissertation is the culmination of your Masters study and training, and your chance to develop your most sustained and distinctive research assignment. It is a self-study project, on a topic of your own choice, strongly informed by the research interests and expertise of your supervisor. Generally, you begin working on this dissertation from March/April, though you will concentrate exclusively on this assignment during the summer term. Primary guidance will be provided via meetings with your supervisor(s).

MA Workshops

One collaborative MA Workshop is conducted each semester jointly with HPSM students from the Durham University side of the Northern Centre.



Postgraduate culture

As a Masters student in Newcastle, you will be welcomed to a vibrant research culture within the School of Historical Studies (which includes Classics, History and Archaeology). You will be expected to participate actively in Postgraduate Forums/Conferences, as well as in the School's research seminars. You will further have the opportunity to attend relevant course components of the Durham MA in HPSM and to utilise Durham University's Library Facilities. Additionally, you will be invited to seminars and other activities held within the Durham part of the Northern Centre.

'Enjoying the good life. The medical student'. Lithograph by the Perrotta brothers after Colomna [?]. Wellcome Library, London.

Staff and Students

Staff Contributing to the MA

Dr Jonathan Andrews, whose main research interests are in the history of psychiatry, mental health and the 'asylum'; forensic psychiatry, criminal lunacy and crime; early modern social and cultural history; domestic/ household medicine; and travel and medicine.

Prof. Jeremy Boulton, whose main research interests are in the history of poverty, poor relief, death and health care in pre-industrial England.

Prof. Susan-Mary Grant, whose main research interests are in American National identity in the nineteenth - early twentieth Centuries, the American Civil War and the American national identity and the War dead.

Dr Violetta Hionidou, whose main research interests are in historical demography and the history of nutrition famine and mortality, and the history of fertility, birth control and contraception.

Dr Samiksha Sehrawat, whose main interest is in colonial medical history in modern South Asia; with particular emphasis on the history of hospitals, the role of gender, medical philanthropy in India, state involvement in health care, history of warfare and military medicine and medical professionalization.

Heather Traynor,
full-time student,
2007-08



PD Dr Thomas Rütten, Newcastle Director of the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine, whose main research interests are in classical, medieval and early modern medicine, in particular the reception(s) of Hippocratic medicine and the history of medical ethics; the history of medical historiography; the history and iconography of melancholy and psychopathology; the interface between medicine, literature and fine art.

Student Perspective

"Taking this course has given me a greater understanding of how history is written and constructed and the ways in which it requires analysis. The course offers the opportunity to focus on and develop personal interests by way of written assignments which are supported by individual sessions with lecturers. I have particularly enjoyed being part of the vibrant academic community within the School of Historical Studies as a whole, which offers a rich learning environment and considerable opportunities for experiencing aspects of academic life".
Josephine Ebelewicz, full-time student, 2007-08

"I decided to study the history of medicine as an intercalated year out of my medical degree to give me the opportunity to step out of the medical world and to read, think and learn about other aspects of medicine. I believe that medical students at Newcastle are very lucky to have the opportunity to study such an interdisciplinary subject, which develops skills otherwise untouched within a medical degree, and gives a new dimension to the subject of medicine. Newcastle is a fantastic place to learn: the introductory course is well taught, and the tutors have such wide ranging areas of study that the interests of students within the field can always be accommodated".

Heather Traynor, full-time student, 2007-08

Josephine Ebelewicz,
full-time student,
2007-08



Applications for the Masters are invited from highly motivated graduates from various backgrounds including the Humanities, Medicine/Health Care and the Social Sciences (e.g. History, Classics, Archaeology, Philosophy, Literature, Religious Studies, Psychology, Sciences, Sociology etc.). Applicants require a good (or predicted) undergraduate degree result (1st or high 2:1) in such a subject.

Applications from overseas candidates with equivalent qualifications are very welcome.

Intercalation route for medical students

This MA is also open to Newcastle medical students who have opted to take the MA in the History of Medicine as an intercalated degree after stage 4 MBBS.

All candidates should apply for a place on the programme by completing and submitting the University's online postgraduate application form for the MA in the History of Medicine
www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/form/.

Various forms of funding are available for Masters (and further Postgraduate) study at Newcastle. A number of Wellcome funded Masters Studentships (both full-time and part-time) are available each year that cover fees plus a contribution to maintenance. Applicants offered an MA place additionally have the option to apply for UK Research Council funding if eligible.

For specific inquiries about funding for PG study in the history of medicine at Newcastle, see www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/postgrad/taught/ma_medicine.htm See also www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/postgrad/ & www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/

For further information about postgraduate study in the School of Historical Studies see www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/postgrad/ or contact the School's Postgraduate Secretary, Mrs Sandra Fletcher, at Sandra.Fletcher@newcastle.ac.uk, tel. (+)44 191 2227966.

For general information regarding postgraduate study at Newcastle University, see www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication (spring 2008). Please check the programme website for updates:
www.ncl.ac.uk/historical/postgrad/taught/ma_medicine.htm

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Queue of hospital visitors; nurse collecting their money. Colour lithograph after L. C. Ibels, 1916. Wellcome Library, London.

