

Master's specialisations Roma Aeterna (MA) and Present(ed) History (MA)

Faculty of Arts | International Master's Programme

Roma Aeterna and Present(ed) History are specialisations of the Master's programme in History.

Situated in the oldest and Roman city in the Netherlands, the Department of History at Radboud University Nijmegen offers two specialisations for international students. These specialisations aim to make students astute observers and shapers of the legacies and images of the past in the contemporary world. Our department is renowned for its pursuit of academic excellence and for its commitment to an outstanding education, based on active participation by students. We invite you to join our History Department's learning community.

Roma Aeterna

Surpassed by no city in the Western world, Rome is known for its charismatic leadership and overwhelmingly rich history, as the city embodies an architecturally magnificent metropolis, the impressive capital of a once mighty Roman Empire, and a powerful representation of the Papal See. The Master's specialisation *Roma Aeterna* focuses on Rome and offers an in-depth examination both of the city of Rome and its role as the capital of the Roman Empire, and of the representation of the 'idea' of Rome throughout the centuries.

Roma Aeterna presents a unique specialisation, taught by a group of specialists from the fields of ancient, Byzantine, and medieval history. Their expertise includes the status of Rome beyond the Middle Ages into the Renaissance and modern times as well. Notions of change and continuity, even of eternity, have played a prominent role in the history of Rome.

What makes Rome such a potent image of the past, the present, and the future? It is no coincidence that rulers such as Charlemagne or Benito Mussolini positioned themselves as legitimate successors to the power and traditions of Rome. Similarly, the inhabitants of the Byzantine Empire, Rome's most direct successor empire, continued to call themselves 'Romaioi' well into the twelfth century. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the legacy of Rome persisted, with Moscow claiming to be the Third Rome.

As you analyse Rome and its impressive legacy, you will become acquainted with several specialist areas of research, such as ancient history, medieval history, art history, classical philology, archaeology, and literary theory. Each field offers different perspectives and methodologies that will both expand your knowledge and ideas of Rome and deepen your insight into many questions relevant for the functioning of our modern society.



Radboud University Nijmegen



Programme outline Roma Aeterna

The curriculum consists of the following courses:

- **Historiography and Theory (10 EC):** lectures, a historiographical overview of the views on Rome developed and propagated by contemporary authors in the ancient, Byzantine, and medieval periods.
- **Research Seminar Ancient History (10 EC):** a seminar that focuses on the 'idea' of Rome throughout the centuries.
- **Research Seminar Byzantine and Medieval History (10 EC)** a seminar that focuses on the 'idea' of Rome throughout the centuries.
- **Electives (10 EC):** students choose from a series of electives that will help them develop their methodological expertise or field-specific skills, such as epigraphy, numismatics, or palaeography.
- **Master's Thesis (20 EC)**

Unique feature:

Students from French-, Italian-, or German-speaking countries may write their Master's thesis in French, Italian, or German.

Students who follow the entire Roma Aeterna specialisation start in September.

Students taking a Master's programme elsewhere may follow the first semester of the Roma Aeterna specialisation.

Present(ed) History

This Master's specialisation focuses on 'historical memory', the 'construction of identities', and the 'use and abuse of narratives'. In recent years these new and dynamic approaches have inspired historians to look beyond the study of 'history as such'. This noticeable shift in focus is not limited to academia. Young professionals with a Master's degree in History often begin their career at institutions and companies communicating images of the past to a wider public, using various forms of 'present(ed) history'. *Present(ed) History* provides you with the skills and knowledge to reflect on and deal with the often strenuous relationship between present and history inherent in those images.

The Nijmegen concept of *Present(ed) History* encompasses three dimensions. First, history has an impact on the present and on the way we conceptualise changes or crises in politics, culture, or society today. Equally important, the context in which the historian writes inevitably influences the questions raised and the answers given. Last, but not least, in political and public debates history is used – or even abused – to set the agenda for the future, to champion continuity, reforms, or revolution. Thus, national monuments and rituals are as much a part of this programme as transnational migration or emancipation movements rewriting history.

The History Department has developed a Master's specialisation dealing exclusively with this expanding field of study. For European history since the Middle Ages, recurring topics in academic research and the programme range from the tension between structural developments and private lives, and perceptions of and contacts with



other cultures throughout history, to historical narratives in totalitarian utopias, and evolving understandings of democratic politics. The role of history in legitimising power, guiding reforms, or preserving traditions and heritage is universal. The forms and dynamics of this process, however, are strongly connected with national specificities. The international classroom will offer ample opportunity for a comparative approach to these issues of national history, memory, and identity.

The courses in this Master's specialisation equip you for a dual role – to be an active participant in the ongoing process of presenting and constructing, or reconstructing, a historical narrative, as well as to be an observer and commentator reflecting on these very same processes.

Programme outline Present(ed) History

The curriculum consists of the following courses:

- **Historiography and Theory (10 EC):** lectures on the Present(ed) History approach, current theories and historical studies on the role of memory in history, identity construction, and partisan and emancipatory historiography of the past two centuries.
- **PH Research Seminar 1 (10 EC):** for example, European Images of the Ottoman Empire and China.
- **PH Research Seminar 2 (10 EC):** for example, Satires of Postwar Politics.
- **Electives (10 EC):** students choose from a series of electives that will help them develop their methodological expertise or field-specific skills.
- **Master's Thesis (20 EC)**

Unique feature:

Students from French- or German-speaking countries may write their Master's thesis in French or German.

Students who follow the entire Present(ed) History specialisation can start either in September or February.

Students taking a Master's programme elsewhere may follow one semester of the Present(ed) History specialisation, starting either in September or in February.

Admission Requirements

A Bachelors degree in History (USA: major in History) or BA/ MA degrees in related fields. Advanced language skills are required (English at CPE B2 level; TOEFL level > 86). Potential applicants should note that this is a selective programme. Interviews might form part of the application procedure.

Application Deadlines

Non-EEA residents should apply before 1 March.

EEA residents should apply before 1 May.

Career prospects

History graduates commonly obtain employment in public relations, industrial and public service management, librarianship, archive and museum work, teaching and lecturing, and commercial, business and finance professions.

Further information

Radboud University is a state-funded university in the Netherlands. Our academic year runs from September to July (first semester: September to December/mid-January; second



semester: February to July). In both 2008 and 2011 our history programme was ranked number 1 in the national Dutch Elsevier survey of academic curricula in the Netherlands.

Campus: the city of Nijmegen

Nijmegen is the oldest city in the Netherlands, located in the heart of Europe. It is a clean, safe and friendly place with a rich social and cultural life; a real university city with some 170,000 inhabitants, of whom about 30% are students. Amsterdam is only 80 minutes away by train; and Düsseldorf Weeze Airport (RyanAir) is only 40 minutes away by bus.

More information

www.ru.nl/masters/presented-history
www.ru.nl/masters/roma-aeterna

For Dutch students

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For international students

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