Faculty (with home departments and research interests)

Tara Albrecht, PhD (Cambridge)
History: Encounters and exchanges, Europe and Asia
Keith Alden, PhD (London)
Philosophy: Philosophy of Mind, Locke, Descartes
Monica Brito-Keira, PhD (Cambridge)
Politics: Hobbes and ideas of representation
Sarah Brown, MA (Yorks), FSA, FRHistS
History of Art: Ecclesiastical architecture, stained glass
Judith Buchan, DPhil (Oxon)
English and Related Literature: Shakespeare, film, performance
Stuart Carroll, PhD (London)
History: Religion, violence, neighbourhood, Europe
John Cooper, DPhil (Oxon)
History: Religion, propaganda and monarchy in England
Michael Cordner, MA (Cambridge)
Theatre, Film and Television: Renaissance and Restoration drama
Brian Cummings, PhD (Cambridge)
English and Related Literature: Shakespeare, history of religion and the book
Tania Demitriou, PhD (Cambridge)
English and Related Literature: Early modern literature and classical reception
Simon Ditchfield, PhD (Warburg Inst)
History:ordan Green, Reformations, perceptions and uses of the past
Ziad Elmarsafy, PhD (Emory)
English and Related Literature: Political discourse, encounters with Islam
Jonathan Finch, PhD (USA)
Archaeology: Historic landscapes, church archaeology
Anthony Grafton, PhD (Cambridge)
History of Art: Architecture and architectural drawing in England
Kate Giles, DPhil (Yorks)
Archaeology: Civic and ecclesiastical buildings in England
Natalya Glazyrina, PhD (Cambridge)
History: Cultures of commerce in England
Sarah Griffin, MSc (Abertay
Library & Archives: York Minster Library, special collections
Helen Hill, PhD (Courtauld Institute)
History of Art: Baroque: gender, religious devotion, architecture
Robert Hullswort, (Oxon) Director of IT/IT( EU)
Music: Baroque and classical music, performance
Mark Jenner, DPhil (Oxon)
History: History of the body, concepts of cleanliness, London
Richard Johns, PhD (Yorks)
History of Art: English Baroque art
Ananda Jones, DPhil (Oxon)
Borthwick Institute: Archives and palaeography, popular protest
Oliver Jones, PhD (Yorks)
Theatre, Film & TV: Early modern travelling players, performance space
Kevin Kilborn, PhD (London)
English: Early modern science, sermon, culture, iconoclasm

Amanda Lillie, PhD (Courtauld Institute)
History of Art: Art and architecture in Italy, Florentine villas
Charles Martin, PhD (Bristol)
English: Reception of classical literature in the Renaissance
Jeanne Nuechterlein, PhD (Berkeley)
History of Art: Religious and secular imagery in N European art
Sarah Oller, PhD (Birmingham)
Education: Shakespeare and his contemporaries in education
Liz Pettigrew, PhD (Courtauld Institute)
Education: Receptions of Renaissance art
Richard Rawlind, PhD (Oxon)
English and Related Literature: Renaissance drama, editing and performance
Peter Seymour, DMus, (Yorks)
Music: Baroque and classical music, performance, rhetoric
James Sharpe, DPhil (Oxon)
History: Social and cultural history, witchcraft and crime
Erica Shem, PhD (London)
English and Related Literature: Shakespeare, film studies, law and literature
William Sherman, PhD (Cambridge)
English and Related Literature: Books and readers, travel writing, drama
Preya Sitho, PhD (Florenc)
English & Related Literature: Literary history of England and Dutch Republic
Yelen Smith, PhD (Yorks)
English and Related Literature: History of the book, feminist theory
Tim Stanton, PhD (Leicester)
Politics: Political philosophy, history of tolerance, Locke
Tom Stoneham, PhD (London)
Philosophy: Metaphysics, epistemology, idealism, theories of perception
Jonathan Varnwich, PhD (Cambridge)
Music: Italian and English music, performance practice, patronage
Geoffrey Wall, DPhil (Oxon)
English and Related Literature: Rabelais, Shakespeare, Milton
Christopher Webb, MA (Yorks)
Borthwick Inst: Palaeography and archives
Sophie Weeks, PhD (Leeds)
History: Intellectual history, history of science
Katherine Whelan, PhD (Princeton)
Philosophy: Early Modern philosophy, episcopanism, Lucretius, Descartes
David Wootton, DPhil (Oxon)
History: Intellectual and cultural, medicine, political thought, drama
Cordula von Wyhe, PhD (London)
History of Art: Baroque & Netherland and France, patronage, court culture
Launched in October 2005, the Centre for Renaissance & Early Modern Studies is a flourishing interdisciplinary community devoted to the study of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It brings together more than 40 academics from nine leading departments: English and Related Literature, History, History of Art, Archaeology, Music, Philosophy, Politics, Education, and Theatre, Film and Television, making it the largest centre of its kind in the UK.

The Centre is based in the University’s new £11m Humanities Research Centre. It works closely with the Borthwick Institute for Archives and the York Minster Library, and collaborates with many local and national institutions like the National Centre for Early Music. It plays a leading role in the White Rose network of Yorkshire Universities and is developing partnerships with other institutions across the UK, Europe and North America as well as regularly hosting academic visitors from across the globe.

The Centre offers a stimulating programme of seminars, conferences and public lectures. It runs its own taught MA in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and provides a stimulating and supportive environment for students taking postgraduate research degrees within the period.

- According to BBC History Magazine’s educational supplement, CREMS is one of the two top places in the UK to study the Renaissance Period.
- CREMS offers a large and lively interdisciplinary community.
- The Centre benefits from excellent academic and cultural resources in and around the historic city of York.

For further information about the Centre and CREMS Events see: www.york.ac.uk/crems

Interdisciplinary MA in Renaissance & Early Modern Studies

The course gives students a thorough foundation in postgraduate research and writing in the disciplines and on the issues that have made the study of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries such an exciting and consequential field. It is designed to provide an advanced introduction to:

- a broad range of primary materials documenting the intellectual, political, spiritual and aesthetic cultures of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
- the skills needed to find, read and interpret these materials, and to identify and develop original research projects
- the relationship between English, British, European and global cultures during this period of dramatic geographical and intellectual expansion and profound political and religious change
- the challenges and rewards involved in pursuing research questions across departmental and disciplinary boundaries
- the academic, professional and personal skills required to undertake PhD research or pursue employment in a relevant field such as teaching, curating or broadcasting.

Students can take the course full-time (one year) or part-time (two years). All students follow the team-taught core module and choose three optional modules from the relevant MAs in partner departments: the MA in Renaissance Literature (English), the Early Modern MA (History), and the MAs in History of Art, Politics, Philosophy, Music, Archaeology and Theatre, Film and Television. Course work consists of three assessed essays of approximately 4,500 words each. The Summer Term and the rest of the academic year are devoted to the production of a 20,000-word dissertation.

The core module

In surveys of this kind, it is too easy to fall back on a numbing sequence of key figures, movements and monuments. We have instead chosen to identify and explore some of the issues that mattered most in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and have continued to matter (in different ways) to the different disciplines that study this pivotal period. Recent seminars have included: Renaissance and/or Early Modern/Baroque: What’s in a Name?, People, Places and Objects, Questions of Authority, Fictions in the Archives, Word and Image: Erasmus and Holbein, The Reformation and the History of the Book, Making Sense of Nature, and Anatomy.

Optional modules

The optional modules offered vary from year to year. Recent modules have included:

- From Body Beautiful to Body Politic: the Politics of the Body in Early Modern England; Medicine and Spiritual Healing in the Early Modern World; Neighbours: Social Relations in the Age of the Reformation; Speculation: Culture, Knowledge and Finance in England; Writing Space; Objects and the Early Modern; Theatres of Revenge; Shakespeare; Classical Presences in Early Modern Culture; Religion and the Book; The Work of Art (1550-1750); Redeeming Matter; Domestic Interiors in Italy; Interpreting Northern Renaissance Art; Sir Christopher Wren; Analysing Historic Buildings; Thomas Hobbes in Context; Toleration and its Enemies; The Concept of Agency in 17th century Philosophy; Directing Early Modern Plays; Early English Church Music.

For more information about the MA see: www.york.ac.uk/crems/postgraduate/masters/

Research degrees

The Centre does not yet run its own MA by Research, MPhil or PhD, but students registered for those degrees in participating departments may work with supervisors from more than one department, and they are encouraged to play an active role in the Centre’s seminars and conferences.

Applying to York

For details of how to apply: www.york.ac.uk/crems/postgraduate/how-to-apply/
For Fees and Funding information: www.york.ac.uk/crems/postgraduate/fees-funding/
Potential postgraduate students may also be interested in the MAs offered by the departments of English and Related Literature, History, and History of Art. For further information see the departmental web pages on the University’s website: www.york.ac.uk