



CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HANDBOOK

MA IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY (ONE YEAR)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Last reviewed: August, 2022

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Dear Students,

Welcome to your new university and its Department of History, which will be your academic home this year. This booklet has been compiled to assist you now, at the beginning of your studies, and to serve as a reference compendium until your graduation. For any further question feel free to turn to your program director and program coordinator.

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

ACCREDITATION

The one-year Master of Arts degree in Comparative History was first launched at CEU in 1992. For almost three decades, the one-year MA program was taught successfully in Budapest. But in reaction to Hungarian legislation against CEU, the program was taught from 2019 in a bi-campus mode in Vienna and Budapest. 2020-2021 was the first year in which the program was taught entirely in Vienna. The MA program is accredited both in the United States and in the European Union. It is registered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York (US) for and on behalf of the New York State Education Department. CEU's MA-programs were accredited by AQ Austria (Agentur für Qualitätssicherung un Akkreditierung Austria) in 2020.

In addition to the one-year program, described in this booklet, the department also offers a two-year MA program in Historical Studies as a joint initiative of the Department of Medieval Studies and the Department of History in two tracks: "Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies" and "Comparative History from 1500 to the Present Time". This degree is also registered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York (US) for and on behalf of the New York State Education Department and by AQ Austria. Moreover, the Department co-hosts two Erasmust Mundus MA programs. HIPS (History in the Public Sphere) is a two-year MA degree coordinated by CEU in collaboration with partner universities in Tokyo, Lisbon, Florence, and Paris, while Matilda (European Master's in Gender and Women's History) is co-offered with universities in Vienna, Sofia, Lyon, and Bochum.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Master's program in which you are enrolled is a program in **general history** shaped by the **regional settings** of CEU's previous home in Budapest and its new location in Vienna. Our department's expertise used to center mostly on history of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. But over the last decade, our department's systematic new hiring of faculty specializing in the Habsburg, Ottoman, and Romanov empires along with the Soviet Union and its successor states, has ensured that departmental teaching and research output has successfully transcended the traditional geographical focus of the department, thus integrating Eastern Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and Central Asian studies with the history of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe for a more thorough understanding of global historical processes.

The program is **interdisciplinary** and includes components of political and institutional, economic and social, as well as cultural and intellectual history. Among the approaches particularly well represented in the professional orientation of our faculty are historical anthropology, urban and environmental history, gender history, diplomatic history, political thought, microhistory and the history of emotions, communication and visual culture, as well as the history of science and religion. The program encourages you to explore diverse scholarly approaches and methods with an awareness of their theoretical stakes in a spirit of critical self-reflection.

Your degree program is a **graduate program**, which means that you will be expected to develop familiarity with the necessary skills of independent research. In class, your teachers will generally presuppose that you already possess some knowledge of relevant historical literature and basic academic vocabulary, allowing you to discuss topics orally and in writing. If you feel insufficiently prepared for any class, ask the instructor for recommendations on independent readings.

Our Department emphasizes in all its degree programs a **comparative** perspective, thereby drawing from the diversity of research concerns inside CEU's multi-national academic community. Earning a degree in Comparative History does not necessarily imply that you must do research in more than one area of specialization. However, you should be open to engage with fields of scholarship that lie beyond the geographical, chronological, thematic and methodological parameters of your primary subject of research. In the choice of your classes, make sure to take advantage of the wide interdisciplinary scope of the faculty. Moreover, seminar discussions will expose you to the research of your peers working on other areas of historical research, many of whom have also been previously trained in disciplines other than history.

2. THE CEU HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The Department of History has assembled a distinguished international faculty from over a dozen countries in three continents. Some of them permanently reside in Vienna or Budapest and work at CEU full or part time; others are affiliated to us as recurrent visiting professors who teach here one term each academic year while maintaining a position in a prestigious research or educational institution elsewhere. (For detailed information on the faculty, see <http://history.ceu.edu/profile-type/faculty>, for short notes Appendix 1 of this package.) The department is chaired by the Head of Department, and the MA and PhD programs have additionally separate Program Directors.

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The departmental office takes care of most of the students' administrative concerns. Matters of university inscription, finances, health insurance, housing, and residence permits should be referred to the relevant offices of **Student Services**.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT POLICY ON EQUALITY

The History Department supports CEU Policy on gender equality and all other university guidelines on equal opportunity (<https://www.ceu.edu/equal-opportunity>). The Department invites students with concerns about discrimination or harassment to reach out to the responsible Program Director and/or to the Head of Department, depending on the gravity of the issue(s) that require attention or intervention. Students who prefer to voice grievances anonymously should ask their Student Representatives to discuss them with departmental leadership or present it at faculty meetings; the Student Representatives can also accompany students to any meeting with Program Directors. The Department of History takes all student concerns seriously and will take all steps according to CEU guidelines to remedy situations that are brought to its attention. Moreover, the Department will name an Ombudsperson from among the faculty, whom you can approach with complaints that require confidential treatment.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Students are represented at the level of the Department, the University administration, the CEU Senate and the Student Dormitory.

- Students of the History Department elect *program representatives*, for the PhD program, the One-year MA program, and each of the two cohorts of the Two-year MA program. They represent common concerns of students with the head of department and the program directors, as well as in the departmental meetings. Elections should be general, secret and self-organized by students during the first month of each academic year.

- The *CEU Student Union*, which brings together the student representatives of all departments and programs, provides student feedback and input to the University's Central Administration on academic and non-academic issues.
- The Student Union elects one *student representative to the Faculty Senate*. This student representative represents all CEU students and reports on issues of general student concern.
- A separate *Student Dormitory Council* is elected to provide student input and feedback to the central administration on student dormitory issues.

For further information regarding student representation, please turn to either the departmental staff, Student Services, or the Residence Center.

FORUMS OF COMMUNICATION

There are several forums where departmental information and materials are disseminated. Please regularly consult the following ones:

- CEU's **mailing system** is the main channel of communication for all departmental information concerning assignments, grants, events, opening hours of the library, and so on. You should use your *Microsoft Office 365 Outlook* address for your correspondence with CEU faculty, fellow students, and ideally also with academic contacts outside CEU. It is in your interest and indeed your responsibility to read your e-mails at least daily. Faculty will endeavor to reply to your e-mail questions within 48 hours; if this should not be the case, it is not considered impolite to send a reminder.
- Your **personalized pigeonhole** in front of the Departmental Office on the second floor of QS 51, Room 209/b will be used to transmit your paper mail, certificates, corrected drafts and other paper documents. Please check it regularly.
- The **departmental website** (<http://history.ceu.edu>) is the main source for information on program guidelines, course lists, faculty activities, and current events.
- The **noticeboards** in the entrance hall and corridors of QS 51 contain the most updated information on upcoming public lectures and conferences at the Department and at CEU.
- The **SITS** (Strategic Information Technology Services; https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_lgn) processes and confidentially displays information concerning your registration, enrolment and course data, including credits and grades..
- The **e-learning site** (<http://ceulearning.ceu.edu>) collects all course syllabi and readings in their last updated version. For help with the site, contact Gabor Acs, ext. 2999, email: acs@ceu.edu.

The following media are further sources of useful internal information.

- The **Facebook group** of the CEU History Department, found at (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/37739447124/>), is a medium for academic and social communication among students, alumni, and faculty. Members receive and share information on grants, scholarships, jobs, conferences, events, and all news of common interest.
- For **general information** on current CEU events, you can consult the CEU homepage (<http://www.ceu.edu>), the online journal "CEU Planet" (<http://www.ceu.edu/category/ceu-planet>), and the student journal, the "CEU Weekly" (<http://ceuweekly.blogspot.com>).
- The facebook group *Student Life at CEU* (<https://www.facebook.com/CEUStudentLife>).

- The site Discuss@CEU (<http://discuss.ceu.edu>) is available for the exchange of messages of a non-academic character, such as notices of general interest to fellow students, the search for apartments and flat-mates, the buying and selling of items like computers, printers, bicycles, and tickets, as well as discussions on political events, social initiatives, and the like. *Please refrain from circulating such private messages via the O365-Outlook mailing system.*
- The *CEU Podcast Library* (<https://podcasts.ceu.edu>), an open, categorized and subscribable hub for original research presented in an audio format. Content is produced by CEU faculty, students and staff.

If you have difficulties with your computer or with the printer, please contact the IT Helpdesk: (+43 1) 25230/2000 (from a university phone simply dial 2000, 7000 or 3030 (student helpdesk) or write to helprequest@ceu.edu

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In accordance with the official University schedule (see <https://www.ceu.edu/calendar>), the academic calendar of the Department of History is divided into a Pre-Session and Zero Week (2 weeks in September), the Fall Term (12 weeks from September to December), the Winter Term (12 weeks in January-March) and a Spring Term (11 weeks in April-June). The exact dates for the Academic Year 2022/2023 will be as follows:

Pre-Session for first-year master students begins	5 September
Zero week for all students begins	12 September
Fall term begins	19 September
Fall term ends	9 December
Winter term begins	9 January
Winter term ends	31 March
Spring term begins	3 April
Spring term ends	16 June

Studying at CEU during the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2022/23

CEU will reopen its campus in Vienna on September 5, 2022 and is prepared to implement all the medical precautions that are required to counter the spread of the virus in Austrian educational institutions. Since many of our students will be subject to travel restrictions, quarantine regulations, or delayed visa procedures, CEU has decided to offer hybrid teaching mode in the Fall Term starting on September 19. Since we cannot expect that this delay will allow all students to arrive in Vienna on time, the Department is preparing a video (zoom) teaching program for those who cannot attend some of this term's class sessions in person. If you expect to arrive in Vienna with delay, please keep us posted.

See also "Covid-19 Advice and Updates," <https://www.ceu.edu/covid-19> and on that page the FAQ part about the teaching modes.

The *Pre-Session and Zero Week* are designed to introduce you to the CEU environment. The program includes a welcome gathering and a party; general information sessions on the academic and administrative aspects of your studies; intensive classes in academic writing; introductory sessions on

library resources within CEU; short presentations of the courses offered during the upcoming year, as well as guided tours of the archival and library resources elsewhere in Vienna.

The Fall and Winter terms consist of intensive coursework and lay the groundwork for the Master's thesis. For the one-year MA the Spring Session is largely research-oriented. In April students do fieldwork or archival research. The university provides modest grants to assist students in accomplishing their research (in early February information is made available about the application procedure for these grants). At the beginning of the academic year (in September or October), there is an optional educational trip of several days to a major cultural destination in the Central European region. In May all students return to CEU to consult with their thesis supervisors, participate in workshops with faculty and fellow students to present their projects, and complete their theses by the second week of June. You may also visit one-credit elective classes offered by distinguished visiting professors offered in May.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

The task of academic advisors is to introduce students to current ideas and publications in their field, to generally guide them in the choice of literature, methodology, and scientific approaches, and to help them draft their Thesis proposals and research chapters.

MA students are expected to discuss their research project and proposal draft with the faculty member most experienced in their area. The Head of Department and the Director of the One-year MA Program will suggest mentors. The students should choose advisors before the end of the Fall Term (23 November, 2022). To students who have not determined their supervisor and/or second reader by that date, the Department will *ex officio* assign appropriate faculty members. From then on, only in exceptional cases may supervisors be changed (such as change of topic or unavailability of a faculty member) and only with the joint permission of the program director and departmental head.

WORKLOAD AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, one-year MA students must earn **30 credit points**, out of which 2 are obtained by attending the thesis workshops (Winter & Spring 1+1 credits) and 5 for a successfully defended thesis. The remaining 23 are course credits. One course credit equals one hour (50 minutes) of classroom attendance per week over a 12-week long academic term. The Department of History courses are usually 2 or 4 credit courses (i.e., two or four hours per week for a term), with proportionate reading assignments and other requirements which altogether demand a time investment of c. 3 times as much as the number of class contact hours. To graduate, you must have earned 30 US credit points, which equals 60 credit points of the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System), one US credit being counted as 2 ECTS. Moreover, your grades must amount to a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.66 on a scale of 4.

In the one-year MA, the mandatory courses are Historiography (2 credits, Fall term) and Academic Writing (2+1 credits in the Fall and Winter term), the Thesis Seminar (Winter, 1 credit) and the Thesis Workshop (Spring, 1 credit). The remaining 18 course credits can be collected in elective courses, mainly from the wide-ranging offer of the History Department, but bearing in mind that it is possible to take a limited number of courses from other CEU departments as well. On top of the 18 credits you are allowed to take additional elective courses (history or other) within a reasonable range, free of charge.

CEU promotes interdisciplinarity and cross-unit collaboration. Therefore, as a Masters-level student you are allowed to earn up to 4 credits per academic year from courses offered by other academic units without any formal approvals required by the Department of History. This is a University-wide regulation endorsed by the CEU Senate. To learn about courses offered at other departments, please

visit: <https://courses.ceu.edu> (Above the 4 elective credits there is the possibility of case-by-case decisions on further individual requests.)

All courses in Ottoman History offered by the Medieval Studies Department count towards the History elective requirements and do not fall under the extra 4 credits arrangement.

Students are encouraged to enroll in the **language courses** offered by the Source Language Teaching Group (SLTG) or the Center of Academic Writing (CAW). All credits earned in these language courses will appear on the student's transcript, but only 2 credits / AY can count toward the 18 elective course credits.

While students thus have significant latitude to construct their personal curriculum, in order to achieve a proper balance and range within their training in history, they are also strongly encouraged to look beyond the scope of their thesis research in selecting their courses.

The MA Program Director, their supervisors and other faculty assist them in making a selection that is best suited for both their specific field of research and the program's aim of comparative training.

CALENDAR UNIT	ACTIVITY / COURSE	CREDITS
Pre-session	Orientation (M)	0
	Zero-week course presentations (M)	0
Fall term	Historiography (seminar, M)	2
	Academic Writing (M)	2
	Elective courses (recommended load)	10 min
Winter term	Academic Writing / thesis tutoring (M)	1
	Thesis Seminar (M)	1
	Elective courses (recommended load)	8 min
Spring session	Thesis workshop (M)	1
	Thesis and defense	5=4+1
TOTAL		30

M = mandatory activity/course

ADVANCED CERTIFICATES AND SPECIALIZATIONS

In addition to the regular MA degree in History, you can earn a certificate in one of the US-accredited Advanced Certificates or in the Jewish Studies Specialization, if your research falls into the respective subject area. CEU Advanced Certificates are cross-departmental teaching units, which in addition to their curricular activities organize special lecture series, conferences, excursions, and social events. Interested students should register for these specializations before the end of Zero Week, but one may still do so after they have enrolled in the Department's MA programs.

For the requirements of each specialization, **please consult the relevant websites.**

The Department of History currently offers the following specializations:

- The Advanced Certificate in **Eastern Mediterranean Studies** belongs to the activities of CEMS, the Center of Eastern Mediterranean Studies (Director: Professor Brett Wilson; coordinator: Sona Grigoryan; <http://cems.ceu.edu>). By cutting through traditional chronological, geographic and disciplinary boundaries, the Advanced Certificate in Eastern

Mediterranean Studies presents students with a unique opportunity to explore how various classical traditions were appropriated by and adjusted to the realities of medieval and early modern polities in the Eastern Mediterranean. This Specialization provides a framework for a comparative approach to (as well as in-depth individual focus on) the history, religion and culture of the Later Roman and Byzantine Empires, the Arab Caliphates, the Ottoman Empire, and the successor states of the latter in all their diversity.

- The Specialization in **Jewish Studies** is offered by the CEU Jewish Studies Project (head: Professor András Kovács; coordinator: Lilla Kukor; <http://web.ceu.hu/jewishstudies>). Since 2001, this specialization has enabled students in History, Medieval Studies and Nationalism Studies to follow a teaching program in Jewish history and culture from the Middle Ages to the present, with a focus on modern Central and Eastern Europe. Classes on anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, Jewish cultural heritage, contemporary Jewry, and the state of Israel comprise the program. In years where there is sufficient student demand, Hebrew and Yiddish language classes are provided. The Specialization offers its students a number of special fellowships and grants, as well as an extra-curricular program of lectures, conferences, and excursions.
- The Advanced Certificate in **Political Thought** (head: Professor Matthias Riedl; <https://pasts.ceu.edu/political-thought>) engages in the comparative study of political thought from a variety of perspectives, both within and outside the Western canon. Special attention is given to the historicity of diverse political traditions but also to recurring themes and questions. Learning to recognize political thought, both past and present, as being time- and place-specific will equip students, regardless of their major field of study, with additional analytical and methodological skills grounded in the appreciation of the contextual and intertextual aspects of diverse intellectual traditions.
- The Advanced Certificate in **Religious Studies**, run by the Center for Religious Studies (head: Professor Jean-Louis Fabiani; coordinator: Esther Holbrook; <http://religion.ceu.edu>), is available in the Departments of History, Medieval Studies and eight other CEU departments and programs. It provides students with a solid methodological and theoretical foundation for competently addressing religious phenomena from an analytical and interdisciplinary perspective. The specialization introduces students to the concepts and methods in the study of religion, as well as to a wide range of religious phenomena from Late Antiquity to the present, with an emphasis on the historical and comparative study of monotheistic religions.
- The **Science Studies Research Group** (<http://sciencestudies.ceu.edu/>) is supported by History, Philosophy, Medieval Studies, Gender Studies, and Cognitive Science. It examines the relations between scientific and technical forms of knowledge and the social, philosophical, and historical contexts that make these specialized practices both possible for experts and meaningful for their many audiences. It draws deeply upon a variety of disciplinary resources in its attempts to understand both producers and consumers of Science: history, philosophy, and sociology foremost, but also borrowing tools from anthropology, art history, visual studies, cultural studies, gender studies, law, literature, medicine, and computer science. Interdisciplinary of necessity, Science Studies reflexively seeks more effective combinations of interpretive inquiry and rational analysis that not only link disparate forms of scientific investigation, but also make sense of their impacts in industry, government, and daily life.
- The Advanced Certificate in **Archives and Evidentiary Practices** (head: Csaba Szilagyi; <https://history.ceu.edu/specialization-archives-and-evidentiary-practices>) was initiated by the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives (OSA) and organized jointly with the Department of Legal Studies and the Department of History. The aim of the program is to provide students with theoretical grounding and practical skills in working and pursuing research in a contemporary and innovative archive. Students can explore the basic historical, legal,

political and societal aspects of archives in a permanently changing technological environment, from recordkeeping through documentary evidence to justice and memory-making, as well as new archival storage and research tools. During a series of seminars, hands-on workshops, discussions and practical archival activities, students will be able to make full use of the unique collections and facilities of OSA. The knowledge and skills acquired during this specialization will open up for students' additional avenues of pursuing a career not only in their chosen field but also in archives, libraries, and museums or in the multidisciplinary arena of the digital humanities.

ACADEMIC WRITING

Students are required to attend academic writing sessions given by the Center for Academic Writing during both the Fall and Winter terms. All the Academic Writing courses are registered for Pass/Fail. If students wish to have consultations any time within the academic year, they should sign up for a 30-minute consultation with their instructor, using WOnline at <https://ceu.mywconline.com>.

The Fall term course will provide weekly sessions dealing with crucial reading and writing skills, as well as mandatory and optional consultations on particular aspects of individual assignments and research projects. The consultations will also aim to develop students' essay writing skills by discussing the seminar assignments due for the mandatory Historiography course.

In addition to taught sessions focusing on the writing needs of the thesis, the Winter term course will consist of individual consultations designed to provide practical assistance in the systematic build-up of the thesis. Second-year students from the History track of the 2YMA program who are also preparing to submit their theses in June will be joining the classes in the Winter Term.

Exemption may be granted from attending the AW classes for native speakers and those with an MA in English literature and/or English language teaching. The exemption must be applied for, and the decision to grant it depends on the evaluation of the mandatory critique assignment and class work.

COURSE SYLLABI AND READERS

Some readers for courses (as described in the course syllabi) are available in the CEU Library, but the bulk of the course materials may be found at the department's e-learning site: <http://ceulearning.ceu.edu/course/index.php?categoryid=41>. Links to individual courses are also included in the departmental course listings: <http://history.ceu.edu/courses>.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is mandatory in all classes. A student who misses more than two units (two 100 min sessions) in any 2 or 4 credit class, without a verified reason beyond the student's control, must submit an 8-10 page paper assigned by the Professor, which as a rule should cover the material in the missed class. The paper is due not later than 3 weeks after the missed class.

COURSE PAPERS AND DRAFTS

Seminar papers and research chapters that are submitted for class discussion should be sent to the class instructor(s) through *CEU's O365-Outlook* email-system in .doc/docx or .rtf format (not .pdf or .odf), written in 12 pt. characters with 1.5 line spacing and pagination. When submitting a seminar paper or

assignment by e-mail, please make sure that its receipt is confirmed. The Department does not recognize undelivered email as an excuse for non-submission of written work.

COURSE GRADING

The grading of MA courses takes into account the following skills and learning outcomes:

- content literacy: understanding and critical evaluation of key concepts and theoretical approaches, familiarity with the “state of the art” in the relevant traditions of research in the field, capacity of placing geographically circumscribed knowledge into a broader transnational/regional framework;
- academic skills: formulating and discussing questions, working with primary and secondary sources, designing appropriate historical research strategies and techniques, writing in an adequate Academic English language and generating an adequate critical apparatus, reflecting on one’s own academic practices, values and ethical principles in designing and conducting research.
- style: expressing thoughts in adequate Academic English, using historical terms purposefully, developing a fluent historical narration and argument.
- the use of a proper academic style sheet (citations, references, bibliographies)

CEU Credit and Grading System: please search for the latest **Student Records Manual** at the page: <https://documents.ceu.edu/document-type/guidelines-regulations-etc>

AUDITING COURSES

One may attend courses beyond the minimum graduation requirement, the results of which will appear on one’s transcript of records and be counted for the GPA. However, the credits will not count towards one’s degree. If a student wants to officially register for a class without earning a letter grade or credit, the course may be registered as an audit. The cost and workload incurred in this case is usually less, but can be the same as if the course were taken for credit (that is, a student auditing a course may be required to participate fully in the class.) Expectations should be clarified with the course instructor at the beginning of the course. A course registered for audit will appear on the student’s transcript with the symbol AUD if attendance was regular, or W if the attendance was unsatisfactory. No credit is earned, nor is the GPA affected.

COURSE EVALUATION

Central European University uses an online system, CoursEval, for course and teacher evaluations. Students are asked to evaluate their courses at the end of each semester through a survey of 14 questions. All surveys are anonymous; neither the numeric nor the text answers can be linked to the individual respondents in any way. CoursEval *reports* are thoroughly studied by the departments and the Office of the Provost in order to respond to student needs and observations effectively.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The offense of academic misconduct includes plagiarizing, that is, representing the ideas or words of another without proper attribution to the source of those ideas or words, whether intentional or not. Students should consult faculty or the Academic Writing Center if they are in any doubt about the difference between appropriate citation and plagiarism.

Additionally, students may not submit an assignment or part of an assignment for credit in more than one course, nor reuse assignments that were presented in an academic framework outside CEU, unless approved by both course instructors. However, course papers may be incorporated into the thesis. Acts of academic misconduct will result in serious consequences such as a failing grade for the assignment, the course or removal from the program. For further information, please refer to the university’s Code of Ethics: <http://documents.ceu.edu/documents/p-1009-1v1402-0>

CEU ETHICAL RESEARCH POLICY

Students who are thinking about using interviews or other research methods involving human subjects for their MA thesis research should consult the CEU Ethical Research Policy <https://acro.ceu.edu/ethical-research>, which explains the process for obtaining written consent and the requirements for protecting of personal data. Students should also consult with their MA thesis supervisor so that any necessary training in methods or research preparations can be included in their MA studies.

THE MA THESIS

Each student is required to write a thesis of 18,000 - 22,000 words in length, based on original, primary source-based research. It should develop the topic described in your application, which may be refined and developed during your MA studies. Any change of topic needs the approval of the Supervisor and Program Director. The research component will be especially enhanced by knowledge of some type of available primary resources, whether printed sources, archival documents, prospective interviews and fieldwork, or periodical collections. The full digital texts of many recent theses can be found through the CEU Library online catalog. For the full text of the **MA Thesis Guidelines**, distributed as an appendix to the present Handbook.

The **Thesis Defense** is a composite oral examination scheduled for the last week of the Spring Session. It is a ca. 50-minute academic discussion. The two-member Examination Committee is chaired by the Second Reader of the MA thesis; the second member of the Committee is the First Supervisor of the examinee.

GRADING ASSESSMENT OF THE MA THESIS

Theses in the MA programs are graded according to three criteria:

- **Original findings:** All theses must show mastery of source work. The best theses employ a sophisticated apparatus of empirical demonstration that is not only sensitive to the ethics of accuracy but also capable of weaving together disparate source genres in an original manner.
- **Substantive argumentation:** The presentation of the argument should be such that the generalist reader can readily ascertain the scholarly stakes even if subtleties are lost, while the specialist reader can easily identify the relationship of the thesis to a larger body of literature and not detect serious gaps. The quality of argumentation is assessed at multiple levels: with respect to key concepts and theoretical approaches employed in the wider profession, practical engagement with more circumscribed debates, and simply the consistent use of working terminology throughout the body of the thesis. The best theses will also demonstrate a reflexive awareness of how the problem being addressed may, in turn, shed light on the scope and uses of historical inquiry.
- **Style:** Regardless of region or era, method or sources, each thesis should exemplify fluency in presentation, aiming to win the reader through polished prose and rhetorical sophistication.

Theses deemed worthy of the "A" grade must exhibit high quality in all three domains – excellence in one cannot compensate for shortcomings in another.

THE HANÁK PRIZE

Since 1997 the Department of History has recognized outstanding research by its MA students, and since 1998 this recognition has been known as the Péter Hanák Prize, in honor of the founding Chair of the Department. The names of the laureates are published on (<http://history.ceu.edu/hanakprizewinners>).

The Prize (a book) is presented to the authors of the best theses chosen on the basis of nominations by supervisors and evaluations by a committee of faculty members.

CONTINUING STUDIES

The Department encourages its best MA graduates to continue their scholarly work in a **PhD program** at CEU or other universities. The Department offers competitive PhD fellowships for three years, with the possibility of extension for a fourth year. Students in the 1yMA program may apply in January; the decision on applications will be made after their thesis defense. For more information, see <https://history.ceu.edu/DoctoralPrograms> .

4. LIFE IN THE DEPARTMENT

Your studies will test and improve your ability to process a vast amount of information and knowledge, using English as your working language. Moreover, you will need to develop a productive openness towards different lifestyles, mindsets, attitudes, customs and opinions. We hope that the time you spend at CEU will not only contribute to your professional development, but also expose you to stimulating experiences of collegiality and friendship, as well as deepen your commitment to the values of a tolerant and multi-cultural society.

RESIDENCY IN VIENNA

During the teaching periods in the Fall and Winter terms, you are expected to be “in residence,” that is, to stay in Vienna and attend classes, and take part in departmental activities. Permission to be absent from classes must be requested by e-mail from the MA Program Director or the Head of Department, via the MA program coordinator. Unauthorized absence may lead to disciplinary action, and possibly even expulsion from CEU.

For housing in Vienna please visit: [Student Center | CEU](#)

For assistance contact studentcenter@ceu.edu or viennastudenthousing@ceu.edu

There is – unfortunately – no budget for holiday travel; those wishing to visit their families during the breaks between terms must cover the costs themselves. If you intend to travel abroad, please keep your regular contacts at the department (supervisor, program director, coordinator, or student colleagues) informed of your whereabouts to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary alarm.

DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITY

The faculty and doctoral students of the Department of History have an outstanding publishing record in major European languages. Their research appears in peer-reviewed journals, volumes, or monographs published by leading academic publishers. The Department of History is an active initiator of ambitious research projects. It is a top priority for us to involve students in research from an early stage of their studies.

A regular discussion forum for students and faculty is the cycle of **Research Seminars**. At recurrent sessions during terms, a faculty member or an advanced doctoral candidate gives the departmental community an informal talk on her/his current research, which is followed by discussion.

Guest lectures, academic conferences, and workshops are held frequently, with the participation of distinguished international scholars.

The research environment of the History Department benefits from the various **research centers** of CEU, in particular the [Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies](#) and the [Center for Religious Studies](#).

Several research initiatives created specific **focus areas and platforms** that speak directly to students' special research interests. These include:

- Early Modern Studies (<https://history.ceu.edu/early-modern-studies>)
- Contemporary History (<https://www.ceu.edu/chp>)
- Visual Studies (<https://vsp.ceu.edu>)
- Labor History (<https://history.ceu.edu/LaborHistory>)
- Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian History (<https://history.ceu.edu/russian-ukrainian-and-urasian-history>)

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Research and study facilities include CEU's **libraries**, the **computer labs**, and access to **other research libraries** in Budapest.

The CEU Library

From its foundation in 1991, CEU built up on its campus in Budapest a large research library, now comprising about 200,000 printed volumes, 200,000 ebooks, 50,000 ejournals, and 150+ databases in all fields of the humanities and social sciences. On moving its teaching to Vienna, CEU has opened in 2019 a second library site, where all its electronic resources are available alongside 45,000 printed books, selected by a variety of criteria including imprint date, frequency of checkout, availability of online equivalents, and recommendations from faculty. Due to the limited space on the Vienna Campus, the remaining volumes will stay in Budapest, but all of them are readily available on the Vienna Campus through regular book deliveries. Information about all library resources and services is available via the CEU Library website (<http://www.library.ceu.edu>).

Inter-campus loan from Budapest

Documents can be obtained from the following sites, which also remain operating as working environments for students who have the occasion to visit Budapest, for example during the Spring Term.

- **CEU Main Library** (1051 Budapest, Nador utca 15, +36-1-327-3099). Director: Diane Geraci. The library opened in 2016 on its new location, where it offers more than 400 seats, workspaces for solitary research as well as small group collaboration, a media production lab, and over 85 large screen computers. See <http://library.ceu.edu>.
- **CEU/ELTE Medieval Library** (1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 6–8, first floor, rooms 148-150). Director: Balázs Nagy. This Library was established in an agreement between CEU and the Faculty of Humanities of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), merging the collections of both in Medieval Studies. It currently holds 24,000 volumes, which are catalogued in the CEU Library online catalog and can be delivered to the Vienna Campus.
- The **Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives** at CEU (OSA, H-1051 Budapest, Arany János u. 32, Tel. 327-3250 or 3260; info@osaarchivum.org; <http://www.osaarchivum.org>). Director: István Rév. This is an outstanding center for research and education, whose collections and activities relate to the period after the Second World War, mainly the Cold War, the history of the formerly communist countries, human rights, and war crimes.

Interlibrary Loan through CEU Library

Books that are not available at any of the CEU libraries may be ordered by ILL (Interlibrary Loan). For guidelines on using this service, please see: <https://library.ceu.edu/using-the-library/interlibrary-loan/>

You may also make suggestions for books that the CEU Library might order within the limits of the acquisition budget. Please direct book requests to the members of the History Department Library Committee, Marsha Siefert (siefertm@ceu.edu) or Tolga Esmer (tuesmer@ceu.edu).

Vienna Research Libraries outside CEU

A number of important research libraries are located in Vienna. A useful catalogue tool is the Austrian Library Network Union Catalogue (*Katalog des Österreichischen Bibliothekenverbundes*; <https://search.obvsg.at>), but please note that this catalogue is not exhaustive, so that some collections, especially those belonging to the University of Vienna, need to be searched separately. You can find a comprehensive list of available online catalogues here: <https://www.obvsg.at/kataloge/verbundkataloge>.

The most relevant libraries for CEU students are the following:

- The **Austrian National Library** (*Österreichische Nationalbibliothek*, ÖNB; 1010 Vienna, Josefsplatz 1), located in the imperial castle in the center of Vienna, is the most prestigious historical book collection in the country. It requires an inscription combined with a fee of either 30 EUR for a yearly inscription or 3 EUR for a day pass (<https://search.onb.ac.at>).
- The **Austrian State Archives** (*Österreichisches Staatsarchiv*; 1010 Vienna, Minoritenplatz 1) keep the documentary memory of the Habsburg monarchy and the Republic of Austria. See <https://www.statearchives.gv.at>.
- The **Vienna University Library** (*Universitätsbibliothek Wien*) is the biggest library in Austria. Of its 7 million books, 2.7 million are accessible in the main library (*Hauptbibliothek*) located in the historical building of the university (1010 Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1st floor); the others are distributed by disciplines among the separate research collections of 40 academic centers. Some of the latter, such as the Historical Studies Library, are also located in the main university building, others are housed in the former general hospital (*Altes AKH*) in the 9th city district or on various off-campus sites. These libraries are in general non-lending, open stack libraries; on-site consultation is possible without inscription (<https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en>). You can find a list of libraries with their locations and opening hours here: <https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en/bibliotheken.html>.
- The **Public Library** (*Hauptbücherei*; 1070 Wien, Urban Loritz-Platz 2a) is a general interest library comprising more than 400,000 media units. Unlike Vienna's academic libraries, it is also open on weekends.
- The **Vienna City Library** (*Wienbibliothek im Rathaus*), located in the historical Town Hall, entrance Felderstraße gate 4, staircase 6, 1st floor, is a scholarly library with a special focus on the history and culture of Vienna. See <https://www.wienbibliothek.at/english>.
- The **Institute for Human Sciences** (*Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen*, IWM; 1090 Vienna, Spittelauer Lände 3), possesses a library of some 40,000 books in the areas of philosophy, history, sociology, political science, cultural and gender studies, including publications in Eastern European languages. See <https://www.iwm.at/the-institute/library>.
- The **Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies** (VWI; 1010 Vienna, Rabensteig 3) possesses a reference library consisting of about 14,000 volumes, which is accessible upon appointment. See <https://www.vwi.ac.at/index.php/en/documentation/library>.
- The **United Nations Library** contains material related to the work of the United Nations units based in Vienna, accessible upon appointment. See <https://www.unov.org/unov/en/library.html>.

PASTS, INC. CENTER FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES

Many of our departmental research projects are undertaken with the support of our sister institution, Pasts, Inc. Center for Historical Studies – a platform for international cooperation initiatives in training and research. Pasts, Inc. was established in 2002 as a core of a transnational, interdisciplinary, intercultural network of scholars. Its mission has been to contribute to the education, training and career

development of emerging scholars, in connection with specific research projects. Thus, the Center initiates, supports, and hosts a variety of research, conference, educational, training activities, as well as publications. It provides a structure and a visibility to the Department of History that has proved to be helpful in student recruitment and external partnerships. <http://pasts.ceu.edu>.

Edits two international refereed journals:

- *East Central Europe/L'Europe du Centre Est. Eine wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift (ECE)* <https://ece.ceu.edu>, published by Brill, Leiden.
- *European Review of History / Revue d'histoire européenne (ERH)* https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ceh20#.VexeKV_8KJB has had an editorial office at the CEU Department of History since 2008, in addition to their central office at the University of Manchester, and another new one at the European University Institute in Florence.

“Pasts Inc.” also edits three book series (<https://pasts.ceu.edu/book-series>):

- Founded in 2004, *Pasts Incorporated. CEU Studies in the Humanities* has published sixteen volumes so far.
- *Central and Eastern Europe: Regional Perspectives in a Global Context* was founded in 2012;
- *Pasts, Inc. Studies and Working Papers* was launched in 2013 with the explicit aim of providing a platform for young researchers to publish specialized findings.

CAREER PLANNING

The **CEU Career Services Office (CSO)** (<https://careers.ceu.edu>) supports students and alumni in defining their personal professional goals and definitions of future success and assists them in gaining information, skills, and experiences that enhance their personal development, employability, and success in their academic programs.

The CSO advises students and alumni on all aspects of the career development process including:

- Conducting self-assessment and career research;
- Adopting a realistic and long-term approach towards career development;
- Expanding and managing professional networks;
- Crafting effective application materials for jobs, internships, and further studies;
- Preparing for interviews and conducting salary negotiations.

There are many ways for students to engage with the office:

- Career education sessions
- Career events featuring employers and practitioners from various fields
- Individual career advising
- Internship support and funding
- *career>next*: the CEU-exclusive job and internship portal
- Online resources including the Career Knowledge Hub and the Careers Newsletter

The "Spark Your Career" career development certificate.

DEPARTMENTAL SOCIAL EVENTS

Apart from the excursion - a two-three day educational trip, with visits to public collections and historic sites, - which is considered part of the curriculum, the following social events create opportunities for all students (one- and two-year MA as well as PhD) and faculty to get acquainted in informal settings:

- the welcome party during the orientation period in September;
- common walk in the Vienna forest at the start of the Fall Term;
- the cycle of scholarly and social meetings, “Departmental Research Seminars”: a faculty member or an advanced doctoral candidate gives an informal talk on his current research, followed by discussion and a pub visit;
- the End-of-the-year Party in December;
- the graduation dinner after the MA thesis defenses in June;
- conferences, workshops, public lectures continued by informal discussions;
- all other events that you are welcome to organize.

APPENDIX: DEPARTMENTAL FACULTY, AY 2022-2023

(subject to change, an updated faculty list is found at: <http://history.ceu.edu/faculty>)

A) RESIDENT FACULTY

Aziz Al-Azmeh, University Professor (History of religions; Islamic history).

Nadia Al-Bagdadi, Professor, Director of the CEU Institute for Advanced Studies (Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies; 19th century intercultural transfers; history and culture of the late Ottoman Empire; comparative religion; history of printing and the book).

Tolga U. Esmer, Associate Professor, (Cultural and social history of the Ottoman Empire and its successor states; Balkan, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern History; comparative empire, the imbrications of crime and governance; everyday life, microhistory, and anthropological history; emotions and affect in history; frontier and borderland studies). On sabbatical in 2022/23.

Karl Hall, Associate Professor, Director of the One-Year MA Program (History of the modern physical sciences with a special emphasis on Russia and the Soviet Union; 19-20th century Russian and European cultural and intellectual history).

Jan Hennings, Associate Professor, Head of Department (Early modern history; Muscovy and imperial Russia; Europe and Russia; Russian-Ottoman relations; new diplomatic history).

Constantin Iordachi, Professor, Director of Pasts, Inc.: Center for Historical Studies (Modern and contemporary social, legal and institutional history of South-Eastern and Central Europe; Fascism and Communism; comparative citizenship studies).

Victor Karády, Professor Emeritus (Historical sociology; history of education in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; social history of modern European Jewry).

László Kontler, Professor, Pro-Rector of KEE (CEU's Budapest based part) (Early-modern European intellectual history; political thought; Enlightenment studies; knowledge production and inter-cultural transfers).

Emese Lafferton, Assistant Professor (History of science, medicine and technology; eugenics; racial thinking)

Michael L. Miller, Associate Professor, co-appointed at the Nationalism Studies Program (Nationality conflicts in the nineteenth century; religious, cultural and political development of Central European Jewry)

István Rév, Professor, Director of the Open Society Archives (Memory cultures; Communism and Fascism; aesthetics and the visual; exhibiting and archiving).

Alfred J. Rieber, University Research Professor (Russian and Soviet foreign policy; social history of imperial Russia: comparative history of Eurasia).

Robyn Radway, Assistant Professor (Habsburg Empire, History of Art).

Matthias Riedl, Associate Professor, Director of the Doctoral Program and Director the Advanced Certificate in Political Thought (History of religion and theology; history of political thought; Reformation and Renaissance studies).

Charles Shaw, Assistant Professor, Director of the Two-Year MA Program (Russian and Soviet history; Central Asia).

Marsha Siefert, Associate Professor (Communications and media history; Cold War culture and diplomacy; oral history and biography; cultural history, music and film)

Balázs Trencsényi, Professor, Director of the Erasmus Mundus MA program "History in the Public Sphere" (Intellectual history of Central and Southeastern Europe, early modern political thought, history of historiography, nationalism and patriotism).

Carsten L. Wilke, Professor, co-appointed at the Department of Medieval Studies, (Comparative religious studies; Jewish studies; early modern Western Europe). On research leave in 2022/23.

Brett Wilson, Associate Professor, co-appointed at the School of Public Policy, Director of the Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies (late-Ottoman history; Turkish Republican and modern Middle Eastern history; intellectual history; the history of print culture; Islam, Sufism, and religious studies.)

Susan Zimmermann, University Professor, co-appointed at the Department of Gender Studies (History of Central European women's movements; comparative internationalisms; histories and concepts of social change in a local-global perspective; comparative history of welfare policy). ZARAH-project.

B) VISITING FACULTY

Edit András, Visiting Professor, Senior Member of the Institute of Art History, Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest (History of art, visual studies).

Jeremy Braverman, Visiting Lecturer, Media and Visual Education Specialist, CEU Library (Media and visual education, filmmaking).

Julian Casanova, Visiting Professor, Professor at the University of Zaragoza, Spain (Comparative history of dictatorships, civil wars and social movements).

Maciej Janowski, Visiting Professor, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw (Intellectual and social history of Poland and East-Central Europe).

Ioana Macrea-Toma, Visiting Lecturer, Associate Research Fellow at the Open Society Archives, Budapest (Cold War history, knowledge systems).

Ulrich Meurer, Visiting Lecturer, Lecturer at the Institute of Media and Cultural Studies, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Film and media philosophy, visual culture and political theory).

Alexei Miller, Recurrent Visiting Professor, Member of the Institute for Scientific Information, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow (Nationalism in Eastern and East-Central Europe in the 19th century; empires; comparative history of borderlands).

Oksana Sarkisova, Visiting Professor, Chair of Visual Theory and Practice, Research Fellow at the Open Society Archive at CEU (Cultural history, memory and representation, film history, amateur photography, and visual studies).

Ostap Sereda, Visiting Professor, Senior Researcher at I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Nationalism and public sphere in 19th-century Eastern and Central Europe). On leave in 2020/2021.

György E. Szőnyi, Recurrent Visiting Professor, co-appointed at the Department of Medieval Studies, Professor at the University of Szeged (Intellectual and cultural history, religious heterodoxy, Western esotericism, semiotics and early modern history, English and Hungarian studies).

Mate Nikola Tokić, Visiting Professor, co-appointed at the Department of International Relations and the School of Public Policy (International politics in the twentieth-century; ethnic and nationalist mobilization; history of Yugoslavia).