



Towards a Postgraduate History Agenda for the Education portal.

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History PG numbers as of 2019

- **79** University History departments offered PGR opportunities
- **77** University History departments offered PGT opportunities

Across the UK there were:

- **2,610** History postgraduate **research** students
- **3,870** History **taught** postgraduate students

(Data from *The Complete University Guide*, 2019)

So how are we doing & what are the challenges?



- Numbers are relatively stable for both HEIs & students, yet distribution of HEIs reveals regional gaps in opportunities for students at this level (e.g north west and south west)
- **Query best practice in development of on-line, distance learning models for provision of taught programmes?**
- How varied, challenging & appropriate are assignments/assessment at this level?
- Given problems with cohort sizes & costs (for both students & HEIs), how viable are some of the History taught courses?
- Should we be developing more rapidly the operation of regional Graduate Schools/hubs?

We would welcome contributions on:



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- Examples of 'best practice'
 - Reports / blogs
 - Problems to share – with solutions!
 - Your thoughts on issues noted above & new topics for discussion
 - Experiments
 - Data on the PG scene around the UK

Topics for the PGT agenda?



- What constitutes a 'good' MA in History?:
- What should be in our ubiquitous 'methods' courses?
- What do we say about the transition from BA to MA?
- What kind of assignments (and assessment) best aid the development of skills at this level?
- How do we help students move from taught stages to choosing and executing their personal dissertations
- Other issues?

Topics for the PGR agenda?



Induction programmes/ transition issues

'Probationer schemes'

Help with establishing feasibility of topics

Supervision 'contracts'

Expectations and responsibilities

Changing roles over the life of a project

An example of a PGT issue



Issue: How do we help develop understanding of what is entailed in writing literature reviews?

Solution: Portfolio of exercises included:

1. the writing of a single book review >
2. the composition of an annotated bibliography of approximately 10 articles/books >
3. draft literature review to accompany thesis proposal

Result: See report of workshop discussion arising out of stage 2 above available on portal