

8: Proposed study (Paragraphs 23 and 24)

Please give the title of your intended course (paragraph 23)

MA in History

Please make your case for support in the space below (paragraph 24)

You should use the following headings to structure your case:

- Your reasons and purposes for studying this course or undertaking this project
- The nature and structure of your proposed course or programme of study
- Training and preparation

I see my future in historical research. To study at a more advanced level will allow me to fulfil longstanding personal and professional ambitions. Reading for an MA in History with a central research component will ensure that I develop the methodological skills and discipline for potential doctoral study, without compromising on the thematic coverage that the taught elements of the course will contribute. My academic studies thus far have centred upon the high and low politics, and political ideologies, of the previous century. These interests inspired my BA dissertation on the popular political impact of the wartime organisation Common Wealth. I am very keen to develop these interests through postgraduate study.

As a student of political and social history, the University of Warwick was a natural choice for me. Warwick has consistently been in the vanguard of social history, and has, in the Modern Records Centre, much material related to my research interests. The generic MA is not restricted temporally or thematically and thus allows me to select any two modules within the department to complement a 20,000-word dissertation and research methods module. The first option I have chosen, 'Writing Lives: British working-class autobiography', will allow me to build upon my current studies on Communist biography, autobiography and oral histories. The second module: 'Democracy and Popular Participation in Twentieth century Britain', is equally relevant, charting the cause and effect of support for popular political movements, like that of my proposed dissertation focus: the Federal Union. I also intend to attend appropriate seminars on the Society and Culture of the Cold War MA.

The Federal Union was a pressure group formed at the onset of the Second World War to campaign for a world government to preserve civilisation. Correspondence, administrative records and private papers relating to the Federal Union are held at the Modern Records Centre. Journal deposits are accessible at the British Library of Political and Economic Science. A case-study of the Federal Union, which flourished in an allegedly hostile environment, will add important nuances to the on-going debate between orthodox and revisionist historians, such as Addison and Fielding respectively, as to civilian attitudes and expectations in the wartime and post-war domestic milieu and the political socialisation behind the landslide Labour victory of 1945. It will also break new ground in exploring the history of proto-globalisation, hitherto dominated by economic analyses. I wish to explore grass-roots input, investigating the hopes and fears central to British ideas of world citizenship and the new international order. The Warwick Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation is another reason to be based here, given my topic.

The 'Theory, Skill and Method' core module at Warwick will enable me to develop further my working knowledge of bibliographical sources and historical databases. It will also enhance my skills in utilising statistical, oral, and Mass-Observation data and thus complement my training in biographical and prosopographical sources at Liverpool. My aspiration is to become an historian of political culture, and to pursue a doctoral thesis on the interplay between the people and politics on the periphery during the Second World War. I can envisage no institution nor course more suited to ensuring I reach my academic potential.