

# RS908-30 Understanding and Promoting Cultural Heritage: the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

**25/26**

**Department**

Centre for the Study of the Renaissance

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Teresa Grant

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study locations**

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Primary  
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

At the heart of all things Shakespeare, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust holds the world's largest Shakespeare-related library, museum and archives open to the public, with over 1 million documents, 55,000 books and 12,000 museum objects. They also care for the Royal Shakespeare Company's archive of theatre records, as well as an extensive local history archive of Stratford-upon-Avon and South Warwickshire, with records dating back to the twelfth century. The SBT and the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance will work in partnership to deliver this module using the resources -- archives, books, objets d'art -- and the expertise of both. Students will learn how to understand, engage with and communicate the importance of heritage objects to various audiences, both to academics and to the wider public.

### Module aims

Students will learn how to navigate SBT archives, libraries and museums containing objects

central to Renaissance and early modern culture. They will learn how to search catalogues and to research provenance, importance and meaning. They will learn how to represent the significance of these objects to various audiences by writing material for physical and online exhibitions, designing alternative learning materials, presenting it in person at public events and by curating their own blogged exhibition.

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Negotiating archives
2. Negotiating rare book libraries
3. Negotiating museum objects
4. Identifying a research topic
5. Communicating your ideas and designing learning materials

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- demonstrate comprehensive research skills in locating, analyzing, and interpreting cultural heritage materials in the SBT collection
- Effectively communicate complex ideas relating to cultural heritage to diverse audiences
- design appropriate learning materials for diverse audiences
- curate their own blogged exhibition
- demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of public engagement and its key concepts
- demonstrate a understanding of public engagement strategy and how this interacts with academic research

## **Indicative reading list**

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## **Research element**

The assessments will require students to do significant independent research at an advanced level

## **Interdisciplinary**

The module requires students to operate in Renaissance/early modern archives and objects from a number of different disciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives

## **International**

The module covers Renaissance/early modern archives from across Europe and beyond.

## Subject specific skills

- Curation and Exhibition Design: Understanding how to select, interpret, and display objects to tell compelling stories.
- Audience Engagement: Developing educational programs and interactive experiences to engage diverse audiences.
- Research and Interpretation: Conducting research on artifacts and collections to provide historical, cultural, and scientific context.
- Digital Skills: Using technology for digital archiving, virtual exhibitions, and enhancing visitor experiences.
- Ethical and Legal Knowledge: Understanding the ethical considerations and legal frameworks related to cultural heritage and museum operations.

## Transferable skills

- discover and synthesize complex information and diverse evidence
- respond creatively and imaginatively to research tasks
- initiate projects of their own
- present information within wider contexts
- test, interpret and analyse information and evidence independently and critically, producing from that analysis cogent arguments and decisive judgements
- plan, organise and report to deadline.
- articulate their own and other people's ideas concisely, accurately and persuasively both orally and in writing
- develop working relationships with others in teams, especially through constructive dialogue (for example, by listening, asking and responding to questions)
- understand the role of narrative and emotion in decision-making
- be sensitive to cultural contexts when working with others.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	5 sessions of 2 hours (3%)
Fieldwork	4 sessions of 4 hours (5%)
Private study	139 hours (46%)
Assessment	135 hours (45%)
Total	300 hours

### Private study description

Reading & research, essay, blog and presentation writing.

## Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Field trips, placements and study abroad	Travel from Warwick to Stratford upon Avon x 9	Student	£180.00

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Presentation of Student Research	15%	15 hours	Yes (extension)
The presentation will introduce and discuss the significance of an item or items from the SBT collection to an audience of peers and tutors. The presentation may be given in person, or via recorded video or audio for students with reasonable adjustments. Students will demonstrate their grasp of the principles of public engagement in their choice of approach and materials.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Exhibition (online)	50%	60 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will research, design and curate an exhibition for a stated audience, using the materials available in the SBT.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
Essay	35%	60 hours	Yes (extension)
This may take the form of a position paper, a detailed investigation of an object or a series of objects or another format to be agreed with the tutors			

Reassessment component is the same

## **Feedback on assessment**

Students will receive written feedback on all parts of the assessment.

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## **Availability**

### **Courses**

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TRSA-V1PF Postgraduate Taught Culture of the European Renaissance