

School of Humanities

Understanding the Past, Imagining the Future

The School of Humanities is committed to generating original ideas and innovative approaches to the enduring questions of the human condition. We are dedicated to preparing citizens of the future to face new and complex challenges and opportunities. We equip them with the tools to respond to rapidly fluctuating social, economic and cultural realities, with values firmly rooted in an understanding of the successes and failures of human history, and with imaginations enriched by critical study of some of the greatest products of human creativity: in literature, the arts, and philosophy.

Conceptual, artistic and literary expression is fundamental to human life; it underpins our societies, economies, politics, and communities. The Humanities fosters creative and critical thought about life in all of its variants. Our research and teaching are directed to developing the skills to sustain rigorous and persuasive arguments and to shape conceptual and nuanced accounts of past events, present circumstances and future possibilities. Across a myriad of professions, Humanities graduates bring to bear their skills and imaginations, as creators, communicators and advocates.

The knowledge and skills gained through the Humanities allow all of us to gain new insights into a whole range of human activity: from writing sonnets to economic planning; from metaphysical speculation to negotiating cultural difference; from commemorating heritage to digital communication. Through research and teaching the Humanities deepens and broadens our understanding of the cultural, literary, philosophical and historical context of human activity and foster the kind of intellectual finesse that is essential in these challenging times.