This MA Option on early modern London is available to students on the MA programmes in Early Modern History, British History, Historical Research, and Renaissance Studies, and to other MA programmes as appropriate and if places are available. It complements MA options on London in the 18th and 19th centuries, and others such as ‘Death, disease and the early modern city’.

The course focuses on London between c. 1540 and the late seventeenth century, and explores the creation of a metropolitan society and identity over a period of population expansion, economic transformation, and cultural diversification. Over the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries London grew tenfold, and changed from a compact, coherent city to a sprawling and heterogenous metropolis. By 1700 it contained some 10 per cent of England's population, and exercised an enormous influence in national politics and in the country's economic development. London and Londoners played a crucial role in the course and outcome of the Reformation in the sixteenth century and the revolutions of the seventeenth. London capital and enterprise drove the economic growth of the early modern period, including an enormous expansion of overseas trade and significant changes in the domestic economy. Arguably too London dominated English cultural life and fostered the evolution of a modern society, secular, leisured, comfortable, consuming - though it also saw the development of acute social problems.

A rich array of documentary sources survives for early modern London, which was also the centre of the burgeoning print and publishing industry. Readings of primary sources play a key part in the course, as does engagement with visual and material evidence for London’s past.

Themes covered will include spaces, places, and social topography; government, social order and stability; the London household and family; the role of religion in early modern London; the economy, the business community and the professions; social policy, crime and disorder; culture and the commercialisation of leisure; and (in the 350th anniversary year) the Great Fire of 1666.

Suggestions for preliminary reading:

**Essay collections:**
- Beier, A.L. and Roger Finlay, eds. *London 1500-1700, the making of the metropolis* (1986)

**Monographs:**
- Seaver, Paul *Wallington’s world: a Puritan artisan in 17th-century London* (1985)

**Online sources to explore:**

*The map of early modern London*

A website based on a digitisation of the woodcut map of London c. 1560, with considerable additional material especially of literary interest.

[http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca](http://mapoflondon.uvic.ca)
A London Provisioner's Chronicle, 1550–1563, by Henry Machyn
A modern scholarly edition of this MS chronicle covering 1550-1563, created by Richard W. Bailey, Marilyn Miller, and Colette Moore
   http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/machyn/

   http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/forthpub.html#stow

Old Bailey Sessions Proceedings
A large and sophisticated website with records of Newgate trials from 1674 taken from contemporary published accounts.
   http://www.oldbaileyonline.org

London Lives 1690-1800: crime, poverty and social policy in the metropolis
A fully searchable edition of ‘240,000 manuscripts from eight archives and fifteen datasets’, including some parish, criminal and coroners’ court records.
   http://www.londonlives.org/