



Genealogical Studies Core Reading List – 2025-26

The following is not a required book but may be of interest:

Hoult, Elizabeth. (2006) *Learning support: a guide for mature students*. London: SAGE. ISBN: 1412902959.
(Free online access at the Uni library.)

There will be additional specific reading with each lecture or session, but the following books are absolutely required (unless noted otherwise). The ISBN is added here only to facilitate the purchase of the books. Some of the books are available freely online via the University Library's online catalogue to registered students. <https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/library/>

Postgraduate Certificate

Annal, Dave and Collins, Audrey. (2013) *Birth, marriage and death records: a guide for family historians*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword Books. ISBN: 978-1783461363 [Module 2] (Free online access at the Uni library.)

Bettinger, Blaine. (2019) *Family Tree guide to DNA testing and genetic genealogy*. 2nd ed. Fort Collins, Colorado: Family Tree Books. ISBN: 978-1440300578 [Modules 2 & 4] (Free online access at the Uni library.)

Durie, Bruce. (2013) *Understanding documents for genealogy & local history*. Stroud: The History Press. ISBN: 978-0752464640 [Modules 1, 5, 6]

Evans, Beryl. (2015) *Tracing your Welsh ancestors: a guide for family historians*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword Books. ISBN: 978-1848843592. [Modules 2, 3, 4 & 5] (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Forrest, Mark. (2019) *Reading early handwriting 1500-1700*. London: British Association of Local History. ISBN: 978-0948140044. [All modules] **[If you can't get the Hilary Marshall book (listed below) then consider buying this one, it's an optional purchase though.]**

Fox- Davies, Arthur Charles. (1909) *A complete guide to heraldry*. London: T.C. & E.C. Jack. Available to download freely at <https://archive.org/details/cu31924029796608> . [Module 6]

Herber, Mark D. (2005) *Ancestral trails: the complete guide to British genealogy and family history*. 2nd ed. Stroud: Sutton. ISBN: 978-0750941983 [All modules] **[This book is useful but do not buy it if you can't get a copy at a reasonable price (under £20.00).]**

Holton, Graham S., ed. (2025) *DNA: a guide for family historians*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword. ISBN: 978-1036150136 [Modules 1, 2 & 4] (Free online access at the Uni. Library)

Jarvis, Claire. (2022) *Teach yourself palaeography: a guide for genealogists and local historians*. Cheltenham: History Press. ISBN: 978-0750998772. [All modules] **[If you can't get the Hilary Marshall book (listed below) then get this one.]** (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Jolly, Emma. (2020) *A guide to tracing your family history using the census*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword. ISBN: 978-1526755223 [Module 2] ((Free online access at the Uni. Library.)

Marshall, Hilary. (2010) *Palaeography for family and local historians*. 2nd ed. Chichester: Phillimore. ISBN: 978-1860776519. [All modules] **[This book is useful but can be very hard to find. Do not worry if you can't get a copy at a reasonable price (under £20.00).]**

Osborn, Helen. (2012) *Genealogy: essential research methods*. London: Robert Hale. ISBN: 978-0709091974 [Module 1 primarily] (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Paton, Chris. (2020) *Tracing your Scottish family history on the internet : a guide for family historians*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword. ISBN: 9781526768391 [Modules 2, 3 & 5] (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Stuart, Denis. (2006) *Latin for local and family historians*. Stroud: The History Press. ISBN: 978-1860773853. [Module 6] [This is an optional purchase – if you have no experience with Latin, you may find this useful.]

Tate, W. E. (2011) *The parish chest*. 3rd rev. ed. Chichester: Phillimore. ISBN: 978-1860776113 [Modules 2, 5] [This edition is suggested as it's the most recent but older editions are fine as well.]

Postgraduate Diploma – in addition to the above:

Antonova, Katherine. (2020) *The essential guide to writing history essays*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-249305481. [Modules 1-3, especially chapters 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 11] (free online access at the Uni. library)

Bell, Judith, Stephen Waters and Helen Johnson. (2024) *Doing your research project: a guide for first time researchers*. 8th ed. Buckingham: Open University Press. ISBN 978-0335252428 [Modules 1-3] (Free online access at the Uni. Library to the 7th edition from 2018.)

Denscombe, Martyn (2021) *The good research guide: research methods for small-scale social research*. 7th ed. London: Open University Press. ISBN 978-0335249831 [Modules 1-3] (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Greenwood, Val D. (2017) *The researcher's guide to American genealogy*. 4th ed. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company. ISBN 978-0806320063 [Module 1] (Buy this book or the one by Szucs and Leubking.)

Grenham, John. (2019) *Tracing your Irish ancestors*. 5th ed. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan. ISBN: 978-0717174652 [Module 1] (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Oates, Jonathan. (2012) *Tracing your ancestors from 1066 to 1837: a guide for family historians*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword. ISBN: 978-1848846098 [Module 1] (Free online access at the Uni. library)

Stuart, Denis. (2010) *Manorial records: an introduction to their transcription and translation*. Chichester: Phillimore. ISBN: 978-1860772993. [Modules 1 & 2] [This book is useful but is getting harder to find. Do not worry if you can't get a copy at a reasonable price (under £20.00).]

Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Luebking Sandra Hargreaves, eds. (2006) *The source: a guidebook to American genealogy*. 3rd ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry.com. ISBN: 978-1593312770. [Module 1] (Buy (or look at the free online version) this book or the one by Greenwood.) (This edition is available for free viewing in a digital/hyperlinked text format via the RootsWeb wiki and can be found at https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/The_Source:_A_Guidebook_to_American_Genealogy)

The following volume is useful but is now out of print. Some students have found second hand copies. But don't worry – course materials will cover some of the same ground. This is an optional purchase:

Chambers, Paul (2005) *Medieval genealogy: how to find your medieval ancestors*. Stroud: Sutton Publishing. ISBN: 978-0750936873. [Module 1]

MSc dissertation – in addition to the above

Murray, Rowena. (2025) *How to write a thesis*. 5th ed. London: Open University Press/McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN: 978-0335252978. (Free online access at the Uni. Library to the 2017, 4th edition)