The long-standing Keele Certificate in Local History is designed for those who want to know about the history of local places and communities, especially in Cheshire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire.

In particular, it aims to provide students with skills that enable them to do their own research, and many former students have had their work published as books, articles or on websites.

Every community needs its own historian, and it could be YOU!

**COSTS**

The cost for a student enrolling for the academic year 2014–15 will be about £425 (confirmed, with concessionary rate).

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more detailed information about the taught sessions, please contact

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**ENROLMENT**

An application form is available on the Keele University website at:

http://www.keele.ac.uk/hums/shortcoursesandcontinuingeducation/
A large range of topics will be covered from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day, as well as more general themes and special skills. Some examples are:

**Domesday Book.** What does it say about a place, and how do you interpret the text; if a place is not mentioned, does that mean it did not exist?

**Manor Courts.** How did medieval people organise their lives, and were most of them really under the thumb of an over-bearing lord of the manor?

**Settlements.** Why are some villages quite large but others small with scattered hamlets around them; and why do some town have a grid-pattern of streets at their core?

**Poverty.** Most people’s ancestors probably experienced poverty at some stage in their lives: how did they cope before the New Poor Law was enacted in the 1830s, and after than were workhouses really that bad?

**Industries.** Before urban centres developed during the Industrial Revolution many industries were located in what is now the countryside; how can the landscape be investigated to see signs of their activity?

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**20th Century**

Many places probably changed more during the last century than at any other previous time; what were the main factors in this transformation, and how can the changes be investigate?

**Sources and Skills**

Local history can be studied through a range of sources: manuscript and printed documents, including maps, but also the landscape itself, including archaeology; where can you find relevant material, and when confronted by an original manuscript written in a 17th-century hand, how do you learn how to read it?

... *Local History*

And, as an over-arching theme, just what is ‘local history’, and how does it fit into the wider national picture; and also how does it relate to family history and ‘heritage’?

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**STRUCTURE**

There are 20 weekly sessions (in the evening) over two semesters, October–March, each lasting about 2 hours and held mostly in the History Department at Keele University.

Some sessions are held at the Staffordshire Record Office at Stafford, where the archive staff are able to show original documents to students.

Each session will be lead by a member of the Keele History Department, providing the context for the topic under discussion and making use of various teaching aids. At all times students are encouraged to enter into discussion, based on their own reading of recommended books and articles.

**ASSESSMENT**

The award of the Certificate is based on the successful completion of four written pieces each year (as essays or in some other form), and also of a dissertation of some 10,000 words written over the summer of the student’s second year.

The dissertation subject is the student’s own choice, and for many is the highlight of the course, often leading to publication and further research.