



# Writing sample RMA History

## **Instruction**

Send in a research paper, essay or BA thesis on a subject relevant to the field of study, written in English.

## **Further guidelines for your writing sample:**

1. Your writing sample should be ca 4,000-6,000 words (excluding footnotes). If you have written an undergraduate thesis and would like to use that as a writing sample, please provide an extract that best shows your work. For example, you may like to send us your introduction, part of your analysis that best shows your ability to analyse primary sources, and your conclusion. If your thesis/paper is in Dutch, please translate an extract to English. We will not be able to read writing samples that are significantly longer than the allotted word count.
  2. A writing sample that demonstrates your ability to use primary *and* secondary sources (literature of the field) is strongly recommended. If you have not had the opportunity to write a substantial research paper and/or thesis based on primary source research because of the nature of your undergraduate degree, please explain this in your motivation letter and let us know the extent of your experience working with primary sources in history, for example, in a taught course or in practical work. Make sure your paper shows an ability to engage critically with the historiographical literature and relevant debates of the field.
  3. Make sure that your writing sample clearly shows your contribution to the field, be it through a novel set of sources, original analysis, or methodological or theoretical innovation.
  4. Again, proofread. Check your spelling, grammar and footnotes. You do not have to submit exactly the same paper you submitted for coursework; you may redact and improve it.
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