

Careers for History Majors

There are a great many career fields which build on studies in History. In exploring options, reflect on the skills you have developed through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

What skills and knowledge do I develop by studying History?

- researching by using variety of sources and tools, and evaluating sources and the reliability of information and ideas
- analysing information and ideas to come up with insights which clarify and enlarge understanding - includes being able to abstract knowledge out of a mass of information, distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, identify unstated assumptions, form judgements from conflicting evidence, and contextualise.
- constructing an argument by selecting and ordering relevant evidence
- producing written documents which communicate in a structured, clear, accurate and persuasive manner

While many of the careers below make use of all of these, some make strong use of a particular skill, e.g. Law – constructing an argument; Information Management – using sources; Journalism – producing written communication. In thinking about career choice, consider which of these skills you prefer using.

For some careers, your History knowledge base and subject area interests are important also.

What careers build on these skills and knowledge?

The table below lists a range of careers which make use of studies in History. The list is not definitive – depending on your own interests and experiences, there may well be other ways to build on your major.

More information on many of these career areas is available at:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Next Steps

The table also provides some information about ‘next steps’ ie what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether graduate study is required or whether immediate employment is possible.

There are two employment types for Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for

these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/find_a_job/professional_and_graduate_work

Career Field	Employment setting	Next Steps: Employment and/or graduate study
Information Management/Librarianship/Archives	Libraries, museums, universities, organisations	Graduate study – Archives, Information Management, Public Records Management
Curating/Public Programs	Museums, major libraries	Graduate study - Museum Studies
Research	Universities, research institutes, cultural and political institutions, Public Service	Graduate research path – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum)
Public policy –analysis, research, advice, planning	Government/Public Service Policy institutes, think-tanks NGOs, special interest organisations	GEPs with APS or VPS - either post BA, post BA Hons or graduate study eg Public Policy, Social Policy Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum), or Graduate study eg Public Policy, Social Policy
Commissioned professional history writing	Corporations, organisations, special interest groups, individuals, families....	Graduate research path – Honours/Masters/PhD
Teaching/ Educating	Secondary schools Universities	Graduate study – Secondary Teaching (requires studies to cover 2 ‘learning areas’)

	Cultural institutions – museums, historic sites, major libraries (Education Officer roles)	Graduate research path – Honours/Masters/PhD Honours and/or teaching qualification and/or experience
Publishing and editing (History-related and/or general)	Publishing houses, websites	Some entry level roles post BA, or Graduate study – Publishing and Editing
Journalism	Media organisations	Graduate study – Journalism or Some cadetships available – very competitive (most likely opportunities rural/regional areas)
International Relations/Diplomacy	Public Service International non-government organisations	GEPs with APS and VPS – either post BA or post graduate study; many departments have an ‘international desk’ Graduate study – International Relations
Law	Law firms Public Service Corporates (in-house legal advisory)	Graduate study - Law

What other careers can I consider?

History majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related but make use of transferable skills and/or pick up on other interests.

- **Careers via graduate study** – many careers are available via graduate study which is accessible to Bachelor of Arts graduates; these include both Arts-

related careers such as Journalism, Information Management/Librarianship, International Development; and careers in more diverse fields such as Urban Planning, Nursing, Information Systems, Accounting.

- **Careers via Graduate Employment Programs** - in addition to government, some other large organisations have programs open to all disciplines where graduates are generally recruited for general management careers. Some management consultancies also consider applicants from all disciplines. Opportunities are advertised (generally early each year) on *Careers Online*, and graduate recruitment sites eg Graduate Opportunities, GradConnection.

Where can I find out more?

Further information on career areas:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Other discussions about what you can do with a major in History:

- University of Tennessee <http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors/>
- University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand:
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/Resources/career_publications/career_view/index.aspx

Professional Associations:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration – Professional Associations by Degree - Arts)

Graduate study at University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>
<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>
<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Researching courses which are not offered at Melbourne: www.myfuture.edu.au