

Careers in History

Next Steps for History

Majors

What do History majors go on to do? The following table suggests some common career pathways. While some of these pathways require graduate study, some do not; many are possible with or without graduate degrees.

Role	Employment setting	How to get there
Information management	Cultural institutions (archives, libraries, museums)	Graduate study in archives, information management, or public records management
Curating/Public Programs	Museums	Graduate study in museum studies or curating
Research	Universities, research institutes, cultural institutions, consulting firms, tourism	Graduate research: Honours, MA or Doctor of Philosophy (Arts)
Policy advising	Public service Nongovernmental or nonprofit organisations, special interest organisations	Graduate employment programs with state or commonwealth public service (for BA or BA Honours) Graduate study in public policy or the Executive Master of Arts
Intelligence work	Public service	Graduate employment programs, for example with ASIO, ASIS, DFAT
Teaching/education	Secondary schools Universities Cultural institutions (museums, historic sites, state libraries)	Graduate study (a teaching degree requires two 'learning areas') Graduate research (MA or Doctor of Philosophy (Arts))
Journalism and communications	Media organisations Corporate in-house communications; consulting firms	Graduate study in journalism (Some cadetships are available; these are generally rural and regional) Graduate study in communications; graduate employment programs; some career-entry in the general job market
International relations or diplomacy	Public service International nongovernmental organisations	Graduate employment programs with state or commonwealth public service (many departments have an international desk) Graduate study in international relations or history

International development and humanitarian work	Public service (AusAID) International nongovernmental organisations	Graduate employment programs with Australian Public Service, either with or without graduate study Graduate study in development
Law	Law firms Public service Corporations (in house)	Graduate study in law
Indigenous history	Land Councils	
Business management	Commercial organisations	Graduate employment programs in corporations; or graduate study in commerce, management, Executive Master of Arts

Want to go straight to employment?

There are two pathways: general employment positions that are appropriate for new graduates, or Graduate Employment Programs, generally offered by large corporations or the public service.

For more information please see the Careers [Professional and Graduate Work](#) web page.

Want to get another degree?

Depending on your career goal, you may wish to get a research degree in History (MA or PhD) or to pursue a professional degree, such as a degree in Law or a Master's in International Relations.

For more information on graduate study at Melbourne, please see the

- [Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences website](#)
- Future Students [Graduate courses](#) web page
- or for courses not at The University of Melbourne the [myfuture website](#)

How do I sell my skills as a History major?

The reading, writing, research, critical analysis, and argumentation skills you develop as a History major are core skills in a variety of fields. The UK graduate careers website has an excellent list of the skills History majors acquire:

- critical reasoning and analytical skills, including the capacity for solving problems and thinking creatively, often through extensive reading
- intellectual rigour and independence, including the ability to conduct research using different types of tools, such as information and communications technology, and sources
- the ability to construct an argument by selecting and ordering relevant evidence and then to communicate findings in a structured, clear and persuasive manner, both orally and in writing
- additional communication skills, such as negotiating, questioning and summarising

- self-motivation and self-reliance with the ability to work without direct supervision and manage time and priorities effectively
- the ability to discuss ideas in groups, accommodating different ideas and reaching agreement
- the capacity to think objectively and approach problems and new situations with an open mind
- an appreciation of the different factors that influence the activities of groups and individuals in society

How do I know which career is right for me?

The Careers and Employment Office at Melbourne offers a number of tools that can help you calibrate your strengths, interests and specialized knowledge to a career pathway. For more information, please see the [Careers website](#).

Other useful websites

Careers information on relevant fields:

- Melbourne Careers [Applying for work](#) web page
- Other discussions about what you can do with a major in History:
 - University of Tennessee [What can I do with this major?](#) web page
 - [University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand](#)