

Careers in History

HISTORY



careers using history

politics
genealogy
library work
anthropology
archive work
administration

tourism
sociology
publishing
teaching
civil service
cultural heritage

law
journalism
archaeology
restoration work
diplomatic service
museum work



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gateway

5 WORK SKILLS HISTORY WILL GIVE YOU



CRITICAL THINKING



In school: You'll use a lot of different sources to learn about the past. You'll also have to use these to draw conclusions. That means you have to assess the information you have, as well as how reliable it is and whether it could be biased. Taking a critical approach to this will help you build well-balanced arguments...

TIME MANAGEMENT



In school: You'll have to work to meet project deadlines for your coursework. Much of your research and study is independent, so you need to make sure you manage your time efficiently. You'll also have to think about time management when you're sitting exams.

COMMUNICATION



In school: You always have to share what you learn and how you interpret your research about history. In school you'll do this through written essays and oral presentations. You'll also have group discussions with other students to talk about your ideas.

RESEARCH



In school: You'll need to do research to find answers to questions about the past. This will involve looking at a variety of sources and organising all of this information so you can understand it. You'll learn how to share the relevant parts of this in-depth research to support your findings.

ARGUMENTATION



In school: When you study history you're interpreting things that have happened in the past. You'll give your opinion on specific events, as well as explain how you think past events have an impact on something that's happening now. You need to support your opinions with facts and evidence from...



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Careers in History

If you are intrigued by our past and want to learn how it will shape our future, you should consider studying history. History is a multifaceted discipline that will increase your cultural awareness and moral understanding of the world we live in.

By studying history you'll gain a range of transferable skills, from informed citizenship and critical thinking, to research and general awareness. What's more, the knowledge acquired through the study of history is relevant in a wide range of disciplines and can lead to diverse employment opportunities.

It's a common misperception that studying history simply involves remembering people, events, key dates, and places etc. The who, what, when and where types of questions are just the start of it. Historians are far more interested in exploring the how and why questions – that is, interpreting events to better understand how they unfolded and why they occurred.

A history degree can lead to all kinds of careers. Some of the world's most influential business leaders share a common experience of studying history at university including Susan Wojcicki, CEO of YouTube. Some famous celebrities and politicians with history degrees include documentary filmmaker Louis Theroux (Oxford), Prince Charles (Cambridge), George W Bush (Yale), actor Edward Norton (Yale), actor and "Borat" creator Sacha Baron Cohen (Cambridge), former British prime minister Gordon Brown, and comedian Steve Carell.'

Jobs directly related to History include:

- Academic researcher
- Heritage manager
- Historic buildings inspector/conservation officer
- Museum education officer
- Museum/gallery curator
- Museum/gallery exhibitions officer
- Secondary school teacher

Jobs where History would be really useful include:

- Academic librarian
- Archaeologist
- Broadcast journalist
- Information officer
- Marketing executive

- Politician's assistant
- Solicitor

Typical employers

History graduates are employed by a wide range of organisations including heritage organisations,

- museums and libraries. Other typical employers include:
- accountancy firms
- archive and records offices
- banks
- charities
- higher education institutions (HEIs)
- international development organisations
- law firms
- management consultancies
- publishing companies
- retailers
- schools
- television and radio broadcasters.

Skills for your CV

A degree in history develops your:

- critical reasoning and analytical skills, including the capacity for solving problems and thinking creatively
- intellectual rigour and independence, including the ability to conduct detailed research
- ability to construct an argument and communicate findings in a clear and persuasive manner, both orally and in writing
- capability to work without direct supervision and manage your time and priorities effectively
- ability to discuss ideas in groups, and to negotiate, question and summarise
- capacity to think objectively and approach problems and new situations with an open mind
- appreciation of the different factors that influence the activities of groups and individuals in society.

Studying History at university

In the first year your choice of modules will probably be limited. Modules are often broad, covering long periods of history and wide ranges of topics. You'll probably

need to study both medieval and modern history. If you go to university in Scotland, where most degrees last four years, it's likely that this broad approach will continue into your second year – and that you'll be expected to study other subjects as well as history in your first two years.

In your final two years you should have more choice as to which periods and topics to study, and be able to examine them in more depth. Different universities offer different modules. More niche topics could include:

- Fashion history
- Architectural history
- History of medicine
- History of advertising and consumerism
- History of religion
- History of warfare ● History of science.

Apprenticeships in History

Are you fascinated by history? Perhaps you love visiting old castle or exploring Iron Age forts? It's all part of England's history and heritage, and a heritage career is one where you can play a part to help others enjoy that history for generations to come.

Heritage apprenticeships from Historic England are just like any other modern apprenticeship, except they're specially designed for the historic environment sector.

Within culture and heritage specifically there are many different apprenticeships. Apprenticeships offer real-life experience with supported development, enabling you to develop the skills and expertise to apply for and be appointed to a permanent role.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are over 700 different apprenticeship standards. Within culture and heritage specifically there are many different apprenticeships, including:

- Museums and Galleries Technician
- Heritage Engineering Technician
- Archaeological Technician
- Cultural Learning and Participation Officer
- Cultural Heritage Conservator
- Countryside Ranger
- Archivist and Records Manager

- Curator

<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/apprenticeship-category/subject/history/>
<https://www.apprenticeships-in-sussex.com/>

APPRENTICESHIPS LINKED TO HISTORY

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST
 - CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATOR
 - HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISER
 - HERITAGE ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN
 - HERITAGE CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST
 - LIBRARY, INFORMATION & ARCHIVE SERVICES SPECIALIST
 - MUSEUM & GALLERIES TECHNICIAN
- AND MANY MORE!**



Interested in apprenticeships, but not sure what to do next? Take a look at our 'What Now?' guide...
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