



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí
Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh
College of Arts, Social Sciences
& Celtic Studies

Bachelor of Arts (History)



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Course Overview

History is first and foremost about people, the forces that shaped their lives and the ways in which they changed their societies. Studying history makes us aware that our world today took on its current appearance less by chance than as a result of specific developments and decisions taken in the past.

The BA (History) is a four-year degree that offers you choice and flexibility in what and how you study. It enables you to combine your study of History (your 'major') with two other subjects (your 'minors') that complement your major: choose from Journalism and Global Media, Sociological and Political Studies, Economics, Philosophy, French, German and Italian.

Course Name: BA (History)

CAO Code: GY105

Course Level: 8

Duration: 4 years Minimum

**CAO Entry Points
2024:** 340

**Entry
Requirements:** Grade HS in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at 06/H7 level in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language, and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes.



Career Opportunities

The BA History prepares students for careers in the public and private sectors, including international development, the diplomatic and civil service, NGOs, journalism, publishing, marketing and media, the heritage industry, and education.

Study Abroad and Work Placement Opportunities

In Year Three, students may apply to study abroad for an academic year or semester in a partner university or undertake a single semester work placement. Work placements include community, industry and on campus opportunities. Study abroad and work placements are competitive and subject to availability.

Course Structure

Year	Pathway 1 Historical Studies	Pathway 2 History, Politics & Philosophy	Pathway 3 History (Joint Honours}
1	History with two of the following: Journalism and Global Media, Political and Sociological Studies, Philosophy, Economics and Public Policy, French, German, Italian	History with a minor each in Political Science, Sociology and Policy And in Philosophy	History with two other subjects from the Arts subject groupings
2	History with two minor subjects taken in first year	History with Political Science, Sociology and Policy AND Philosophy	History with one of the other subjects taken in first year
3	Work placement, Study Abroad or History Research Project	Work placement, Study Abroad or History Research Project	Work placement, Study Abroad or History Research Project
4	Students continue with History and their other subjects	Students continue with History and their other subjects	Students continue with History and their other subjects

Find Out More

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Careers in History



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History graduates and the employment market

History students acquire a wide range of skills and qualities that are valuable in many professions. The combination of information analysis, research and other skills are highly sought after by many sectors of employment. These skills include:

- Appreciation of the social, cultural and political context of historical interpretation
- Use of methodologies to collect, quantify, analyse and interpret data
- Critical thinking techniques
- Appreciation and understanding of the complexity of events and processes, especially in relation to changes over time
- Formulation of logical arguments supported by evidence
- Communication skills – oral and written
- IT, information retrieval and presentation skills
- Research skills and teamwork skills
- Sensitivity to different cultures and can deal with new situations
- Self-discipline, self-direction, independence of mind and initiative, alongside an ability to work with others

Source: "Degrees of Skill: Student Employability Profiles" The Higher Education Academy.

For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit:
www.universityofgalway.ie/careers

www.postgradireland.com also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

Typical jobs for History graduate

History graduates find employment in diverse fields. Here are some of the most popular career destinations for our History graduates:

Historian | Journalist | Teacher | Novelist | Data Analyst | Lawyer | Researcher | Information Officer/Librarian | Archivist | Policy Planner | Management Consultant | Speech Writer | Genealogist | Arts Administrator | Public Servant

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

Career Destinations of our History Graduates

It is useful to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at University of Galway. The following are some of the roles our History graduates took up immediately after graduation:

- Newsreader, RTÉ
- Marketing Assistant, Irish Distillers
- Teaching English in South Korea
- Freelance Sports Journalist
- Claims Customer Service Advisor, Halifax Insurance
- Clerical Administrator with Heritage Centre focusing on History of Blasket Islands
- Genealogical Researcher
- Graduate Trainee, Diageo, Dublin
- Revenue Officer, Revenue Commissioners, Galway
- Teaching English in Germany

Source: University of Galway First Destinations Survey

Boosting your employability as a History graduate

History students pursue a variety of careers and can work in business, education, public service at national and European levels, the legal field, politics, media, non-governmental organisations, the film industry, museums, archives, libraries, and historic preservation organisations.

All these careers require the skills of research, analysis, and writing, for which a History degree is excellent preparation.

Work experience is also a key issue and any experience you have to add to your CV will be a bonus. Volunteering is also an excellent way of adding experience to your CV.

The Career Development Centre at University of Galway has some reference books that may help find work experience and some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.

There are some publications that may help keep you up-to-date. These publications also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help also with job search and may be available to reference in the Careers library.



What Postgraduate Courses do History Graduates do?

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Our History graduates frequently choose one of the following postgraduate programmes at University of Galway:

- MA (History)
- PhD (History)
- HDip Business Studies
- HDip Systems Analysis
- Professional Masters in Education (PME)
- MA (Journalism)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Other postgraduate programmes undertaken by previous History graduates include:

- MA (History), UL
- MA (Twentieth Century History), Liverpool
- MA (History of Religion, Theology and Culture), University of Glasgow
- MA (Modern European History), Durham
- Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons
- MSc (Epidemiology), Imperial College London
- HDip in Education, UCC
- HDip Primary Teaching, Hibernia
- MA (European Union Studies), Leiden University Netherlands

What Our Students Say

"Studying history at the University of Galway was an invaluable experience. I have always been curious about the past and picking history as part of my BA (Joint-Honours) degree seemed like the perfect fit. The course offered a wide range of modules across many different periods. No two modules were the same and I got to expand my knowledge of history from the medieval to the modern period, covering Irish, British, European, and global history. Studying history has given me increased confidence in my writing, critical thinking, and public speaking skills. Lectures and tutorial classes were highly engaging, and it was inspiring to see lectures fully immerse themselves in their classes. I have recently pursued a Higher Diploma in Psychology (Conversion) at NUI Galway. The skills I have acquired through studying history have been a great foundation of learning for me and no doubt will stick with me in my future endeavours."

-Hannah Joyce

"While studying Arts at the University of Galway I realised that the worlds of history and mathematics were not so far apart. In fact, history is a key foundation for so much of modern mathematics. From looking at the early development of mathematical theorems to the historical social breakthroughs made in 20th century mathematics you cannot escape the crossovers between the two fields. During my undergraduate degree I realised that Epidemiology was the perfect field for me where my interest in the history of public health and my love for statistical mathematics came together. These crossovers are not unique to maths and history but studying two subjects that you are passionate about opens so many avenues for future careers."

-Ciara Hamilton

Where can I find out more?



The following websites contain relevant, interesting information on career opportunities with a degree in History

www.universityofgalway.ie/history/

Irish Association of Professional Historians www.irishhistorians.ie

Irish Museum Association www.irishmuseums.org

EUROPE

Higher Education Academy - History www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/heahistory

Genealogical societies www.genuki.org.uk/Societies/

www.academicjobseu.com

GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

www.universityofgalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html

Gradireland www.gradireland.com

Prospects UK History profile www.prospects.ac.uk/options_history_your_skills.htm

www.jobs.ac.uk [academic jobs, fellowships etc UK, Europe and worldwide]