

Career Opportunities with a Degree in... History

Choosing a career involves more than just finding out what is open to you. Knowledge about yourself is vital to the process. It is valuable to start by looking at your strengths, weaknesses, interests, abilities and skills in order to relate career options to you. The NUI Galway Career Development Centre will have resources to help you in your self-assessment and career planning including psychometric tests and reference books/files. Drop in to see one of our careers advisers, browse through the careers library or visit our website at: www.nuigalway.ie/careers

Your skills and qualities in the employment market

The main vocational value of studying History is that it provides good training in gathering, sorting and analysing information and ideas, and in explaining things in clear written and spoken English. Historians display an appreciation of the complexity and diversity of situations, events and past mentalities. Historians operate by rules of evidence, a key component of intellectual integrity and maturity.

Alongside the ability to develop and sustain historical arguments, historians employ cognate skills such as languages, computing, quantitative and qualitative methods. They also develop the transferable skills of self-discipline, self-direction, independence of mind and initiative alongside an ability to work with others.

Graduates should look for jobs that emphasise those skills, in which their strengths as a writer, researcher, and critical thinker will give them an advantage.

The skills History students acquire are fully adaptable and widely needed in today's competitive job market.

Where the Jobs are

The following is a sample of some publications that may have vacancy advertisements for English graduates. See also our Job Search leaflet.

National Papers (available to reference in Information Room):

- Irish Times – Business Section, Friday
- Irish Independent – Business Section, Thursday
- Irish Examiner – Money & Jobs, Friday
- Sunday Independent
- Local papers – e.g. Galway Advertiser, Thursday

Career Matters – our free fortnightly bulletin

Online – particularly www.gradireland.com and websites overleaf.

Possible Career Opportunities

Heritage Officer	Museum Curator	Librarian
Journalist	History Writer	Teacher
Information Officer	Antique Dealer / Valuer	Historical Researcher
Tour Guide	Exhibitions Manager	Arts Administrator
Archivist	Archaeologist	Genealogist

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

Up to 40% of graduate employment opportunities are open to graduates of all disciplines. In most cases, however you will need further postgraduate study or professional training.

History students pursue a variety of careers and can work in education, government agencies, the legal field, businesses, newspapers and magazines, 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.

Call to the Career Development Centre and meet with a career development adviser to explore your career opportunities.

Sample Job Advertisements

Some jobs advertised recently that may suit students / graduates (these jobs are not currently available and are shown here for illustration purposes only).

Assistant Heritage Project Co-ordinator, National Print Museum, Dublin. Required to tutor adults in history, heritage, tourism, tour guiding, local history and research. Degree in related field necessary. Ref. CM0306

Guide / Information Officer, Office of Public Works. Are you: a good communicator, proud of your heritage, interested in presenting the history of heritage sites? Ref. CM1106.

Hidden Histories Project Researcher, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University. With background in historical or art history research for the project 'Names and Faces', to write short biographies and help develop visitor resources. Experience in historical research and ability to write for a wide ranging audience, computer literate and ability to work to deadlines. Ref. jobs.ac.uk0107.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships, University of Salford. Candidates will undertake teaching and/or admin duties in addition to researching their PhD. Ref. jobs.ac.uk0107.

Project Assistant, British Museum. Exceptional communicator, organised, adaptable team-player, ability to meet strict deadlines, degree in classics/history/archaeology, ideally some experience translating Italian/German/Greek, good writing, proofing, editing skills. Ref. jobs.ac.uk0107.

Further study opportunities

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training. Some of the range of opportunities available in NUI, Galway include:

- PhD / MLitt History
- MA in History
- MA Medieval studies
- MA Culture and Colonialism
- MA Irish Studies
- HDip in Business Studies
- HDip in Education
- LLB

The Career Development Centre holds information on Postgraduate Courses in Ireland, the UK and further afield. The Information Room has sections on Ireland and the UK (including individual prospectuses), USA (with guides to applying, funding and lists of courses), studying in EU countries as well as further afield.

The Information Officer will be happy to help you locate appropriate sources.

Some other courses nation-wide include:

- MA Late Medieval & Renaissance Studies, UCC
- MA Local History, NUIM
- PGDip / MA Irish History & Politics, UU
- MA American Studies, UCD
- MA European Studies, UCD
- Dip/MA Ancient History, QUB

www.nuigalway.ie/careers also has sections on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide.

The website www.postgradireland.com also contains useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland, www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://europa.eu.int/ploteus> covers the EU.

What past graduates have done

It is always interesting to know what fellow graduates have done after obtaining their degree at NUI, Galway. This has recently been taken from First Destination Statistics.

- Claims Customer Service Advisor & doing Certificate in Training and Development, Halifax Insurance, Clare
- Clerical Administrator with Heritage Centre focusing on History of Blasket Islands, Office of Public Works
- Genealogical research, through FAS scheme
- Graduate Trainee, Diageo, Dublin
- HDip Media Communications, Griffith College Dublin
- HDip In Education, NUIG
- MA Community Development, NUIG
- MA Léann Eireannach, NUIG
- Management Trainee, Enterprise Rent A Car, Dublin
- Masters of Music Technology, UL
- MSc History of Intern Relations, London Sch Economics
- MSc Occupational Health & Safety & Ergonomics, NUIG
- Pro Rata Part-time Teacher, Co Offaly VEC
- Revenue Officer, Revenue Commissioners, Galway
- Substitute Teacher

Resources in the Careers Information Room

have valuable information resources, experienced career development advisers and information staff on hand to help you with your queries.

Reference material in the Information Room includes:

Folders:

- Occupational files (yellow) 'W'
- Arts General file
- Arts First Destinations

Books:

- Careers with an Arts or Humanities Degree
- Working in History
- Careers for History Buffs & Others who Learn from the Past
- The Museums of Ireland
- Careers in Art History
- The Which? Guide to Choosing a Career
- What can I do with an Arts Degree

Drop into our information room and we will be happy to assist you.



Useful websites

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information on opportunities with a degree in History.

Ireland

- www.nuigalway.ie/careers
- www.nuigalway.ie/history/
- www.museum.ie
- www.irishmuseums.org
- www.jobs.ac.uk

Europe

- www.academicjobseu.com
- www.hca.heacademy.ac.uk/docs/useofhistory.pdf
- www.genuki.org.uk/Societies/ (genealogical societies)

Abroad

- www.thewha.org/ (world history association)
- www.museumstuff.com
- www.oah.org/announce/jobs.html
- www.worldhistorycenter.org
- www.historians.org.au/career.html
- www.utexas.edu/cofa/career/media/arthistguide.pdf
- www.historians.org/pubs/careers/index.htm