



*Your Career with
an Arts Degree*

Careers in History

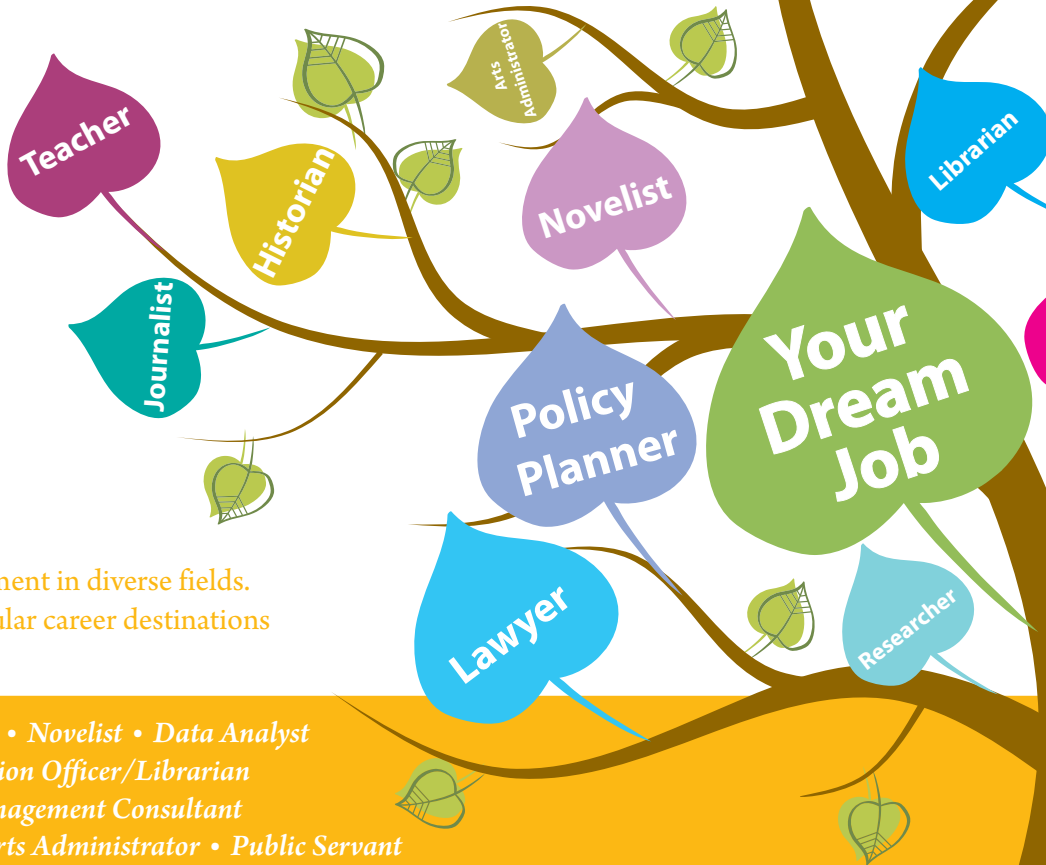


History graduates and the employment market

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
- The ability to understand and adhere to rules of evidence
- 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.*



Typical jobs for History graduates

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 NUI Galway. The following are some of the roles our History graduates took up immediately after graduation:

Newsreader, RTE

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, Office of Public Works

Genealogical Researcher, FÁS

Graduate Trainee, Diageo, Dublin

Revenue Officer, Revenue Commissioners, Galway

Teaching English in Germany

Source: NUI 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 NUI 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 NUI Galway:

MA (History)	HDip Education
PhD (History)	MA (Irish Studies)
HDip Business Studies	MA (Journalism)
HDip Systems Analysis	MA (Medieval Studies)
MA (Culture & Colonialism)	



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

MA (History of the Family), UL

Medicine, Royal College of Surgeons

HDip in Education, UCC

HDip Primary Teaching, Hibernia

MA (European Union Studies), Leiden University Netherlands



For information on studying in Ireland and studying abroad with useful links for many countries worldwide visit: www.nuigalway.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.

What our students say...



Lorcan Murray

I studied History and French Language, Literature, and Culture.

I have an MA in European Studies (European International Politics track) from Maastricht University.

I have just completed a joint internship at the British Council in Amsterdam and the British Embassy in The Hague. Soon I shall be working for BritNed, a company that owns and operates an energy cable between the UK and The Netherlands, to do research for the Legal and Regulatory team to work with the EU in building a European Super grid.

One of the most beneficial part of studying Arts at NUI Galway was the flexibility it offered in choosing my degree subjects, as I was still uncertain of what direction I wanted to take in my career. I chose History and French due to my interest in the subjects, and to the diverse opportunities they would offer me upon graduation. This proved to be true as it was through the History department that I was able to study in Strasbourg, where I decided I wanted a career that involved the European Union. It was my History degree that enabled me to pursue my MA in European Studies.

By studying French I became fluent in the language, and gained in depth knowledge of French culture. History taught me invaluable analytical skills: the ability to read large volumes of text; to pick out the key information; and to create balanced and convincing arguments. All these allowed me to successfully obtain my Masters, and were also extremely useful in my internship, and I know will stand me in good stead in my new job.

Where can I find out more?

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

www.nuigalway.ie/history/

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

ABROAD

World History Association www.thewha.org/

Organization of American Historians www.oah.org

World History Network www.worldhistorycenter.org

Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations www.historians.org.au/acpha/profession/

American Historical Association www.historians.org/pubs/careers/index.htm

GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

www.nuigalway.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]



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