



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

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

# *History*



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# Subject Overview

History is the study of the entire human past from the beginnings of humankind to your last thought. Historians highlight the complexity of human experience and causation. We welcome lively debate on why today's world is as it is, but insist on evidence as the basis of argument.

## What Will You Be Studying?

History at the University of Galway offers a wide range of topics from medieval to modern history and from Ireland to Australasia. In Semester 1 of First Year, you will study Ireland and Europe from the French Revolution to World War I, followed in Semester 2 by the impact of St. Patrick in Ireland and the conquest of the Americas. In Second and Final Year, you are free to choose from a broad menu of social, political and cultural history modules.

## Career Opportunities

Our graduates work in the diplomatic and civil service, international development, NGOs, marketing and media, law, heritage, and education.

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject Name:</b>          | History                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Course Code:</b>           | GY101                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>CAO Entry Points 2026:</b> | 337                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Duration:</b>              | 3 Years BA / 4 Years BA (International)                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Entry Requirements:</b>    | Minimum Grade H5 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at O6/H7 in the Leaving Certificate, including Irish, English, another language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes. |





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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](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/careers)

[www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com) also has useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland,

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://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/](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/history/)

Irish Association of Professional Historians [www.irishhistorians.ie](http://www.irishhistorians.ie)

Irish Museum Association [www.irishmuseums.org](http://www.irishmuseums.org)

## EUROPE

Higher Education Academy - History [www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/heahistory](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/heahistory)

Genealogical societies [www.genuki.org.uk/Societies/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/Societies/)

[www.academicjobseu.com](http://www.academicjobseu.com)

## GENERAL STUDENT/GRADUATE WEBSITES

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

[www.universityofgalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/careers/students/degreeopp.html)

Gradireland [www.gradireland.com](http://www.gradireland.com)

Prospects UK History profile [www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_history\\_your\\_skills.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_history_your_skills.htm)

[www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) [academic jobs, fellowships etc UK, Europe and worldwide]