







HISTORY CAREER SNAPSHOT

-  **BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS**
-  Explore your options and set career goals
-  Build your networks
-  Gain experience
-  Fine tune your job search skills
-  Show initiative and stand out

For further ideas access the [JCU Job Ready](#)

History

Having a career in history is not just about rooting around in dusty archives or becoming a museum curator (although a popular choice and a noteworthy career!).

There are a number of specialisations, for example: art historian, cultural historian, economic historian, geographical historian, history teacher in secondary schools, and academic historian in tertiary research and/or education.

Historians assemble historical data by consulting sources of information such as historical indexes and catalogues, archives, court records, diaries, newspaper files and other materials. They organise, authenticate, evaluate and interpret historical, political, sociological, anthropological and linguistic data, as well as undertake historical and cultural research into human activity, and prepare and present research findings. Historians formulate archives and library policies and express opinions on such issues as public policy.

Retrieved from [Job Outlook](#), October 2020.

The [Professional Historians Australia](#) say that the practice of history is a professional skill: it requires training and experience in critically assessing the evidence and events of the past and placing them into context.



Retrieved from [Job Outlook](#), October 2020.

Career Paths

A career in history may offer opportunities to be employed in the public service or private organisations, or as contractors or consultants.

Opportunities for short, medium and long-term contracts and consultancies arise in government bodies, museums, and archives, in heritage practice and native title.

Students with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History are also acknowledged for their general research and analysis skills. They can be employed in organisations that may not be an obvious choice to a history graduate such as researching driverless cars, or analysing infrastructure in developing nations within the [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development](#).

Some examples of common career pathways include:

- Information management in archives, museums, libraries
- Curating/Public Programs in museums

- Research in universities, research institutes, cultural institutions, consulting firms, tourism
- Policy advising in the public service, non-government organisations (NGOs), not-for-profit, special interest organisations
- Intelligence work in the public service
- Teaching/educating in secondary schools, universities, cultural institutions
- Journalism and communications in media organisations, corporate in-house communications, consulting firms
- International relations or diplomacy in the public service and international NGOs
- International development and humanitarian work in the public service (AusAid), international NGOs
- Law in law firms, public service and corporations
- Indigenous history; native title and Land Councils
- Business management in commercial organisations

Retrieved from [The University of Melbourne, Careers in History](#), October 2020.

Please note, postgraduate or additional study may be required for some positions.

The [JCU LinkedIn page](#) provides detailed information on current and past employers and positions held by JCU BA History graduates.

Over **4000 JCU alumni** have listed 'history' within their [LinkedIn](#) profile.

The top five employers listed by JCU History alumni are:

- James Cook University
- Queensland Department of Education
- The University of Queensland
- Townsville City Council
- University of Southern Queensland

The top areas JCU History alumni are working in are:

- Education
- Business Development
- Operations
- Research

Retrieved from [JCU Alumni LinkedIn](#), November 2020.

Job Opportunities

Vacancies listed on online job boards, graduate directories, employer websites and social media platforms all provide information on the range of positions and industries available to BA graduates plus the knowledge, skills and attributes required.

Employers may recruit from a number of degrees for positions requiring a particular skill set. For job opportunities in the sector check out the following websites:

Online job boards

- [Seek](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)

Employer Websites

- [Australian Job Search](#)
- [Queensland Government Jobs](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Public Service Graduate Programs](#)

Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to investigate Professional Associations relevant to the discipline of History and to consider student memberships.

Membership of a professional organisation is a clear signal to employers about commitment to a students' area of interest and professional development.

The benefits of membership include access to industry news, professional development, networking and job vacancies.

The following Professional Associations are worth investigating:

- [The Australian Historical Association](#)
- [Professional Historians Australia](#)
- [World History Association](#)

Internships

An internship is a component of the final year, SP2 core subject, [BA3000](#): Arts Edge.

Internships are designed to offer students practical experience to enhance their knowledge and skills plus gain exposure to the breadth of services offered by the employer. They are an opportunity to develop your professional networks and gain experience in your field of interest.

Some internships are competitive and applicants need to demonstrate initiative and competence.

To gain a competitive edge, Bachelor of Arts students may seek to undertake additional internships or work experience during their studies. Internship opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites, online job boards and graduate directories.

Vacation programs are also an opportunity to increase skills and professional development and are a constructive activity for the long summer break.

Check out student industry placement opportunities on [GradAustralia](#), [GradConnection](#), [Australian Government](#), [Queensland Government](#), or Google search for more opportunities.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to form professional networks, develop work skills and stand out from the crowd. Many employers value evidence of volunteer work.

Volunteering enables students to experience different work environments plus demonstrate their values and the causes they care about. Students are recommended to consider:

- Volunteering for opportunities presented through their degree
- Becoming a JCU Student Mentor
- Becoming involved in community organisations, particularly in areas related to history.

Opportunities are advertised through:

- [Cairns Museum and Historical Society](#)
- [Museum of Tropical Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Museum and Historical Society](#)
- [Cairns Art Gallery](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory](#)

Further Study Options

Honours

An Honours year is available to high-achieving BA History major students. It consists of extra study and the development of a personal research project and thesis.

An Honours degree enables you to explore a topic in greater depth and demonstrates to employers, academic

achievement and advanced research and writing skills.

Visit the [Bachelor of Arts handbook](#) for eligibility information.

Postgraduate Research

Graduates interested in a career in **research and/or academia** generally undertake an Honours year in the field of study in which the graduate has majored.

This is typically followed by further graduate research study, either Masters or PhD. Higher Degrees by Research (HDRs) comprise of a program of supervised original research in a chosen discipline.

Completing a JCU HDR will give you an internationally recognised research qualification and advanced transferable skills enabling you to contribute to original knowledge in your field of research.

Visit www.jcu.me/find-an-advisor for information on research interests of JCU staff and HDR advisors.

Graduate Programs

Graduate programs are structured professional development positions offered to recent, high achieving graduates as many place emphasis on the development of future organisational leaders. Opportunities exist within both the public and private sectors and successful applicants are provided on-the-job training and mentoring within the organisation.

Most graduate programs will be tailored towards one type of degree, but larger organisations will run several different graduate programs in different parts of their business. It's worth keeping an open mind; the core business of an organisation may not appear to have relevancy to history but research and analysis may make up a component of an organisation's portfolio.

Students apply for graduate programs during **their final year of study** for commencement of employment in the following year. Students must check graduate program portals from the beginning of final year to ensure they do not miss out.

Graduate programs are advertised through employers' own websites and social media, the Graduate Recruitment Directories [GradAustralia](#) and [GradConnection](#) and the [Australian](#) and [State](#) government online graduate portals.