HISTORY, PH.D.

With some 130 graduate students and nearly 60 faculty members, the Department of History is home to one of the oldest, most distinguished, and most comprehensive graduate programs in the U.S., renowned for its long and valued tradition of collegiality and openness. We offer separate graduate degrees in History and in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology. All told, our internationally recognized faculty (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-listed-alphabetically/) has been mentoring distinguished historians since 1893 (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/doctorates-awarded/).

Our degree program in History is designed to meet the needs of the Ph.D. candidate, and we offer funding (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/graduate/prospective-students/funding/) only to students who intend to pursue the Ph.D. However, we also welcome applications from students who wish to earn only the M.A. if they have external funding or are self-funded.

Graduate training in the History degree program is organized by primary fields of study. Although most of our students are trained in a single field of study, students whose research interests span more than one field have the option to craft an individual plan of study (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/graduate/individual-plan-of-study/).

We offer the following primary fields of study (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/fields-programs/) in the History degree program:

- African History
- East Asian History
- European History—Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern
- Latin American and Caribbean History
- Middle East and North African History
- South Asian History
- Southeast Asian History
- U.S./North American History

Within their primary field of study, students also have the opportunity to organize their studies thematically. Our faculty’s special thematic strengths (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-by-area-of-specialty/) are in:

- Borderlands and diasporas
- Environmental history
- Gender and Women’s History, Program in (p. 1)
- History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (https://history.wisc.edu/fields-programs-and-working-groups/history-of-science-medicine-and-technology/faculty-associates-affiliates/)
- Intellectual and cultural history
- Jewish History, Program in (https://history.wisc.edu/fields-programs-and-working-groups/program-in-jewish-history/)
- Labor and political economy
- Race, ethnicity, and indigeneity
- Religion and ritual
- War in Society and Culture Program (https://history.wisc.edu/fields-programs-and-working-groups/war-in-society-and-culture-program/)

Our faculty train resourceful researchers, committed teachers, and engaged public intellectuals. We offer a rigorous course of study that combines independent and collaborative work and that emphasizes scholarly and intellectual connectedness. The department strongly supports the Wisconsin Idea (https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/), the principle that education should influence and improve people’s lives beyond the university classroom. For more than 100 years, this idea has guided the university’s work. Students pursue a variety of careers, both inside and outside the academy.

OTHER DEGREE OPTIONS INCLUDE:
BRIDGE PROGRAM WITH UW–MADISON’S AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

This academic partnership designed is to allow students to complete the M.A. in Afro-American Studies and the Ph.D. in History. It enables the Afro-American Studies student who specializes in the History area to meet the basic requirements of the History M.A. while completing a degree in Afro-American Studies. Students may apply simultaneously to the two departments or may apply to the Department of History after they begin their program in the Department of Afro-American Studies, usually in the fall of the first or second M.A. year.

For details, see The Bridge Program (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/bridge-program/) or contact the graduate program coordinator.

JOINT PH.D. IN HISTORY AND HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Students who wish to obtain a joint Ph.D. in History and the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology are initially admitted to one of the degree programs, and should indicate interest in the joint Ph.D. program at that time. After completion of a master’s degree in History or History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, the student applies for admission to the other degree program and, at the same time, to a standing committee of the two programs for admission to the joint program.

Having been admitted to the other degree program and to the joint Ph.D. program, the student then applies to the Graduate School for approval of the joint Ph.D. (See the Graduate School’s academic policy regarding joint degrees (http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) for more information and deadlines.) The student’s application to the standing committee should take the same form as required by the Graduate School and should be prepared in close consultation with department faculty/staff.

Students in the joint Ph.D. program are assigned a home degree program and follow the regulations of that degree program with regard to seminar requirements, language requirements, financial aid, and regulations for satisfactory progress. Since the joint Ph.D. meets the doctoral minor requirement of the Graduate School, no formal minor is required of students receiving a joint Ph.D. However, students who wish to have a minor field recorded on the transcript may complete a regular Option A or Option B minor, or the internal minor of the department.

The joint Ph.D. student’s work is supervised by a committee consisting of three faculty members (two from the home degree program). The preliminary examinations test the student’s competence in both history and history of science, medicine, and technology, balancing the material and fields between the two departments (e.g. two in each, or three in one and two in the other). The number of prelim fields must equal the number required of students majoring exclusively in history or in history of science, medicine, and technology, plus one. Preparation of the Ph.D. dissertation is guided by the student’s supervising committee.
Satisfactory completion and defense of the dissertation constitute the final requirements for the joint Ph.D. degree.

JOINT PH.D. WITH OTHER DEGREE PROGRAMS

History degree program students who wish to pursue a joint Ph.D. (one degree, two majors) with another degree program must first be admitted to the other degree program. The proposal for the degree must be approved by the Department of History’s Graduate Council before it is submitted to the Graduate School. Students admitted to a joint Ph.D. will satisfy all the normal requirements of their field in History except the minor requirement.

For more information on joint Ph.D. options, please contact the graduate program coordinator.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

### Requirements | Detail
---|---
Fall Deadline | December 1
Spring Deadline | This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline | This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) | Not required.
English Proficiency Test | Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) | n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required | 3

All applicants must meet UW–Madison Graduate School’s minimum applicant requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/), in addition to the below History Graduate Program requirements described below.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1ST

To apply, applicants must submit or declare the following in the online application (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/):

**History Supplemental Application**

This section of the application asks you to provide information about your research interests, declare your preferred faculty advisors, and outline your prior language preparation (if any).

**Writing Sample**

Provide a sample that best illustrates the quality of your written work (optimally no more than 50 pages, double-spaced; maximum file size 6 MB).

**Transcripts**

Upload an unofficial copy of your transcript from all institutions attended, showing any undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded. If accepted, you will be required to send two official transcripts from each institution.

**CV or Resumé**

This should highlight your accomplishments and qualifications including academic honors or distinctions; professional, research, and/or teaching experience; and any publications.

**Letters of recommendation**

Provide contact information for the three individuals who will furnish recommendations on your behalf. (They will receive an upload link by email.) Your letter writers need not be historians, but they should be able to speak to your academic preparation to pursue historical studies at the graduate level.

**Statement of purpose**

The statement of purpose (2–3 pages, double-spaced) explains your reasons for graduate study. It may be the hardest part of the application to write, but it is also the most important. While you will likely include some autobiographical information, its primary purpose is to acquaint us with how your mind works. We want to know, for example, what kinds of intellectual problems and issues interest you, whose stories intrigue you, what sorts of analytical or narrative approaches you like to pursue, which historical writings you admire—and your reasons for these various preferences. Please help us understand your decision to enter the historical profession, especially at a time when the academic job market is in decline, and how you see your own role in it. There is no single right way to approach this part of the application, but we suggest that you bear in mind the usual cautions for personal writing: speak straightforwardly, in your own voice, and write as well as you know how.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

All international applicants must also meet the English Proficiency requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/) set forth by the Graduate School.

For additional detail about the admissions process, please visit the Prospective Student (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/prospective-students/) pages on our website.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

We offer funding only to students who intend to pursue the Ph.D. — an application for admission to our Ph.D. program, therefore, is an application for funding. We also welcome applications from students who
have external funding or are self-funded, including those pursuing the M.A. only.*

**MULTI-YEAR FUNDING PACKAGE**

If you apply to the History Ph.D. degree program without external or self-funding and are accepted, you will be offered a multi-year support package, which begins in your first year. The details of our support guarantees may vary by funding source, field of study, and other circumstances, and the guarantee is, of course, contingent on satisfactory progress and performance. Most of our support packages offer 5 years of support and begin with a fellowship year from the UW–Madison Graduate School, generously funded by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (http://www.warf.org/stewardship/grants-support/current/current-grant.cmxs). Our most distinguished packages include two years of fellowships and may also include summer support:

- Graduate Research Scholar fellowships (http://ls.wisc.edu/current-students/graduate-students/cgrs/) for underrepresented students or first-generation college students—offered annually
- George L. Mosse fellowships (https://mosseprogram.wisc.edu/fellowships/) in modern Jewish history, European cultural history, or LGBTQ history—offered annually or as endowment income permits
- Julie A. and Peter M. Weil Fellowship (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/prospective-students/julie-a-and-peter-m-weil-distinguished-graduate-fellowship/) in American Jewish history and select U.S. history fields—offered annually or as endowment income permits
- William J. Courtenay Fellowship in Medieval history—offered as funds permit
- Gerda Lerner Fellowship (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/2013/01/02/gerda-lerner-a-feminist-historian-uw-madison-emeritus-dies-at-92/) in women’s history—offered as funds permit

Additional years of guaranteed funding will come from employment as teaching assistants or project assistants or additional fellowships.

**COMPETING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

All students in good standing can apply for writing prizes, conference travel awards, and supplements to external awards. Once graduate students have passed their preliminary examination and advanced to candidacy, they may apply for various departmental fellowships and research travel funding.

For students who have reached the advanced stages of dissertation writing, further funding opportunities are available. Our advanced dissertators may apply for teaching fellowships that give them the opportunity to design and teach an undergraduate course – the Merle Curti Teaching Fellowship (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/graduate/prospective-students/funding/merle-curti-teaching-fellowship/) (any field of study), the George L. Mosse Teaching Fellowship in European History, and the William J. Courtenay Teaching Fellowship in ancient, medieval, or early modern European history. (These fellowships are offered as often as endowment income permits.) Thanks to funding provided by the Doris G. Quinn Foundation (https://dorisgquinnfoundation.org/), we are also pleased to offer a dissertator fellowship, which provides financial support for the final year of dissertation writing in any field.

In addition, UW-Madison offers a wealth of other opportunities to compete for funding offered, for example, by the International Division (http://international.wisc.edu/funding-your-international-experiences/), the Institute for Research in the Humanities (http://irh.wisc.edu/), and the UW Graduate School (research and conference travel awards (https://grad.wisc.edu/studentfunding/grantscomp/)).

More details on our funding for current/continuing students are available here (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/current-students/funding-opportunities/).

* If you wish to apply only for the History M.A. (also known as the terminal M.A.), please describe your sources of support on the History Supplemental Application. For information on the cost of graduate study at UW–Madison, click here (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/cost/).

**REQUIREMENTS**

### MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

### MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

#### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mode of Instruction Definitions**

**Evening/Weekend:** These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Online:** These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**Hybrid:** These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Accelerated:** These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

### CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

**Requirements Detail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
<td>51 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>32 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
M.A. Course Requirements and Thesis preliminary examination, students register for of study prior to taking the preliminary examination. After passing the credits) and any additional language requirements specific to their field study (see below), Ph.D. students must complete their doctoral minor (9

In addition to completing any M.A. course requirements for their field of specialization. Undergraduate lecture courses may not be taken for credit after the first year of graduate study.

Language Requirements: Students must fulfill their M.A. language requirement with an African language.

East Asian History
Course Requirements: Students must complete 4 graduate courses in East Asian History. These can be upper division lecture courses or graduate seminars/colloquia (taken for a minimum of 12 credits). At least two of these courses should be in the major field, and at least one should be outside the major field. NOTE: Students should also begin fulfilling the course requirements that must be completed prior to taking preliminary examination. They are required to take one seminar each of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean history. They may fulfill this requirement by taking a graduate seminar or an upper-division lecture course. They may also fulfill the requirement by serving as a TA in either an introductory or upper-division course. Students are also required to take HISTORY 703 History and Theory.

Language Requirements: Students must complete the eighth semester in their main language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean) by the time they either undergo the Second-Year Review or complete their fourth semester of coursework.

European History
Language Requirements: Students in Medieval History must demonstrate proficiency in two foreign languages, usually one medieval and one modern.

Latin American and Caribbean History
Course Requirements: Each student must enroll in a seminar or proseminar (if available) every semester of residence. Other courses will include History graduate seminars or similar courses in the culture area of specialization. Undergraduate lecture courses may not be taken for credit unless a faculty advisor or co-advisor approves.

South Asian History
Course Requirements: Each student must enroll in a seminar or proseminar (if available) every semester of residence. In lieu of a History graduate course, they may substitute an independent study in History or a graduate seminar in another department. In their first year, they may enroll in History lecture courses in their area of specialization. Undergraduate lecture courses may not be taken for credit after the first year of graduate study.

Language Requirements: Students must complete two years of study in one South Asian language (or demonstrate equivalent proficiency by examination).

Southeast Asian History
Course Requirements: M.A. students shall take six credits of graduate seminar in Southeast Asian history each academic year or, if not
available, substitute credits of independent study with a faculty specialist in Southeast Asian history.

Language Requirements: Students must complete two years of study (or demonstrate equivalent proficiency by examination) in a Southeast Asian language or, with the approval of the Southeast Asian faculty, in a relevant colonial/imperial language.

United States History
Course Requirements: Students must take:

- The core seminar, HISTORY 900 Introduction to History for U.S. Historians, in the fall semester of their first year. This seminar introduces students to the U.S. History faculty and their fields of research and teaches students the core skills of professional historians.
- Three three-credit seminars that cover a significant portion of the seventeenth and/or eighteenth centuries, the nineteenth century, and the twentieth century, respectively. If a seminar falls into more than one category, the student may choose the single category for which they will receive credit.

In exceptional circumstances, student may, with the consent of their advisor, take up to 6 credits in upper-level undergraduate courses. The instructors of such courses have the prerogative to refuse admission to graduate students. NOTE: Prior to completing their preliminary examination, students may use no more than 6 credits of HISTORY 999 Independent Work to meet the requirements of the major field. Students will probably find it useful to preserve most, if not all, of their 6 credits of HISTORY 999 for preliminary examination preparation.

Program in Gender and Women's History Concentration
Course Requirements: Students must meet the requirements of their primary field of study; take HISTORY 752 Seminar in Transnational Gender History; and take at least two additional History graduate seminars that are gender-specific, i.e., that have at least a 50% focus on issues and analyses of gender, women, or sexuality.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students are allowed to count up to 12 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
With program approval, students are allowed to count up to 7 credits of UW–Madison undergraduate coursework (numbered 300 and above).

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, students are allowed to count 15 credits (numbered 300 or above) of coursework taken as a UW–Madison University Special student.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee of advisors, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee: The committee must have at least four members; normally in the Department of History the committee is composed of five. Three members must be History faculty (https://history.wisc.edu/faculty.htm) or affiliates (https://history.wisc.edu/faculty_affiliates.htm) (the advisor and two others). At least one other member must be a UW–Madison faculty member from another department; History faculty holding joint appointments may serve as the faculty member from another department. Emeriti faculty who are within one year of their retirement date may serve as a full member of a four-person committee. If the committee has five members, the fifth faculty member may be emeritus or a “qualified outsider,” as determined by the student’s major professor (e.g., a professor from another university or a person with expertise relevant to the dissertation). With faculty approval, students may choose to have two faculty designated as co-advisors of their dissertation.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may by required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
Our program is committed to helping its graduates seek and secure employment following the completion of their Ph.D. Since the financial crisis in 2008, the academic job market has softened markedly. While the Graduate Program continues to provide outstanding preparation for academic jobs, we also encourage our students to think more broadly about their career prospects and the transferability of their skills. As funds permit, we occasionally bring to campus History graduates who are working in the non-profit, private, or public-sector to meet with current graduate students and share their experience. We also offer opportunities to learn best practices for post-doctoral fellowship applications.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Articulates research problems clearly and understands the limits of current theories, knowledge, or practices in the discipline of history.
2. Pushes the boundaries of current historical knowledge in formulating research questions, in the selection or use of primary sources, or in interpreting evidence.
3. Demonstrates breadth of historical and cultural knowledge.
4. Is able to articulate the broader significance of their work to scholars in other fields or disciplines and to the broader public.
5. Is able to design and teach courses at the undergraduate or graduate level.
6. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Boswell, Cronon, Dennis, Desan, Enke, Enstad, Hansen, Hirsch, Hsia, Kantrowitz, Keller, Kleijwegt, Lederer, McCoy, McDonald, Michels, Mitman, Neville (chair), Nyhart, Plummer, Ratner-Rosenhagen, Reese, Roberts, Shoemaker, Sweet, Thal, Wandel, Young; Associate Professors Callaci, Chan, Cheng, Gómez, Hall, Haynes, Houck, Ilsen, Kim, Kinzley, Kodesh, Lapina, Murthy, Taylor, Ussishkin; Assistant Professors Banerjee, Bitzan, Brown, Chamedes, Ciancia, Glotzer, Hennessy, Iber, Nelson (N.), Ramirez, Rock-Singer, Stolz, Whiting

See our faculty profiles—alphabetical (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-listed-alphabetically/) and by specialty (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-by-area-of-specialty/).

Faculty Affiliates and Teaching Associates: Carlsson, Chopra, Clark-Pujara, Cullinane, Ermakoff, Greene, Keyser, McGarr, Nelson (A.), Rider, Sharafi, Stern

See our faculty affiliate (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-affiliates/) and teaching associate (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/teaching-associates/) profiles.