Recommendations

B.A. History

To learn more about making the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:

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Global Learning

Dozens of upper-division (200-400 level) history courses offered each year provide insights into societies and cultures beyond the US, including those in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and East Asia.

Specific courses include History 215, 421, 422, 425 and all history courses numbered HIST 301-398, as well as some sections of History 492, 497, and 498.

Most history courses taken while studying abroad at university-approved programs can be counted as credit toward a history major in some way.

Timing for study abroad
Every semester multiple global study courses in history are offered.

Destinations
University of Warwick (UK) Exchange Programs: A Year or Semester studying and living abroad in Warwick (a town approximately 1 hour train right NW from London, with a prestigious university), organized by the USC History department.

This program and many other study abroad programs can work well with a degree in history, supplying a broader perspective on the past and its powerful influence on the global present.

Why this is important
Knowledge of history of multiple global regions can provide critical understanding of the current cultures and societies of these regions, as well as a powerful means to connect with people inhabiting various regions of the world today.

Global historical knowledge can also help to understand the complicated webs of interconnection that link seemingly distant societies and better appreciate the place of our local and national society within the wider world.

How students can get started
Take any course in history with a focus on global issues or regions beyond the US.

Contact the History Department main office about requirements and deadlines to study at the University of Warwick for a year or a semester.

Peer Leadership

Student Organization(s)
Phi Alpha Theta (Honors Society for students of history, including non-majors) sponsors events and gatherings devoted to discussing aspects of the past.

Many student organizations devoted to Area Studies (African Studies, E. Asian Studies, European Studies, Latin American Studies, etc.), to African American Studies, to Women and Gender Studies, and to other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences often sponsor events on historical topics and invite participation from students of history.

Opportunities
Help to organize and lead history-related events (debates, discussions, film showings, speakers, commemorations). Lead efforts to present the history of USC, Columbia, and South Carolina.

Why this is important
History is always a community conversation, open to those people who seek to participate, to learn and to contribute.
How students can get started

Speak with the current president of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Department Undergraduate Student Service Coordinator, or the Director of Undergraduate Studies in History for how to get involved in local event planning.

Internships

The History Department organizes a regular program of internships in “Public History” (the practice of presenting history to a wider audience, outside the classroom, through museum exhibits, archives, public markers, public events, preservation of historic sites, documentaries and other media productions), and much more.

Program Internship Requirements

Too seek an internship in public history through the History Department, sign up for HIST 480 (Internship in Public History), which is offered during the Summer term as well as the traditional academic terms. Enrollment in HIST 480 is granted only by application, sent to the instructor. Contact the History Department main office for details.

Recommended sites/work experiences

The professors of public history maintain a constantly shifting list of historical sites, archives, historical societies, government agencies, and parks (national, state, and local) at which undergraduate students may seek internships. Contact the History office for contact information.

Why this is important

Internships in public history provide a way to apply historical knowledge directly to enriching the cultural lives and knowledge of the wider population. Internships in public history may also provide valuable experience translating the skills of doing history, especially historical analysis and public presentation through various media, to varied professional endeavors.

Research

Related courses

HIST 300, The Historian’s Craft, is a course devoted to introducing students to all the major skills and practices needed to conduct historical research, create new historical arguments, and present arguments and conclusions in writing, in public speaking, and in other forms. HIST 300 is required of all History majors, and is the gateway to doing all other forms of historical research at USC.

HIST 497 and 498 (Senior Research Seminars) are courses designed to guide history majors as they work on their own research projects. Each section of HIST 497/498 is based on a general historic topic or theme, such as “Reconstruction in Columbia,” “Inside Nazi Germany,” “Middle Ages in the Movies,” and “Cold War Civil Defense.”

HIST 499 (Senior Thesis) provides opportunities for highly skilled, self-driven students to design and complete individual research projects. Every student seeking to write a senior thesis must work with a history department faculty member as a supervisor.

How students can get started

Speak with the professor leading HIST 480, whenever it is scheduled. (Contact the History Department main office for more details.) Then apply to enroll in HIST 480 (Internship in Public History).
Students planning research projects to be started before their senior year are encouraged to apply for Magellan Scholarships which can be linked to independent study courses for additional credit. Many other history courses often involve components of historical research.

Sample research projects or topics
Topics of individual research projects vary enormously, and can be arranged in many different ways depending on the circumstances.

Why this is important
Historical research is an essential task of doing history. It is the basis for our building knowledge and deepening debates about the human past and its meaning for the human present. Historical research is also a highly challenging practice which demands personal initiative and builds skills in incisive questioning, close reading, persuasive writing and speaking, and the transformation of disorganized information into meaningful claims supported by evidence.

How students can get started
Take HIST 300 as soon as you know you wish to major in History or otherwise engage in historical research. (Multiple sections are taught every fall and spring semester.) Speak with faculty members who do their on research on regions, topics, and themes that captivate your interest. Ask about burning questions and the sorts of primary sources accessible and ripe for additional study.

Contact the History office about applying for Magellan Scholarships. Contact instructors of specific courses about whether the course involves a research project.

INTEGRATE

How to integrate
HIST 497/498 (Senior Seminar) and HIST 499 (Senior Thesis) are Capstone courses, which enable students to combine the various bodies of knowledge, analytical practices, methods of argument, and forms of persuasive writing and speaking that they have picked up throughout their collegiate years. Personal experiences researching, studying abroad, working in internships in public history, and leading other students to engage in historical thinking almost always contribute to excellent work in these Capstone, research-centered courses.

LEAD

Initial career opportunities
An education in History provides unparalleled opportunities to build skills in critical reading, evidence-based argument, persuasive writing and presentation in other media, and the transformation of mass information into meaningful knowledge. These skills serve students well in nearly any field. Professional sectors that often employ people who majored in History include commercial business (domestic and international), journalism and new media ventures, legal practice, primary and secondary teaching, academic research and teaching, government, and non-governmental organizations.

Related graduate programs
Directly related to History: MA in Public History, MA in History, PhD in History. Other graduate programs that benefit deeply from a background in History: MA in Secondary Education (esp. in Social Studies), law school, journalism programs, and MA or PhD in Area Studies (African Studies, E. Asian Studies, European Studies, Latin American Studies, etc.).

The listed experiences are a sample of options for your major. See the USC Connect experiences database to search for more opportunities.

www.sc.edu/uscconnect/participate