



HISTORY

HISTORY: 5 THINGS TO KNOW

1. What is History?

History is the study of the human past and the stories we tell about it. It is the analysis of the changes and continuities that make the world what it is today and thus provides perspective on the present.

2. What do historians do?

Historians ask questions about the past and analyze documentary, visual, and other forms of evidence to answer those questions. They present their answers in a variety of forms (e.g., websites, books, films, museum displays, etc.) to various audiences, to provide insight into the past and to help us understand ourselves in perspective. Some historians use the quantitative methods of the social sciences; others engage in humanistic studies of texts and ideas. They challenge assumptions and explore the breadth of what being human can mean.

3. Sounds good, but what skills will I gain with a degree in History?

Historical training teaches you how to ask questions, to find and analyze evidence, to organize and plan, and to create, write and edit. It encourages intellectual discipline as well as creativity and imagination. It hones many of the skills most sought by employers as well as those that help sustain both good citizenship and lifelong curiosity, learning, and reflection.

4. What kinds of jobs do historians have?

Some people with History degrees go into **'public history'** jobs with **museums, historic sites, and the heritage sector**. Some others go into the wide range of careers that require problem solving, creative intelligence, and communication skills, such as the **civil service, intelligence services, media and communications, social advocacy and the non-profit sector**. Some others continue for further education and become **lawyers, teachers, librarians or archivists**. The possibilities are wide open.

5. Where to start?

Register for one of our first-year courses, e.g. HIST 1510, History of the Future; HIST 1501, Comparative Global History; or one of the First Year Seminars (HIST 1910).

Have a question? Email: history@dal.ca.

Learn more: dal.ca/history.



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