Options With Your History Degree
Studying History provides graduates with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that are highly valued by employers.

Unlike vocational courses you are not being trained for a specific job; there are many options to choose from and reading this booklet will give you some ideas to help you start thinking about your future possibilities and career goals.

The demand for graduate level skills remains high. However, the face of the economy is changing and a key to your future employment success is to understand the sectors that are growing and those that are in decline. For example, the digital media industries and professional services are growing rapidly, particularly in Greater Manchester. A recent report commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in conjunction with LinkedIn, found that those proficient in social media marketing, events coordination, data mining, and analytical problem solving skills, were much more likely to find employment.

This booklet is packed with real examples of how Manchester Met students like you have used their degree as a platform to build a career.

Some questions to consider when reading this:

- What are your strengths?
- What matters to you about work – your interests, priorities and values?
- Who do you want to work with – e.g. a certain type of client?
- Which organisations are doing the type of work that interests you?
- What are the ways in - will you need to do a specialist post-graduate course or will relevant work experience/volunteering be enough?
- Have you logged into MyCareerHub to search for vacancies?
- Have you made an appointment to talk though your ideas with one of our Careers and Employability Consultants?

How will my History degree make me employable?

Employers value the research and analytical skills developed by history graduates and the ability to communicate information in a clear and persuasive manner, both orally and in writing.

Other marketable skills include:

- **a talent for clear expression, both oral and written, commanding a broad range of vocabulary and critical terminology**, a crucial skill in any job, but especially primary and secondary teaching, HE lecturing, creative writing or journalism (broadcast, magazine, newspaper or digital);

- **putting forward ideas and arguments in a concise and persuasive manner**, useful if you are consider training as a solicitor or barrister, working in marketing, sales or advertising accounts management;

- **tracking trends and assessing their long-term impact on our lives today**, could give you an edge in trend forecasting, advertising and brand management, political research and features journalism;

- **basing conclusions on research and generating ideas**, essential skills for all types of researcher roles e.g. in TV and radio, public policy, conference production, business research, market research and management consultancy;
- the ability to gather, evaluate and interpret information, which opens possibilities for working in data analysis, information management, intelligence gathering (MI5), law enforcement, risk management (insurance, financial advice), genealogy and the legal and accountancy professions;
- appreciation of the different factors that influence the activities of groups and individuals in society, essential skills for public services, policy and research roles;
- having empathy, insight and ability to take on board others’ views, crucial in any job but essential skills for advice and guidance, health and social care and counselling roles;
- thinking creatively, critically and independently, identifying, absorbing and sifting complex information, highly valuable in public policy and research roles;
- organising and cataloguing material in a logical and coherent way; historians make excellent librarians, archivists, gallery and museum curators, logistics experts and project managers.

Skills gained at University level include

- prioritising & managing your time effectively;
- using initiative, self-motivation and a drive and determination to get things done;
- planning and researching written work, finding relevant information from a range of resources;
- understanding and explaining complex theories and arguments;
- critically analysing and evaluating evidence and arguments;
- ability to work independently;
- recording and summarising information efficiently;
- gaining a good understanding of the uses of information technology and developing a range of IT skills;
- leading and participating in discussions and developing confidence in your own opinions;
- project management;
- using judgment when weighing up different options and alternative perspectives;
- working towards a solution using negotiation skills;
- working with others when presenting ideas, information and practical work;
- making presentations/public speaking;
- understanding your own role and strengths in a team.
Job options related to your History degree include

Jobs directly related to your History degree could include:
- Heritage manager
- Historic buildings inspector/conservation officer
- Museum education officer
- Museum/gallery curator
- Museum/gallery exhibitions officer
- Secondary school teacher

Jobs where a History degree would be useful could include:
- Academic librarian
- Archaeologist
- Archivist
- Broadcast journalist
- Civil Service administrator
- Editorial assistant
- Information officer
- Politician’s assistant
- Solicitor

Click [here](#) for more information.

Other employment sectors to consider

All the suggested careers found in this guide are open to History graduates and there are many more besides. For many opportunities, you will find that employers don’t specify any particular degree subject. Therefore, it’s key when career planning not to limit your thinking to jobs that only relate directly to your degree. For example, sectors like engineering have roles for non-engineers in management, logistics, project management etc. You can research different job sectors on the [Prospects website](#).

- **Accountancy and consultancy**: you need a good GCSE in maths and a competency with numbers. For example RSM Tenon, are a professional services firm offering risk management, tax, recovery, financial management and business advisory services. Minimum entry requirements *240 UCAS points (the UCAS tariff has changed so check with UCAS)* and 2:2 degree projected in any subject.

- **Advertising, marketing and PR**: entry is very competitive but digital marketing, including writing copy for blogs and social media is a growth area. For example, Heamar a supplier of specialist military specification tooling and components to the Military, Aerospace, Medical, Motor Sport and Mass Transit Industries, advertised for a Digital Marketing Trainee on [CareerHub](#). Whilst the applicant needed to demonstrate a reasonable understanding and experience of digital marketing activities, they also considered candidates with a strong background in creative writing / copywriting and/or with exceptional English language skills.

- **Banking and finance**: AON, an insurance broker based in Manchester, recruits graduate trainees from any discipline for some of its roles. For example to apply for
- **Banking and finance**: AON, an insurance broker based in Manchester, recruits graduate trainees from any discipline for some of its roles. For example to apply for their Health & Benefits Broking and Consulting Stream, you must be educated to degree level with a 2:1 or equivalent qualification in any discipline. You should also be enthusiastic, creative and ambitious.

- **Business and management**: many of the UK’s largest companies offer graduate schemes where you can specialise in different areas of business. Bentley Cars, based in Crewe, have a Graduate Development Programme offering trainee roles in sales and marketing, HR, finance, purchasing and logistics.

- **Community and Voluntary Sector**: although there are relatively few graduate trainee posts, you can train as a youth and community worker, or move into paid administrative or fundraising roles (usually when you have experience gained in other industries or have already been a volunteer).

- **Government and public administration**: although this sector has seen a reduction in jobs, the public sector is still a big recruiter and encompasses jobs in the Civil Service, regional and devolved government, NHS management, local government, law enforcement and intelligence services. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme prepares recruits for management roles in HR, finance and general management.

- **Health and social care**: this is a huge sector, which is changing rapidly in the way it is structured and the job roles within it. It’s important to keep up-to-date with current issues if you are considering entry. Jobs include social worker, specialist community support workers, residential care management, counselling and work within charities.

**Further Study**

Postgraduate study has the potential to enhance your career prospects and may be essential for some career choices. With a variety of postgraduate qualifications available, it is important that you research your options before starting your applications. Read our [Postgraduate Study and Funding Guide](#) for detailed information on available courses and funding options and search for courses on these websites:

- [Find a Masters](#)
- [Find a PHD](#)
- [Prospects - postgraduate study](#)

**What have Manchester Met’s History graduates done?**

The following information represents some of the next steps for Manchester Met History graduates:

- Police Officer
- University Faculty Marketing Officer
- Civil Servant at the Department of Transport
- Researcher—Civil Service
- Finance and Investment Analyst
- Conference and Exhibition Manager
- Welfare and Housing Officer
- Industrial Relations Officer
- Business Development Manager
- Freelance journalist
- FE Enterprise Co-ordinator
- Charity Projects Officer
- Human Resources Officer
- Researcher – Civil Service
- PGCE Secondary History
- PGCE Primary
- Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)
- MA Public History and Heritage
- TEFL
- MA International Relations and Global Communications
- MA Classics & Ancient History

Be inspired by other Manchester Met History graduates.

Resources to research career areas

- **Prospects.ac.uk**: what can I do with my History degree? Research areas such as job options, further education, skills to add to your CV and typical employers for History graduates.
- **Prospects.ac.uk**: job profiles
- **Target Jobs**: what can I do with a History degree? Talks through skills you can gain, job options, and famous people who have History degrees.
- **Career and Employability guides**: provide detailed information on a wide range of careers topics and are downloadable from our website, and include: Opportunities in the Public & Not for Profit Sector, Looking for Graduate Jobs and Researching your career options
- **Career Planner**: what you want from work and generates some job ideas.

Finding graduate opportunities

Careers & Employability provide information and advice on job searching and we advertise hundreds part-time opportunities, vacation work, placements, internships and graduate jobs vacancies throughout the year on MyCareerHub. To access these vacancies simply login with your Manchester Met Student ID number and password.

**Graduate Recruitment Schemes** have many different names, but most are offered by larger organisations, from multinational companies to opportunities in the NHS, civil service, and local government. Graduate schemes typically last for around two years, although this can vary and allow you to experience different placements within the organisation to gain an understanding of how it operates, explore your interests and decide what type of work/role you are most suited to.

Here are some examples:

**Civil Service Fast Stream** is an accelerated graduate scheme, designed to prepare graduates for senior managerial positions.
This is the main Civil Service gateway listing all levels of vacancies, including graduate vacancies not recruited via the Fast Stream, searchable by region. You can also create email alerts for jobs that may interest you.

**NHS Graduate Training Scheme**

Other jobs in the **NHS**

**National Graduate Development Programme:** A graduate training scheme run by the Local Government Association

Only a small proportion of the UK job market is made up of graduate schemes. Most graduates will be employed directly into individual positions within organisations. Recruitment for these jobs is less structured in timing and promotion than graduate recruitment schemes, meaning vacancies can be harder to find. Many companies choose to advertise on the web in industry specific journals, magazines and websites, on their own company websites or via specialised, recruitment agencies. You need to familiarise yourself with the sector you are interested in.

**Ad Job Wall:** An intern, placement and job site for the creative industry.

**Arts Council:** All internships are paid unless part of a further or higher education course.

**Arts Hub:** Large listing of arts and creative jobs including internships and work experience.

**Arts Job Finder:** Part of Arts Professional - Wide range of jobs across the arts sector.

**BBC Careers:** Includes information on trainee schemes and apprenticeships.

**Creative Access:** to provide opportunities for paid internships in the creative industries for people from under-represented minority ethnic backgrounds.

**Creative Skillset:** the industry skills body for the Creative Industries, which works across film, television, radio, fashion, animation, games, visual effects, textiles, publishing, advertising and marketing communications. Includes a comprehensive listing of job roles available in film.

**English Heritage:** job opportunities with English Heritage.

**Historic England:** jobs and volunteering opportunities with Historic England.

**Heritage Lottery Fund:** employ a wide range of people in communications, finance, grant-giving and development, human resources, IT, legal, office services, secretariat and strategic and business development.

**Museum Jobs:** Find jobs in museums, galleries, libraries and archives.

**National Archives**

**National Trust Jobs**

**RSA:** (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).

**Guardian Jobs:** (Arts and Heritage) Good Search facility including by graduate level.

**Prospects**

**Target Jobs.**

**The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers:** as chosen by graduates.

**The Job Crowd:** arts & media graduate careers.
Professional bodies, sector and labour market information:

- Ancestors
- British Association for Local History
- Council for British Archaeology
- Institute of Historical Research
- Museums Association
- Society of Genealogists
- The Historical Association
- The National Archives
- UK & Ireland Genealogy

Working for yourself

Some Manchester Met graduates have also successfully started their own business/social enterprise.

Innospace: Manchester Met’s business incubator for start-ups and new enterprises

UNLtd: The foundation for social entrepreneurs, provide packages of support and funding for people who want to make a difference. They support individuals with entrepreneurial solutions to social issues. In addition, look at our guide: Working for yourself.

How else can you make yourself employable?

Careers & Employability Support

Make the most of your time at university and take advantage of the many opportunities on offer.

Take part in Careers and Employability events ranging from talks and workshops to employer events.

The Manchester Met’s Skills Award provides opportunities to enhance your university experience and learn how to articulate these skills to an employer.

Think about doing some volunteering.

Take any opportunity to get work experience even if it’s not directly related to what you might want to do longer term; employers will value it for the transferable skills developed and for the general experience of the world of work.

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- **Find Opportunities**: We advertise hundreds of part time, graduate and internship roles through My Career Hub.

- **Careers Consultant Appointments**: Book a 30 minute appointment and get expert advice from our specialist Careers Consultants.

For more information visit our website.