DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF HISTORY

In the PhD in history program, students delve into the subject with GW’s world-renowned scholars. The program’s proximity to some of the most important research repositories in the world, including the National Archives, Folger Shakespeare Library, National Security Archive, and Smithsonian museums, makes GW an ideal place to examine a variety of fields, from Renaissance Europe to the Cold War, and from imperial and colonial studies to modern American political and social history. Because the program is relatively small, students work closely with faculty and graduate with the knowledge, analytical tools, and writing skills for a range of professions.

The program offers full tuition remission and a full fellowship to cover living expenses for five years. During that period, doctoral candidates master relevant historiography and write a dissertation. PhD students gain teaching experience by serving as teaching assistants for undergraduate lecture courses.

Visit the program website (https://history.columbian.gwu.edu/phd-program/) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall – December 15

Standardized test scores: GRE general test is not required.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:
- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 68;

Recommendations required: Three (3) recommendations

Recommendations should be submitted by professionals familiar with the applicant’s academic work and potential for graduate study.

Prerequisite: A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college requirement or university with a major in history, or with substantial history coursework of high academic quality.

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission. If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: In an essay of 250 - 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, career plans, and the GW faculty member(s) with whom you anticipate working. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had and whether you are interested in serving as a research assistant for the Eleanor Roosevelt papers.

Additional requirements: All applicants must submit a recent writing sample (research paper preferred) of 10 - 30 pages in length. Please see the suggestions on what to include in your writing sample at https://history.columbian.gwu.edu/graduate.

International applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information (https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

For additional information on the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/) page.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences – Graduate Admissions Office
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 215
Washington DC 20052

Contact: askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)
REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degree regulationstext), including the satisfactory completion of the General Examination.

The requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Program (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#doctoraltext).

All students must take HIST 6005 History and Historians. Some students must pass language exams appropriate to their field and dissertation topic. Students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 to remain in the program.

Candidates in American history must select two major fields from early America (to 1815), 19th-century America (1815-1900), and 20th-century America (1900-). The minor field will normally be topical (e.g., U.S. social, U.S. diplomatic, historic preservation).

Candidates in imperial and colonial history take HIST 6128 Europe and the World, 1500–Present and HIST 6050 Modernization, Imperialism, Globalization and select two major and one minor field. Fields can include, but are not limited to, such combinations as Europe and the Americas (1500–1900), Europe and Asia, Europe and the Middle East, Europe and Africa, the U.S. and Asia, and China and Japan.

Candidates in Asian history select two major fields from modern China, modern Japan, modern Korea, and modern Southeast Asia. The minor field is chosen in consultation with the advisor.

Candidates concentrating in areas other than those outlined above must select one major and two minor fields. Major fields are early modern Europe, modern Europe, Latin America, modern Middle East, modern Eastern Europe, modern Russia, and military history. The minor fields may be either topical (e.g., European intellectual) or chronological (e.g., Tudor and Stuart England, colonial Latin America).

All candidates may choose to be examined in one minor field other than history if it is relevant to the program of study.