

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF HISTORY

Students delve into history with George Washington University's world-renowned scholars. The program's proximity to some of the most important research repositories in the world—the National Archives, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the National Security Archive, and the 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 programs are relatively small, students work closely with faculty and graduate with the knowledge, analytical tools and writing skills for a range of professions.

The MA program offers students the opportunity to focus on an area of their choice. Alternatively, students may opt to specialize in one of the departments' concentrations: History and Public Policy; Imperial and Colonial Studies; and US Legal History. The program prepares students for PhD work and careers that range from teaching high school, working for the government, or conducting research within the private sector.

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

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)

Spring – October 1

Standardized GRE general test is not required.  
test scores:

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 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 53

**Recommendations:** Two (2) recommendations required:

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 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.

**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 (<https://history.columbian.gwu.edu/graduate> (<https://history.columbian.gwu.edu/graduate/>)).

**International applicants only:** Please review International Applicant Information (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<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.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

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

Contact:

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

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

A minimum of 30 credits in upper-level undergraduate and graduate-level courses, including completion of 6 credits in a field of focus\*. Remaining credits are taken in elective courses selected in consultation with the advisor.

Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 to remain in good standing and to earn the degree.

\*A field of focus is centered on a specific period, region, or theme. Students work with the MA advisor to decide the specifics of their field of focus.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
HIST 6005	Introduction to Historiography (*taken in the first semester)	
HIST 6007	Writing History	
<b>Thesis option (6 credits)</b>		
HIST 6999	Thesis Research	
<b>Non-thesis option (6 credits)</b>		

Students choosing the non-thesis option must complete two research seminars for which a research paper is required.

### Electives

For all students, remaining credits are selected in consultation with the advisor. Up to 9 credits in undergraduate courses may be taken for graduate credit. To receive graduate credit for an undergraduate course, the course must be taken at the 3000 level or above and the student must arrange with the instructor for extra work. A maximum of 6 credits in approved courses may be taken outside of the Department of History. Students may take up to two courses (6 credits) as part of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan area.