

4 WAYS TO PRACTICE HISTORY

How to Build your Portfolio, Gain Expertise, and Develop Career Skills
through the MA in History Program

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



What: Typically, a workshop or presentation with Q&A delivered by practicing professionals, scholars, alumni, and current grad students

Who: Organized by the PLHC, GSC, HGSA, Faculty Research Seminar, faculty who invite scholars/speakers to class, University Lecture Series, Grad School, Career Center

When: Expect at least 2 department-organized events each semester, frequently held over the lunch hour or on Friday afternoons

Where: Usually on campus or held virtually

How: Just show up! Attend as many as you can. Watch for announcements to the listserv

Resources: GSC Chair, PLHC, HGSA

INTERNSHIPS FOR CREDIT



What: Register for 1-3 credits internships working with practicing professionals. Frequently internships are paid.

Who: Work with an institution or organization outside the History Dept. and under the supervision of a practicing professional (some PLHC opportunities may qualify)

When: Best done in the summer between years, or in your second year

Where: On-site with an institution or organization outside the History Dept.

How: Find opportunities through job boards, faculty announcements, your advisor, your peers, or make your own opportunity by contacting an institution directly. Discuss with your advisor. Develop a MOA. Complete a Special Studies Form. Register.

Resources: Graduate Internship Standards, MOA Template, Special Studies Form (all online and in Dept.), Graduate Policies document, HGSA, and public history job boards

PAID RESEARCH



What: Paid research positions on history projects

Who: Offered by the PLHC, CEMML, occasionally on small projects through the History Dept., and from individual faculty

When: There is no set schedule. The PLHC and others hire researchers as they have need. Best to take on paid positions in the summer, during your second year, or when you have a lighter course load.

Where: Depends on the project, usually some work on campus and some on-site

How: Watch for job postings and calls for applications from the PLHC and Dept. posted to the grad listserv. Check Handshake and CEMML's job board. Tell faculty with whom you work of your interest and availability.

Resources: PLHC faculty and Program Manager, GSC Chair

UNPAID SERVICE



What: Historical research, writing, or service you provide to a community or organization

Who: Volunteer to help PLHC with events or write a blog post, participate in the HGSA, assist community organizations or property owners with Natl. Register or other documentation work, serve on a nearby Landmark Preservation Commission, volunteer at a museum, join & participate in professional organizations relevant to your field of interest.

When & Where: Anytime, any place.

How: Occasionally, the History Dept. will announce service opportunities through the listserv. Contact the PLHC Program Manager. Reach out to relevant organizations and institutions to offer your services. Talk to your advisor.

Resources: PLHC Program Manager, your advisor, other faculty

QUESTIONS? TALK WITH THE GRAD STUDIES CHAIR, PLHC FACULTY,
HGSA, OR OTHER STUDENTS IN YOUR COHORT.