

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

2009

History and archaeology are not as tightly tied to specific professions as are computer science and management. To be sure, many students of history or archaeology elect to become historians or archaeologists, but the knowledge of the past is very useful for other careers, as well—think of journalism, communication, politics, economics, archival and library sciences, and even advertising, marketing, and human resources. It is hard to see how one could make sense of the law or political science without a good knowledge of the past. And even scientists and entrepreneurs operate more effectively when they understand how their field and their society have evolved.

The array of programs in history and archaeology offered in France is wide indeed—ranging from the history of music to that of Africa and embracing new specialities such as “archaeomatics,” which develops computer applications to aid in the study of various facets of archaeology.

Field: Humanities and social sciences

Also see the following profiles: *Anthropology; Communication; International relations; Documentation; Geography; Journalism; Languages; Letters; Museums, archives, and historic preservation; Philosophy; Humanities and social sciences; Political science.*

Sectors of activity: university teaching, research, historic preservation, publishing, cultural analysis and criticism, media and communication, journalism, public service, documentation and library science.

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

Universities

History and archaeology are taught at all postsecondary levels: licence and licence professionnelle (3 years), master (5 years), doctorate (8 years).

Studies for the licence build a foundation of knowledge about antiquity and the medieval, modern, and contemporary eras. Gradually students begin to specialize, particularly from the master's level on. In archaeology, the first years blend the history of art with archaeology.

Double majors are often recommended: history combined with history of art, law, literature, or even sciences or mathematics, for example, which are indispensable for future specialists in demography. Research master's programs are the gateway to doctoral programs, where students spent the bulk of their time researching, writing, and defending a dissertation.

Other higher education

- École Normale Supérieure de Paris (ENS), <http://www.histoire.ens.fr/>

From antiquity to the contemporary world; history of art and history of science; many international partnerships.

Selective admissions. Most students are admitted after a 2-year course of preparation. International students may apply for admission based on their academic record.

- École du Louvre, Paris, <http://www.ecoledulouvre.fr>

History of art, archaeology, epigraphy, history of civilizations, museum studies. From first undergraduate degree to doctoral level (Diplôme de recherche approfondie de l'École du Louvre).

- École Pratique des Hautes Études de Paris (EPHE), <http://www.ephe.sorbonne.fr>

From master to doctorate. Admits students with varied academic backgrounds (history, history of art, archaeology, philosophy, classical and modern letters, law, etc.).

- École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), <http://www.ehess.fr>

Masters and doctorates in history (cross-disciplinary approach).

- Institut National du Patrimoine (INP), <http://www.inp.fr>

Training for future historic preservationists, conservators, and restoration experts.

- École Nationale des Chartes, <http://www.enc.sorbonne.fr>

A literary grande école that trains students in history (for careers as archivists and paleographers), thereby contributing to the professional training of the corps of people responsible for preserving the nation's heritage. Numerous programs of international cooperation and research.

- École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (ENSSIB), www.enssib.fr

Degree in library conservatorship. Admission by examination (applicants must hold licence).

- Institut National des Sciences et Techniques de la Documentation, <http://intd.cnam.fr>
Trains specialists in information and documentation in close cooperation with public entities and private firms (2- to 5-year degrees).

- Institut National d'Études Démographiques (INED), <http://www.ined.fr/>
Study of demography and demographic phenomena applied to social life, history, geography, economics, and health.

- France's Instituts d'Études Politiques (IEPs) offer multidisciplinary training (law, economics, history, political science, modern languages). A licence in history is good preparation for the entrance examinations. Sciences Po Paris, the flagship of France's IEPs, offers a doctoral program in history: <http://ecoledoctorale.sciences-po.fr/phd/histoire.htm>

RESEARCH THEMES

Public interest in history runs high. The magazine *L'Histoire* prints 100,000 copies each month. People are fascinated by the errors of the past and how they can be avoided in the future. European historians are working on a "common story" that has been difficult to produce. Empathy may make us want to "do history," but formal training requires an ability to maintain one's perspective (even in the face of the most pressing issues), consulting a wide range of documents, respecting sources while also subjecting them to critical analysis, seeking synthesis, taking an interest in other systems of thought, and learning languages. The path of the historian is a long and rigorous apprenticeship.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

Annales, a review founded in 1929 by Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre and still published today, revolutionized the study of history around the world. Today it is well-nigh impossible to list all of the great French historians of our time, those whose works have been widely translated. Looming large among them are Arlette Farge, Michelle Perrot, Jacques Le Goff, Georges Duby, Roger Chartier, Antoine Prost (whose brief work, *Douze Leçons sur l'Histoire*, is an excellent introduction to the discipline), Michel Winock, and Maurice Agulhon.

Websites

- Ministry of Culture and Communication, <http://www.culture.gouv.fr/>
- Culture portal, <http://www.culture.fr/fr/>
- Joconde database of the Musées de France: archaeology, fine arts, decorative arts, ethnology, history, sciences, technology : <http://www.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/joconde/fr/pres.htm>
- Popular topics in history at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France http://signets.bnf.fr/html/categories/c_900histoire.html
- Annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales, <http://www.editions.ehess.fr/revues/annaes-histoire-sciences-sociales/>
- *L'Histoire*, a monthly magazine, <http://www.histoire.presse.fr>

Associations and research organizations

- CNRS, national center for scientific research, <http://www.cnrs.fr>
- APHG, association of professors of history and geography, <http://www.apgh.fr/>
- Professional association of teachers of history and geography, <http://www.clionautes.org>
- The French school in Athens, www.efa.gr
- Casa de Velazquez–Madrid, <http://www.casadevelazquez.org/>
- The French school in Rome, www.ecole-francaise.it
- The French school of the Far East, www.efeo.fr
- IFAO, French institute of oriental archaeology (Egypt), www.ifao.egnet.net

Archaeology

- Directory of French-speaking archaeologists, <http://www.archeophile.com>
- Archaeological digs open to volunteers, <http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/fouilles/>
- INRAP, national institute for preventive archaeological research, <http://www.inrap.fr/archeologie-preventive/p-7-Accueil.htm>
- *Dossiers Archéologie*, a bimonthly magazine, <http://www.dossiers-archeologie.com/>

Keywords

ancient – anthropology – antiquity – archaeology – archaeological sciences – archives – art – Christianity – civilization – classics – conservation – conservator – contemporary – culture – economics – environment – epistemology – geography – heritage – historic monuments – historical parks – history – history of art – humanities – industrial legacy – international relations – knowledge – law – literature – management – materials – mediation – memory – mobility – modern – museum – musicology – origins – philology – philosophy – politics – power – prehistory – preventive archaeology – protohistory – religion – sciences of society – human sciences – social sciences