

HISTORY

The History program is centered around critical and independent thinking, leading you to career opportunities in education, law, government, and more. At RWU, you will interpret the past, present, and future through multiple lenses. History comes alive through dynamic classes, exciting trips, hands-on internships, and professional opportunities to present your work.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, History majors:

Study Abroad

Long- and short-term study abroad opportunities allow History majors to experience the histories and cultures they study. Whether it's traveling to England to learn about our namesake, Roger Williams, or heading to Costa Rica for service-learning in public health, the possibilities for learning outside the United States are endless.

Take Interactive Courses

Courses such as Reacting to the Past, in which students re-enact 17th-century events like the Trial of Anne Hutchinson, bring historical studies to life. Students make connections between the past and the present in small-group discussions, lively debates, and hands-on projects.



- + Are you curious about the past and how it affects people today?
- + Do you see the world through multiple perspectives?
- + Are you passionate about the stories we tell about the world around us?

CAREER OUTLOOK

What are RWU History alumni doing now?

- Teaching high school social studies
- Working in museums
- Attending law school
- Archiving documents in libraries
- Working in higher education
- Earning Ph.D.s

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“The best thing about being a History major at RWU was the opportunity for academics and growth outside of class. Not only were there interesting and engaging classes like Assyrian History and Girl Culture, but professors also organized lectures, programs, and activities that provided cool ways for us to go to new places, try new things, and hear from new people.”

Allison Pagliaro '13,
Program coordinator of the Education
Department at the National Building Museum

Work in Museums and Archives

All History majors take HIST 299 with a lab. In this course, you will have graduate-level access to archives and museums, and gain experience working with documents and artifacts.

Get a Great Internship

History majors work with the RWU Community Partnership Center (CPC) to get involved with local communities. You will gain crucial professional experience while supporting important initiatives in museums, societies, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and more. History majors collaborate on exciting, impactful projects with organizations like:

- Rhode Island Historical Society
- Plimoth Plantation
- Newport Art Museum
- Cultural Survival: Intentional Human Rights
- Mount Hope Farm
- Herreshoff Marine Museum
- Women's Fund RI

Faculty

Our faculty have expertise in subjects such as mythology, animal studies, military history, colonial America, and modern Latin American History. History majors have the freedom to pursue their specific interests within the program. Students receive individualized guidance according to their specializations, and mentorship that supports their learning and career paths post-graduation.

CURRICULUM

Structure

All History majors take Hist 100 – Making Global History. You then choose from a variety of electives such as European History, U.S. History, African, Asian, and Latin American History, and other special courses. Your work culminates in a senior research project in the specialization of your choice.

Special Courses

The program offers a number of exciting courses that bring the past to life, through multiple cultural lenses. Examples include:

- Pirates, Sailors, Merchants, and More: The Atlantic World in Action
- Crime and Dissent in New England
- Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America
- Sacred Places: History, Nature, and Spirit

OVER 80% OF RWU STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH MORE THAN JUST A SINGLE MAJOR

Design your experience with your passion and have a unique career advantage with a minor or double major. Many students combine **History** with:

- Modern Languages
- Secondary Education
- Cultural Studies
- Educational Studies
- International Relations
- Legal Studies
- Anthropology + Sociology
- Preservation Studies



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