



UCD School of History
Scoil na Staire UCD

UCD SCHOOL OF HISTORY

The leading centre for historical
research in Ireland



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WELCOME

Welcome to the School of History in UCD, the largest school of history in Ireland and one of the Top 100 history schools in the world. Here, you can study the history of many parts of the globe, ranging from Ireland, Europe, Asia and Africa, from the fall of the Roman Empire to the late twentieth century. Our students examine major historical change across a wide range of themes - politics, society, gender, ideas, culture, medicine, environment, religion, sport, and war. You learn, and write, about people - the worlds they lived in, how they made sense of their lives, how their identities were formed, and how they sought to bring about change.

Why Study History?

Studying History at UCD provides you with skills necessary to comprehend the world we live in. History helps us understand how our world was forged and how people and societies operate. At UCD School of History you can explore the complexity of the past. You examine a wide range of periods and topics, spanning many parts of the globe and learn how to appraise evidence, critique claims and construct arguments – skills sought by employers today.

Our lecturers are award-winning international scholars and outstanding communicators. When you explore history alongside our experts, you engage with their ideas and research in lectures, seminars, and on a one-to-one basis. Our objective is not just to tell you stories about the past but to teach you to craft your own questions and develop your own answers, based on your analysis of a range of evidence. Assessing information, its sources and veracity, is critical in today's world, to help you be an active citizen and for embarking on a range of careers. Whatever path you choose to follow, your study of history here at UCD provides you with these key skills.

Here in the School, we are extremely proud of our large cohort of distinguished alumni, who pursued very different careers both in Ireland and internationally.

Feel free to contact us at history@ucd.ie at any stage with any query you might have – we would be delighted to answer any of your questions about our degree programmes.

Professor Catherine Cox
Head of School





EOIN SHEEHAN
Student

“I’ve found studying History very enjoyable and extremely intellectually engaging. This is due to the course modules themselves, which cover a wide range of historical topics and areas of interest, and the intimate class sizes which ensure a high level of personal engagement in lectures and seminars. The approach to teaching of Lecturers and tutors is extremely hands-on which helps ensure the best learning experience for students. The research, critical analysis and opinion forming skills that you learn during the course are all valuable transferable skills which would benefit a student in pursuing any number of potential career paths.”



SOPHIE O’LEARY
Student

“Studying History and Politics in UCD is one of the best opportunities I’ve ever come across. They combine really well with each other which makes each module truly intriguing. They also form a positive balance so that you are not just focusing on one specific topic! What I enjoyed most about this course so far is taking part in mock elections which really allowed us to kinetically learn about how real-life politics works. Not only did I enjoy it but it evolved my growing passion to possibly pursue a career in politics and international relations in the future.”



REBECCA BERMINGHAM MCGUIRE Student

“Studying History has allowed me to learn about the unique societies, cultures and politics of many different countries in both broader and more specific contexts. It is a subject that develops your critical thinking skills and can inform every aspect of your life. Core modules always consist of interesting and engaging projects that really delve deeper into topical subjects using a wealth of available resources and I have found all the lecturers, tutors and staff of the School of History to be extremely knowledgeable, helpful and understanding.”



For information on alternative admissions pathways, including Higher Education Access Route (HEAR), Disability Access Route to Education (DARE), QQI-FET, Mature Students, University Access, Open Learning and Lifelong Learning, please click [here](#).





What Will I Study?

At UCD we provide an exciting and diverse history curriculum with an unrivalled range of options for students. Our modules are taught by leading historians in innovative ways in both three- and four-year programmes.

FIRST YEAR

In First Year, you will take 'Creating History' where you will study in a small group with a historian to develop the critical thinking and research skills that are essential to the subject. This, together with other optional first-year modules focusing on broad historical surveys, introduces you to the study of history:

- > Creating History
- > Rome to Renaissance
- > The United States, 1776-1991
- > Modern Europe, 1500-2000
- > Ireland's English Centuries
- > Radicals & Revolutionaries
- > The Making of Modern Ireland, 1800-2000

SECOND YEAR

Begin to specialise in the areas of history that you are most interested in. Choose from modules such as:

- > History Today
- > The Irish at War, 1914-1998
- > Spanish Civil War
- > Islam & Christianity
- > Medieval Ireland
- > Nazi Germany
- > Northern Ireland 1920-2010
- > The French Revolution
- > Sport and the Modern World
- > Statecraft & Strategy
- > Celts, Romans & Vikings
- > Global Asia

THIRD YEAR

Third year is dedicated to small class teaching and the in-depth study of options that best fit your interests. Optional modules include:

- > Vietnam
- > The Irish Revolution
- > The Great War: Culture and Consequence
- > Slavery and the New World
- > Britain's War in Northern Ireland

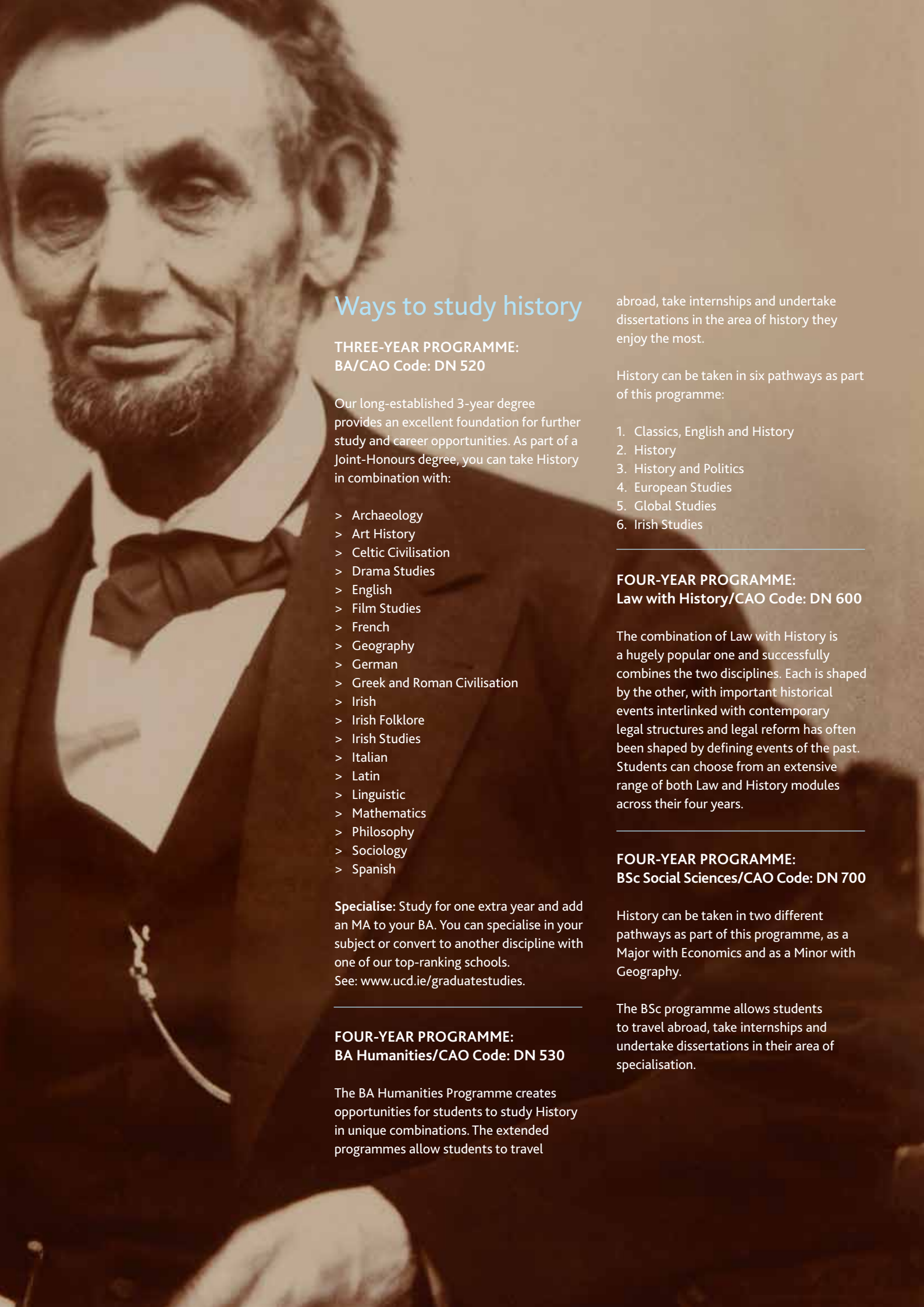
- > Roads to Heaven and Hell
- > Revolutionary Russia, 1905-1921
- > Alcohol, Drugs & Society
- > Florence 1200-1400
- > Migration Nation
- > Religion & Society in Ireland
- > Manufacturing Truth
- > Old Germany
- > The Digital Humanities
- > Themes in Contemporary British History
- > Jonathan Swift and Ireland
- > Questions in History
- > Weimar Germany
- > The 1641 Rebellion
- > The United States and the World
- > Medicine and Miracles
- > Modern Japan
- > Madness and Civilisation
- > History of the British Atlantic
- > Irish Foreign Policy, 1919-73
- > Satan in the Middle Ages
- > A History of Decadence
- > 20th Century Genocide & Mass Violence
- > Conquering Ireland, 1579-1691
- > Life in Ireland 1914-23
- > The US Pivots To Asia, 1890s-1950s
- > Frontiers of Empire
- > Devolution, Dominion, Democracy
- > Pills, Patents & Policies
- > 1942: The World at War
- > Political Violence in Ireland
- > Global History before AD 1000
- > Medieval Women
- > Science and the Environment

Students on four-year programmes can undertake an internship or study abroad in one of our partner universities

FOURTH YEAR

If you are studying History as part of one of our four-year programmes, you will undertake a research dissertation where you will be supervised by one of our historians. You can also choose from the extensive range of modules.

[Click here to see the range of modules on offer in the School of History, with a short description of their contents.](#)



Ways to study history

THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME: BA/CAO Code: DN 520

Our long-established 3-year degree provides an excellent foundation for further study and career opportunities. As part of a Joint-Honours degree, you can take History in combination with:

- > Archaeology
- > Art History
- > Celtic Civilisation
- > Drama Studies
- > English
- > Film Studies
- > French
- > Geography
- > German
- > Greek and Roman Civilisation
- > Irish
- > Irish Folklore
- > Irish Studies
- > Italian
- > Latin
- > Linguistic
- > Mathematics
- > Philosophy
- > Sociology
- > Spanish

Specialise: Study for one extra year and add an MA to your BA. You can specialise in your subject or convert to another discipline with one of our top-ranking schools. See: www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies.

FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME: BA Humanities/CAO Code: DN 530

The BA Humanities Programme creates opportunities for students to study History in unique combinations. The extended programmes allow students to travel

abroad, take internships and undertake dissertations in the area of history they enjoy the most.

History can be taken in six pathways as part of this programme:

1. Classics, English and History
2. History
3. History and Politics
4. European Studies
5. Global Studies
6. Irish Studies

FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME: Law with History/CAO Code: DN 600

The combination of Law with History is a hugely popular one and successfully combines the two disciplines. Each is shaped by the other, with important historical events interlinked with contemporary legal structures and legal reform has often been shaped by defining events of the past. Students can choose from an extensive range of both Law and History modules across their four years.

FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME: BSc Social Sciences/CAO Code: DN 700

History can be taken in two different pathways as part of this programme, as a Major with Economics and as a Minor with Geography.

The BSc programme allows students to travel abroad, take internships and undertake dissertations in their area of specialisation.

Our Students

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

History graduates find employment in many areas, including:

- > Broadcasting and Journalism
- > Business
- > Civil Service
- > Law
- > Publishing
- > Public Relations
- > Politics
- > Research
- > Teaching
- > Marketing
- > Policymaking
- > Tourism
- > Heritage

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Continue to study History at postgraduate and doctoral level, or use your History degree to open up new fields of study by progressing to prestigious postgraduate courses in law, commerce, business, information technology, social work and journalism.

Visit our hugely popular website to hear podcasts from our historians on Irish and international history. www.historyhub.ie

NIAMH O'KEEFFE

(Senior Lobbying and Campaigns Executive, IBEC)

BA History and English, 2008

"I graduated from History and English in 2008. Studying history has been invaluable to my career. My career has included work on policy, public affairs, corporate communications and I now work in IBEC which is a business representative body in Ireland. Having the fundamental skills around research, being able to work collaboratively and being able to critically analyse information has been invaluable. These are the core skills you acquire if you do a degree in history."

CIARA LYNCH

(Chief Operating Officer, The Brilliant Club)

BA History, 2009

"I graduated in 2009. My history degree in UCD taught me critical thinking skills and how to analyse different sides of an argument. It taught me to problem solve and to think on my feet. These skills have helped me to progress in my career and have been transferable from an initial career in finance to working in an education charity."

EVAN O'QUIGLEY

(Corporate Communications Manager, Mercury Engineering)

BA History and Sociology, 2013

"I studied history in UCD as part of a dual major in my Bachelor's degree and I followed that up with a Master's in History. Studying History in UCD gave me the key skills that I use every day for work such as writing, formulating an argument, researching, understanding and communicating often very difficult concepts."

LAURA ADDIE

(TV Researcher, RTÉ/Virgin Media)

BA English and History, 2018

"I graduated in 2018 with a degree in History. For the last couple of years I have been working as a researcher in live television on various series between RTÉ and Virgin Media Television. I have been dependent on the skills I picked up in my History degree. The research skills will really stand to you. Studying history will open up so many doors."

SHANE SWEENEY

(Administrative Officer, Department of Health)

BA History Politics and International Relations, 2019

"I graduated in 2019. I work in the Department of Health and I think my history degree has helped me mostly around critical analysis and being able to look at a lot of information and picking out what is important. We are exposed to a lot more information per day than any other generation before and I think with a degree in history, you get a nose for sniffing out what is important."

