

The MA in Applied History is a one-year intensive graduate program. It combines advanced historical study with practical professional experience, and is designed for students who want to move beyond the traditional thesis route into archives, museums, heritage, public history, and related settings.

What is the program?

Students in the program complete graduate coursework together with two internships, resulting in a major applied project. The degree is meant to develop strong research, writing, and analytical skills while also helping students learn how historical knowledge is used in institutional and public contexts. It is academically demanding, but it is also professionally oriented and practical.

Who should consider it?

This program is well suited to students who enjoy historical research and writing, but who also want experience outside the conventional academic model. It is especially appropriate for those interested in archives, museums, heritage organizations, public programming, interpretation, and curation.

Length	One year, completed over three semesters
Total credit hours	30 credit hours
Core structure	Coursework + internship + project
Main contacts	Dr Robin Ganev (Graduate Student Coordinator) Dr Philip Charrier (Internship Coordinator)

Program structure

The MA in Applied History requires 30 credit hours. The structure is as follows:

Requirement	Credit hours
HIST 800 or HIST 815 (note: it is possible to take both)	3
Three additional 800-level HIST courses	9
HIST 900 Research Methods in History	3
HIST 802 Internship (Two internships at 3 credits each)	6
HIST 902 Project (Two internship reports, supported and assessed by the internship supervisors)	9

Total	30
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Who should students contact?

Dr Robin Ganev is the History Department's Graduate Student Coordinator and should be the first point of contact for overall academic guidance, course planning, and progress through the degree. Dr Philip Charrier coordinates the Applied History internships and should be contacted about internship interests, placement planning, partner institutions, and the professional dimensions of the program. He is also one of your supervisors.

Internships

The program includes internships with historical and heritage institutions. Principal internship partners include the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, the RCMP Heritage Centre, the University of Regina Archives, the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw, and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Internships at other institutions are also possible, subject to prior approval from Dr Philip Charrier.

Internship work varies from one institution to another, but students may be involved in archival processing, cataloguing, historical research, interpretation, exhibition preparation, educational programming, database work, digital projects, meetings, or other institutional processes. What matters most is that students gain a clearer understanding of how historical knowledge is used in practice.

What should current students do early?

Students should begin planning early. That means meeting with Dr Ganev about course selection and with Dr Charrier about internship possibilities, while also thinking seriously about professional interests and institutional fit. It is wise to keep records from the start: notes on tasks completed, meetings attended, workplace culture, challenges encountered, and lessons learned will all be useful later.

Professional expectations

Students are expected to approach the internship as a serious professional commitment. They should be punctual, reliable, open to feedback, and attentive to confidentiality where necessary. At the same time, the internship is not simply work experience. It is part of a graduate degree, and students are expected to observe carefully, think analytically, and reflect on how institutions function, how decisions are made, and what constraints shape practice.

The internship report / HIST 902 project

At the end of each internship term, students submit a report. The suggested length is 3,000-4,500 words, plus appendices. Reports should combine description with analysis and reflection, and should respect institutional confidentiality where applicable.

A strong report usually addresses:

- placement context and introduction
- institutional overview
- work undertaken

- professional skill development
- institutional practice and decision-making
- workplace culture and professional relationships
- mistakes, challenges, and problem-solving
- reflexive professional development
- conclusion and appendices

Appendices are strongly encouraged. Depending on the placement, they may include such materials as labels, research outputs, database samples, program materials, images, written feedback, or other documentary evidence that may appropriately be shared.