

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

M.A. HANDBOOK

2024-2025

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I. INTRODUCTION

This M.A. handbook lays out many of the Department's policies and procedures, but it is also intended as a helpful guide for students as they navigate different stages of their careers in the History Department at Fordham. It should be consulted alongside the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Academic Policies and Procedures Guidebook (available here: https://www.fordham.edu/downloads/file/3247/gsas_policies_and_procedures_guidebook) Note that in case of any contradictions between this handbook and the GSAS Guidebook, the GSAS Guidebook shall take precedence.

A. ADVISING

Director of Graduate Studies

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) is the official advisor to all graduate students. The DGS can help students understand their options and stay on track as they fulfill their program requirements, and develop their professional skills. Prior to registering each semester, students must consult with the DGS in person to review their forthcoming schedules. Once a plan for the semester is agreed upon, the DGS can then remove the "advisor hold", so that students may register on time. Beyond facilitating registration, the DGS is available to discuss general questions about the program, coordinate with faculty at critical junctures, facilitate longer-term planning, and generally support students through the ups and downs of the M.A..

Faculty Mentor

Each M.A. student is expected to seek out a faculty of interest who will agree to become the student's faculty mentor and guide the student as he/she/they complete(s) the M.A. research paper or project (the "capstone"). While the DGS is the official advisor for administrative matters and is involved in guiding students through many aspects of the program, the faculty mentor is the central scholarly and professional figure in the student's M.A. experience, and for this reason is the person students most often think of as their "advisor". Practically, this role is represented by the faculty mentor's role as primary reader for the student's capstone research paper/project and convenor of the M.A. defense (where applicable). Students should invest in building a strong, open, productive, and mutually respectful relationship with their faculty mentors. This entails thoughtful communication, good planning, and adequate preparation. With luck, a graduate student's relationship with his/her/their faculty mentor will be warm and rewarding, and it will extend well past the completion of the M.A., but this kind of close engagement demands consistent effort.

Remember, that most students are guided by multiple faculty members with different strengths and affinities, one of whom will likely serve as second reader. Of course, the DGS is always available to help students navigate various aspects of the M.A. as well.

B. REGISTRATION

The main portal through which all students check their registration status, search for classes, add or drop classes, pay tuition, and access DegreeWorks (the interface that lists all the courses you have taken), and manage other student services is my.Fordham.edu. You will need your main Fordham username (name@fordham.edu) and password to log on to my.Fordham.edu. Each semester, the DGS must remove the “advisor hold” from student accounts before they can add or drop courses, including those needed for registration after Comps. Other holds, such as those incurred for financial delinquency, must be resolved with the appropriate department (e.g., the [bursar](#) in the case of a financial hold). Once resolved, financial holds are removed by the Assistant Dean for Academic Programs, Joanne Schwind. (adgsas@fordham.edu).

Enrollment Status

The M.A. in History and the M.A. in Global History can be completed in one calendar year, with three courses in Fall, three courses in Spring, and two courses plus the completion of the M.A. capstone paper/project in the summer. This is a *very* demanding load, and while we have had students follow this schedule, the History Department strongly recommends that students consider completing the degree in one and a half years (3 semesters + summer) or two years (4 semesters, with or without summer). We have found that a somewhat extended schedule not only makes it easier to fulfill the language requirement comfortably, it also results in greater student satisfaction and stronger professional (or post-graduate) results. It is often also financially easier when students have the time and energy to work while completing the degree. Of course, we know that not everyone can make time for a two-year M.A. and we will work with students to help them plan the program on their schedule, but it is important to consider a wide-range of factors when thinking about time to completion. We suggest talking to the DGS about your specific situation and needs so that you can make a reasonable plan that will set you up for success.

Full-Time Status

Students wishing to accept University funding, defer payment of student loans, or satisfy visa requirements, must be enrolled with full-time status. To be considered a full-time M.A. student, one must be registered for *at least* 10 credits each semester (Fall and Spring).

For those still completing coursework, this is usually accomplished by taking three 4-credit History Department graduate courses, though variations are possible. If a full-time M.A. student is enrolled in fewer than three courses to facilitate preparation for the required language exams, the DGS might approve a two-course load and ask the student to complete a “Matriculated Student Status Certification” form, so the Department can request that GSAS “force” full-time status. The form is available on the [GSAS/Forms and Resources website](#).

For students who have already completed coursework, it is not possible to maintain full-time status during the normal semesters using the “Matriculated Student Status Certification” form,

though part-time status can still be forced if the student is actively engaged in language preparation.

All active students must register each semester. You must be registered in the term in which you plan to graduate.

Part-Time Status

Students enrolled in the M.A. program on a part-time basis, are considered half-time if they are registered for 5-9 credits. Those needing status documentation should fill out the “Matriculated Student Status Certification” form as appropriate. Part-time enrollment does not change the five-year maximum time to completion of the M.A. (counted from the first term of matriculation). You can find your time limit in Degree Works next to “Expected Graduation Term” and more information in Section [7.3](#) of the GSAS Guidebook.

II. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A. COURSEWORK

Basic Course requirements

Fordham offers the M.A. in History with concentrations in two areas:

- 1) Medieval History
- 2) Modern History (European, U.S., or Global History since 1500).

We also offer an [M.A. in Global History](#).

To earn the M.A. degree, a student must take eight courses (30-32 credits), which can be completed in one year of full-time study (three courses each in the fall and spring, and two courses over the summer) or on a two-year full-time schedule if preferred (see [enrollment](#) regarding “forcing” full-time status). At least six of the required courses must be taken within the History Department, and students must maintain a ‘B’ (3.0) average in their coursework to qualify for their degree. (See [Appendices](#) for checklists)

Several different 4-Credit history graduate seminars are offered each semester, ranging across periods and areas as well as themes and approaches. These courses are usually taught between 2:30 PM and 8:00 PM on Rose Hill Campus (there are occasional exceptions in time, location, and modality). Courses should be selected in consultation with the DGS, with the goal of balancing breadth and depth.

Each of the two concentrations in the M.A. in History has the following additional course requirements:

Medieval History

All M.A. students in Medieval History are required to take a Proseminar/Seminar sequence.

Those planning to attend part-time may want to put off taking the sequence until they have experienced a few other graduate courses. The content of the Proseminar/Seminar varies according to the individual faculty member leading the seminar, and is usually devoted to the sustained exploration of a single topic. Though the sequence is typically taken in the first year, part-time students may elect to take it in a later year if the content is more appropriate. However, students must take the proseminar and its *corresponding* seminar in consecutive semesters, since they are linked. Students will begin developing their Seminar papers during the Proseminar, while the Seminar is primarily dedicated to students' own research, which will ideally be the M.A. paper or project.

Modern History

All M.A. students concentrating in Modern History must produce a major research proposal in the fall semester, typically as the final project of HIST 5300 History Theory and Methods: The Historian's Tools. Proposals should include the outline of a project to be completed in the following semester, a discussion of scholarship relevant to the topic, a description of the source material to be used, and a timetable for completion of the project. The proposal must secure the support of a faculty mentor qualified to mentor the project in the spring.

In the spring, all Modern History M.A. students who have successfully completed a research proposal in the previous semester will write a major research paper (of 40-60 pages in length), which can be revised for submission as the M.A. capstone. Students will take a 3-Credit HIST 8999 Research Tutorial with the faculty member who supported the proposal, and will simultaneously enroll in a 1-credit HIST 8000 Research Colloquium with the DGS. The Colloquium will meet periodically to share student progress, discuss the research/writing process, and present material.

M.A. in Global History

All students in the M.A. in Global History *must* take HIST 5300 History Theory and Method: the Historian's Tools (4 credits) in the Fall semester, followed by a HIST 8999 Research Tutorial (3 credits) plus the Research Colloquium (1 credit), taken concurrently in Spring.

They must also take three courses in global history, marked GH in Banner (12 credits) and three additional courses of general history (10-12 credits) to round out their training. With the approval of the Department, students may take up to two of these additional history courses in another Department, provided the courses are of a historical nature.

Independent tutorials

An independent tutorial may be set up by the student in cooperation with a faculty member, and the plan of study should clearly outline, readings, assignments, objectives, and meetings. Students are expected to have weekly contact with their tutorial leaders. An independent tutorial is *not* an independent study course that a student can do on his/her own, and should only be taken when there is a clear need for training outside of existing seminars.

Independent tutorials afford a unique opportunity to work directly with a faculty member. They require a great deal of initiative on the part of the student, and should reflect a clear set of

intellectual goals. Tutorials must be approved by the DGS, and it is advisable to consult the DGS before working out the plan of study, since the DGS will need to assess the timing and significance of the tutorial in light of the student's overall course plan.

History tutorials are 4-credit courses, with the exception of the 3-credit tutorial taken in conjunction with the 1-credit Research Colloquium. Students wishing to register for an independent tutorial should complete a [Graduate Tutorial Form](#) with the supervising faculty mentor, and submit the signed form to the DGS for review and approval.

B. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language exams are given in a wide variety of foreign languages and are administered by History Department faculty to assess reading proficiency at a level appropriate for research, including archival work. Students who feel prepared to take a language exam should contact an appropriate faculty member directly to discuss and schedule the exam.

A list of History Department faculty who can administer language exams can be found here: https://www.fordham.edu/info/20763/phd_in_history/1603/language_exam/1

Language exams generally consist of translating about 600-800 words of academic prose from the relevant language to English. The student is given two hours to translate the material with the aid of a hard-copy dictionary.

M.A. students must show proficiency in at least one language other than English or their native language. With permission of the Department and demonstration of research necessity, modern History and Global History students may also fulfill their language requirement by taking a graduate level statistics or coding course (this might require creating a graduate tutorial to augment an existing undergraduate course offering) and earning a grade of B+ or higher).

Students may take graduate level courses, such as HIST 5090 French for Reading (1 semester) or HIST 5001/5002 Graduate German for Reading I/II (Fall/Spring sequence). These courses do *not* fulfill the language requirement themselves, nor do they fulfill History course requirements; they are intended to help students prepare for their exams. For languages deemed appropriate by a student's mentor but not available at Fordham, permission for special arrangements will have to be requested through GSAS, and exceptions may be granted only in very unusual cases.

0-Credit Language Study

Each semester, up to twenty GSAS students across the University will be approved to take undergraduate language courses (other than French and German) offered by the Department of Modern Languages or Classics Department. This opportunity is only offered during the regular school year and GSAS students will only be accommodated in sections with fewer than 18 students and the express permission of the instructor. History M.A. students in good standing may request permission to register in an undergraduate language course by submitting the "0-Credit Language Study Application" (available under "Registration and Coursework Forms" [here](#)) during the semester *before* they plan to commence study. Priority will be given to students

who need language skills to complete degree requirements, such as dissertation research or language exams. Spaces are limited!

Accepted GSAS students will complete all course requirements, including written work, exams, and daily class preparation. Students' work will be graded SAT/UNSAT and they will sign an agreement indicating that they will complete these tasks.

GSAS students are charged only a \$100 language fee per semester for these 0-credit registrations; the fee is not covered by any GSAS tuition scholarships or awards.

C. M.A. CAPSTONE

M.A. in History: Capstone Research Paper

Whether students are concentrating in Modern History or Medieval History, full-time M.A. History students should have a proposal for their capstone paper by the end of the Fall semester. They will carry out research and writing the following spring semester, either in the Medieval seminar or in the Modern Research tutorial/Research Colloquium. Some full-time students will aim to complete coursework and their M.A. research paper for August graduation, while others will opt to continue into a second year of study. Both full- and part-time students should consult with their M.A. capstone mentor and the DGS to decide on a suitable plan of study.

The research paper should be 40-60 pages of original research and will be completed under the guidance of a research mentor, who is expected to offer the student at least one research tutorial focused on the proposed topic. Upon completion, the M.A. research paper will be read by the faculty mentor and a second reader in the Department. Once the capstone has been revised to the satisfaction of both readers, the student is responsible for scheduling an M.A. defense. When the defense has been passed successfully, any final adjustments to the paper can be made so that the Department can file the M.A. warrant for graduation. The capstone paper does not need to be filed with ProQuest/UMI.

Though most M.A. students progress smoothly through this process, there is no guarantee that students' theses will be accepted or that they will pass the defense. Please work closely with your advisors to ensure the best possible result!

M.A. in Global History: Capstone Research Paper or Project

Global History M.A. students have the option of completing a capstone research paper or a capstone project that applies their historical research to, for instance, digital public history, the curation of an exhibition, or the production of a rigorous set of pedagogical tools, among other possibilities. Project goals must be approved by both the advisor and DGS *before* students may proceed to proposal development. Full time Global History M.A. students will develop a proposal for their capstone paper or project by the end HIST 5300 (offered in the Fall semester). They will carry out research and begin writing/production during the following spring semester in the 3-credit Research tutorial/1-credit Research Colloquium. Some full-time students will aim to complete coursework and their M.A. capstone for August graduation, while others might opt to continue into a second year of study.

If opting for the research paper, the Global History capstone should be 40-60 pages of original research completed under the guidance of a research mentor, who is expected to offer the student at least one research tutorial focused on the proposed topic. Global History M.A. students hoping to complete a capstone project must have their plans, rationales, objectives, and schedules approved by the Department, and students are not guaranteed that their request to do a capstone project will be granted. All capstones must demonstrate rigorous historical methods and mastery of historical writing, regardless of the format. Specific requirements for capstone projects will vary based on media, objectives, and historical content; specifics will be laid out in the approved project proposal. Upon completion, the M.A. research capstone (paper or project) will be evaluated by the faculty mentor and a second reader in the Department. Once the capstone has been revised to the satisfaction of both readers, the student is responsible for scheduling an M.A. defense. When the defense has been passed successfully, any final adjustments to the paper or project can be made so that the Department can file the M.A. warrant for graduation. The capstone paper does not need to be filed with ProQuest/UMI students, but an archived version of the paper or project must be submitted to the Department.

Though most M.A. students progress smoothly through this process, there is no guarantee that students' capstones will be accepted or that they will pass the defense. Please work closely with your advisors to ensure the best possible result!

F. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Time to Completion

All requirements for the master's degree must be completed within five years of the first semester of matriculation in the program. Time limit requirements apply to both full and part time students.

Students who need to may apply for an extension to the master's time limit by making a formal request before the conclusion of their final academic year. Such a request must be made through the DGS; must be approved by the student's mentor, reader, and the department chairperson; and must receive the written approval of the dean. Extensions are only rarely granted to M.A. students, and some requirements might need to be re-done if they have expired (language exams, for example, are only valid for five years).

Application to Graduate

Graduate degrees are granted in late February, mid May, and late August of each academic year. Prior to those months, the DGS will request that those students who anticipate that all of the requirements for their degree will be met confirm their intention to graduate.

Students who anticipate graduating need to register online at My.fordham.edu for a degree. The deadline is usually at least a month prior to graduation, and students will receive an email from the GSAS reminding them to apply to graduate. Even if students are unsure that they will graduate, it is best to register online since otherwise their diploma will be delayed, and their names will not be listed correctly for that graduation date. It is always possible to withdraw from the list. Although there are three graduations, there is only one diploma ceremony, at

Commencement in mid-May; those graduating the previous August and February participate in Commencement along with the May graduates. For more information on Commencement please see <https://www.fordham.edu/info/25754/commencement>. Details of GSAS the diploma ceremony, including master's apparel, etc., can be found at: https://www.fordham.edu/info/26724/gsas_diploma_ceremony.

III. Funding

A. PARTIAL TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Partial tuition scholarships are available for [high school teachers in selected programs](#) and for teachers at Jesuit high schools. In addition, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences participates in the [Mayor's Scholarship Program](#), which provides partial tuition scholarships for employees of the City of New York. Some discounts may also be available to members of the [clergy](#) and to staff and faculty at partner institutions. Contact the GSAS dean's office for information about eligibility.

B. HOURLY GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Throughout the academic year and summer, hourly graduate assistantships may be available for < 20 hrs/week of work. These opportunities arise unpredictably and may be for short periods or the whole semester. Tasks will range widely, from research assistance and translation, to conference organization, or other duties. However, such assistantships will always be geared towards strengthening students' professional development. For up-to-date hourly rates, please see [this page](#), and scroll to the bottom. Please contact the DGS as early as possible to express your interest in such opportunities!

C. RESEARCH SUPPORT

Advanced M.A. students may apply for research support from the Department, GSAS, and the [Graduate Student Council](#) (GSC). This is particularly useful for archival research during school breaks and summers. Please work with your faculty mentor and DGS to plan in advance for these opportunities.

History Department

O'Connell Travel Grant

The [O'Connell Initiative in the Global History of Capitalism](#) invites applications for the O'Connell Travel Grant for graduate student research (\$3,000) that requires archival consultation abroad or elsewhere in the United States. The grant is open to all graduate students and it supports research across all historical fields, time periods, and geographical areas. Priority will be given to publishable projects that promote interdisciplinarity grounded in historical research, that interrogate and recover the many formations, practices, and scales of capitalist

phenomena and/or varying forms of resistance to such manifestations, and research that advances the understanding of capitalism's social, cultural, economic, and/or ecological imprint. More information can be found [here](#).

GSAS and GSC

Graduate Student Research Support Grant

Each Fall and Spring, GSAS and GSC offer the [Graduate Student Research Support Grant](#), which has three types of funding:

1. Conference Participation

Up to U.S. \$1,000 for participation in a national conference and up to U.S. \$1,500 for participation in an international conference, and up to U.S. \$750 for attendance at a national or international conference

2. Research

Up to U.S. \$1,500 for research activities related to either an applicant's thesis; preparation of a dissertation prospectus; or the dissertation project, where the objective is to distinguish the dissertation in its field nationally or internationally, and/or to increase the competitiveness of an application for external funding.

3. Alternative Learning Experiences

Up to U.S. \$1,500 for activities that will aid meaningfully in strengthening an applicant's research or professional competencies, but which are not tied to the same types of conference participation or research activities as outlined above. This is an excellent choice for supporting language study unavailable through regular coursework.

IV. GRADUATE GROUPS AND RESOURCES

The [Graduate Student Council](#) (GSC) is a student government organization that advocates on the behalf of graduate students on a variety of concerns. It also fosters community and supports personal and professional development through many events throughout the year. The GSC is an important component of student life, and is a gateway to an array of resources, [services](#), and [common interest groups](#).

A. FORDHAM HGSA

The Fordham History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) is a student-run group whose primary goal is the professional and personal development of graduate students in our Department. The HGSA regularly holds professional development workshops, as well as colloquia where graduate students are given the opportunity to present and discuss potential ideas for research, chapters of their dissertation, papers for publication, and conference presentations. The HGSA also holds socials where graduate students meet in an informal setting for food and drinks. During the summer the HGSA continues to foster the academic community through socials and meetings off-campus. Graduate school is challenging and the Fordham HGSA provides a community of support and intellectual interaction outside the classroom. Please forward any questions or suggestions to fordhamhgsa@gmail.com. The current

presidents of the HGSA are Owen Clow (oclow@fordham.edu), Benjamin Bertrand (bbertrand3@fordham.edu), and Reece Brosco (rbrosco@fordham.edu).

B. GSAS FUTURES

GSAS Futures is a professional development initiative that promotes career pathway preparation for our students across the arts and sciences. Adopting the view that career preparation involves a total emotional and intellectual commitment, Futures coordinates programming that encourages students to thrive while navigating the rigors of their graduate programs and thinking critically about their professional next steps. GSAS Futures is run by graduate students for graduate students and coordinates with many offices across the University to inform and support students in all aspects of their graduate experience and future plans.

As a hub for professional development activities across the university, Futures coordinates student- and department-driven programming that includes:

- Leadership Programs & Training in New Technologies
- Academic & Collaborative Careers Skill-building Workshops
- Networking, Career Planning, & Mentoring Resources and Events
- Well-Being Events, Resources, & Graduate Working Groups

C. CURA PERSONALIS

Fordham is committed to the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis*, or “care of the whole person”, and the History Department takes this mission very seriously, though graduate studies are notoriously challenging on many fronts. We take seriously the goal of wellness and believe that healthy, ethical, and happy people make the best scholars in the long run and are great companions through good and bad times. The M.A. will have ups and downs, but there are many people in the Department who want to get to know you and help you through the process. We’re in it together.

Those of you interested in wellness programs on campus, should look out for relevant [GSAS Futures](#) events and consult [GSAS Self-Care Resources](#). New initiatives begin each year.

Students interested in exploring their psychological and emotional health are also encouraged to explore the resources at the [Office of Counseling and Psychological Services](#), which is developing programs tailored to graduate student concerns.

[University student resources](#) abound, including [Student Health Services](#), [Disabilities Services](#), the [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#), among many others. These organizations can improve your quality of life, but they are also available to help you address discomforts and complaints you may experience.

For those interested in taking time off, please discuss your situation and your questions with the DGS, who will help you to explore your options for either medical or non-medical leave.

D. DIGITAL TOOLS

Graduate students are particularly encouraged to contact Shawn Hill (shill18@fordham.edu) and Heather Hill (hhill3@fordham.edu) to explore ways that Fordham's technology services can help you do more, more easily and effectively. Students might also want to get involved with the [Graduate Student Digital Humanities](#) (GSDH) charter group to explore digital pedagogy (and research!) with interested and invested peers.

G. [WRITING CENTER](#)

Fordham's writing center is well-frequented by undergraduates, but graduate students often forget that it is available to them as well. It is a great resource for organizing and polishing your seminar papers, and it is especially helpful for international students and students returning to studies after a break from their undergraduate work.

V. SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

A. WAYS TO SPEND A SUMMER

For many full-time M.A. students, summer will be occupied by the completion of coursework or the capstone paper/project. For those who opt for an extended time to degree or who are balancing part-time study with outside employment, summer offers a broader range of options, and thinking about ways to spend a summer in graduate school is an important part of both intellectual development and work-life balance. There are innumerable productive ways to spend a summer during the M.A., and it is impossible to cover them all. However, it is important to take some time to assess your needs and think creatively. While moving quickly to graduation might be the right choice, do not overlook the value of taking "me-time", reflecting on your personal and intellectual life, and recovering from an exhausting but rewarding school year! Summers also offer the chance to think about career or Ph.D pathways.

You might also consider:

- Improving or expanding your language skills. Don't forget paleography or coding languages!
- [Exploring archives](#), either as part of your master's research or as a low-stakes way to get used to the likely unfamiliar environment of the research library and archival collection. It will be advantageous to experiment with your workflow and data management choices (and test your sensitivity to dust!), and there are many [archival collections](#) in the New York area (NYPL, UN, AMNH, New York Historical Society, etc.), or close to wherever you are spending your summer. Dipping a toe into the archival waters does not have to take up the entire season and it can be both fun and enlightening.
- Taking an [internship](#). There are many offered around New York, both academic and professional. This might be a great time to explore public history, rare books, creative media, museum curation, or alternatives to academia. Many internships are circulated through the year, and you can also search Fordham's [Handshake](#) through Career Services. If you find an internship that requires academic credit, you may speak with the DGS about an Internship tutorial (1 credit).

- Presenting a paper as a conference to share your work, get feedback and get the word out about your research, preferably in an exotic locale (does New Jersey count?)
- Teaching as an adjunct at a regional or community college. This is a great way to gain experience and earn some extra money. While you cannot adjunct at Fordham, often other institutions will consider advanced M.A. students for their positions. The DGS will circulate some calls for applicants, but other graduate students are a great resource.
- Making money in general! Work that isn't linked to your M.A. might be a great way to earn extra cash, learn some new skills, and also avoid burnout. Fordham sometimes has summer hourly positions related to Departmental or University projects. These will be announced if available.

B. SUMMER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The GSAS/GSC [Graduate Student Research Support Grant](#) can be used during term time, but is often most helpful for summer research, learning, or conference presentation. Please see the relevant section above. Similarly the [O'Connell Travel Grant](#) may be used for summer archival research. Short-term fellowships to libraries, museums and other research collections (such as the [Library of Congress](#) or the [Huntington Library](#)) are other possible sources of support, and often involve you in the intellectual life of the institution you are visiting.

GSAS Summer Research Fellowship

The GSAS Summer Research Fellowship is for students who have at least 18 graduate credits and would like to devote the summer to the preparation of proposals to apply for prestigious fellowships, articles for publication and conference papers. In disseminating these awards, the highest priority will be given to summer projects designed to prepare a student to apply for prestigious fellowships, and secondly to improve a student's professional credentials (beyond the normal expectation of the program).

For more details, see the [Summer Research Fellowship](#) page.

VII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is an important part of History's graduate program. Not only is it critical to prepare students for future careers, we believe that skills associated with "marketability" can be built-into our everyday scholarly work. Whether you are committed to a career in academia, interested in "adjacent" alternative careers (secondary education, archives, museums, public history, journalism) or paths leading farther afield (technology start-ups, NGOs, politics, consulting, etc.), history gives you unparalleled research, analysis, and communication skills. By consciously cultivating these skills, as well as your time-management, networking, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills, you will strengthen your credentials both inside and outside of academia.

The work of University faculty obviously hinges on research, teaching, and publication, but it takes service, organization, diplomacy, and initiative to imagine and realize group projects. While the University and the History Department offer programs targeted at specific professional development concerns, we strongly encourage students to think of their normal activities as students and scholars in terms of career competencies, especially if they are still exploring multiple options for the future. There is no job in which taking responsibility, accomplishing tasks on time, and working both independently and with others are not important—not to mention the special knowledge and skills you will acquire on your individual journey.

The most obvious resources for professional development during your M.A. in History are the [Office of Career Services](#) (also available to alumni), [GSAS Futures](#) (which runs networking events, self-exploration initiatives and the popular [Three Minute Thesis](#) competition among many other programs), and the Department's own [History Graduate Student Association](#) (HGSA), which organizes discussions about publication, presentation, the academic interview process, and other critical topics. Students should also consult [GSAS Career Resources](#).

Throughout the year the Department will organize several professional development events, some of which are planned well in advance, such as a compatible careers writing workshop and humanities alumni “speed dating” event spearheaded by the Center for Medieval Studies. Others make use of visiting scholars/alumni and other opportunities to bring together people who have been there before, across many career trajectories. These will be announced through Departmental communications, and are likely to include job talk practice sessions, conference presentation workshops, application letter training, and discussions about work-life balance. It is important for graduate students to clarify their own goals and interests and let the Department know how we can support your professional development through targeted events and activities. We also encourage you to share information about internships, opportunities, and learning experiences with the graduate community.

VIII. DEPARTMENT PRIZES

A. LOOMIE PRIZE

The History Department annually awards the Loomie Prize (with a cash prize and certificate awarded in December) to the best seminar paper produced during the previous academic year. All MA and PhD students who have taken the proseminar/seminar sequence or a research tutorial are eligible.

The award honors the many years of teaching and service by Rev. Albert J. Loomie SJ, a long-time member of the department who died in November, 2002. Educated at Fordham Preparatory School, Fr. Loomie received his BA from Loyola University in Chicago; a PhL

from West Baden College; his STL from Woodstock College; and a PhD from London University. He joined the Fordham faculty in 1958, where he rose to full professor in 1969, served as Department Chair in 1978-81, and retired in 1993.

Appendix A: Important Dates 2022-23

Aug 15	Last day to apply to graduate and submit degree requirements for August 2022 graduation
Aug 22	GA Fall 2022 assignments begin
Aug 31	Fall 2020 classes begin
Sep 8	Last day to Add/Drop a class for Fall 2022
Late Oct	Registration meetings with DGS for Spring 2023
Nov	Spring 2022 registration (dates depend on credit hours)
Dec 1	Deadline to withdraw without incurring WF or request an incomplete
Dec 13-21	Last day of classes (by day of the week)
Dec 16	GA Fall 2022 Assignments end
Dec 31	Last day to apply to graduate for Feb 2023
Jan 3	GA Spring 2023 assignments begin
Jan 13	Last day for Submission of Degree Requirements for February 2023 graduation
Jan 17	Spring 2023 Classes begin
Jan 20	DF applications due
Jan 25	Last day to Add/Drop a class for Spring 2023
Feb 5	Last day to apply to graduate for May 2023
Late Mar	Registration meetings with DGS for Summer and Fall 2023
Apr	Summer and Fall 2023 registration (dates depend on credit hours)
Apr 15	Deadline for responding to funding offer (all continuing students must reply)
Apr 21	Deadline to withdraw without incurring WF or request an incomplete
May 3-15	Last of classes (by day of the week)
May 5	Last day for Submission of Degree Requirements for May 2023 graduation
May 19	GA Spring 2023 Assignments end
May 20	University Commencement