



## Archives and Public History

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rchivists and public historians present and interpret history in a wide

variety of dynamic venues, ranging from history museums to digital libraries. For three decades, NYU has prepared students for successful careers as archivists, manuscript curators, documentary editors, oral historians, cultural resource managers, historical interpreters, and new media specialists.

The program emphasizes a solid grounding in historical scholarship, intense engagement with new media technologies, and close involvement with New York City's extraordinary array of archival and public history institutions.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### M.A. REQUIRED COURSES

- M.A. Seminar: Historical Research Methods
- Introduction to Archives I
- Introduction to Public History I
- Internship Seminar
- Research Seminar

#### M.A. ELECTIVES

##### Archives Concentration

- Introduction to Preservation and Reformatting
- Institutional Archives
- Historian and the Visual Record
- Advanced Archival Description
- History in the New Media
- Introduction to Moving Image Archives

##### Public History Concentration

- Oral History
- Historical Editing Seminar
- History in the New Media
- Historian and the Visual Record
- Media and History
- Local and Community History

#### M.A. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Satisfactory completion of 32 points and a grade of B or better in the Research Seminar.
- All required courses and at least two electives within concentration.
- A capstone research project approved by the Director.

#### SUMMARY OF M.A. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- B.A. degree (or foreign credentials equivalent to the U.S. bachelor's degree)
- GPA of 3.2 or better
- GRE General Test
- TOEFL required of all applicants who are not native English speakers
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose
- Official undergraduate transcripts
- Academic or professional writing sample that should not exceed 35 double-spaced pages

# FAQs

## Why pursue an M.A. degree in Archives and Public History at New York University?

Public historians and archivists operate in a global and technological environment that is rapidly changing. They require a broad education that will provide the intellectual engagement, conceptual tools, and practical skills necessary to engage diverse and demanding twenty-first century audiences. New York University provides graduates with the solid theoretical grounding, the exposure to contemporary trends, and the collaboration with broader communities necessary for future success. Students have access to world-class library resources, top professionals in the field, and an impressive array of leading public history and archival institutions throughout the metropolitan area. Internships are integrated with coursework throughout the program, contributing to a highly professional and constructive learning environment. Research receives considerable emphasis, as students have the opportunity to participate in academic conferences, develop and execute independent or group projects, and use the unique resources of New York City as their public history and archives laboratory.

## What are the strengths of the program?

NYU's archives and public history alumni have compiled an impressive record of professional leadership and accomplishment over the past three decades. Some students have earned Ph.D.s and work as academics, but most have crafted innovative careers within the archival and public history communities. Our curriculum itself, which undergoes regular and rigorous review, provides students with a solid theoretical grounding in such topics as memory, heritage, commemoration, historic preservation, and the role of the archive in humanities scholarship. Courses also emphasize contemporary standards and engagement with new technologies, as public historians and archivists continually use new methods and techniques to engage non-traditional audiences. The program also has a commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and collaborates with various related programs at NYU.

## What special resources offer students an enriched experience?

The program takes full advantage of the outstanding archival and public history institutions and resources throughout the New York metropolitan area. Students intern at diverse and vibrant external venues, ranging from the Tenement House Museum to the Brooklyn Historical Society to City Lore/Place Matters to Rolling Stone magazine. In addition,

### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

- Satisfactory completion of 20 points in either Archives or Public History.
- For Archives, satisfactory completion of required courses (Introduction to Archives I and Internship Seminar) and three additional courses.
- For Public History, satisfactory completion of required courses (Introduction to Public History I and Internship Seminar) and three additional courses.

### SUMMARY OF ADVANCED CERTIFICATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- M.A. degree (or foreign credentials equivalent to the U.S. master's degree)
- GRE General Test
- TOEFL required of all applicants who are not native English speakers
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose
- Official graduate and undergraduate transcripts
- Academic or professional writing sample that should not exceed 35 double-spaced pages

### HOW TO APPLY

To download an application from the Internet or request an application by mail, visit [www.gsas.nyu.edu](http://www.gsas.nyu.edu).

Applications should be submitted by March 15 for fall admission.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our program web site at the following URL [www.history.fas.nyu.edu](http://www.history.fas.nyu.edu), or contact Dr. Peter J. Wosh, Director of the Program at: [pw1@nyu.edu](mailto:pw1@nyu.edu).

NYU's Bobst Library contains nationally significant archival and manuscript collections, including: the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives; the Tamiment Library collections concerning radicalism and Leftist movements; and the Fales Library's innovative "Downtown Collection" that documents late twentieth-century avant garde artists, musicians, and performing artists in New York City. Bobst has also emerged as a national leader in digital curatorship, and students have the opportunity to engage fully with new media.

### Who teaches the courses?

Peter J. Wosh, the Director of the Program, teaches most core courses. He has three decades of experience administering institutional and academic archives, as well as conducting public history projects, and is also a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. Other faculty members include full-time historians and archivists at New York University, as well as archival and public history professionals who currently work in the field. Students also have the opportunity to sample courses in such related NYU programs as Museum Studies and the Moving Image Archives Program in the Tisch School of the Arts.

### Who are the students?

Most students arrive at the program with undergraduate or graduate history degrees, but a growing percentage of our applicants have been trained in other academic disciplines. American studies, performance studies, anthropology, journalism, and English appear especially well-represented. Many students matriculate directly after completing their undergraduate degrees, but a significant number have been working in the field. Others are accomplished professionals with distinguished records who have decided to pursue a second career. We also attract some international students. Approximately 15 students enter the program each year.

### Can I pursue this program part-time?

The program has always been attractive to part-time students. Many matriculants gain valuable professional experience by working in the field as they move through the program. Core courses accommodate the needs of part-timers by meeting in the evenings, typically during the 5:00-7:30 time slot. Some electives are offered in the afternoon. All courses meet once a week, though the Internship Seminar requires students to complete a practicum at an archival or public history institution by working 120 hours over the course of the semester.

### Can I work full time and pursue this degree?

Most of our courses begin at 5:00 p.m. and meet once a week. However, as a full time student you will be required to take 12 credits (3 courses, 3 nights a week).

### How long will it take to earn an M.A.?

The M.A. program can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. Students begin the program in the fall. A full-time student is expected to complete the program in a year and a half. Part time students can complete the program in two to five years depending on their individual schedules.

### Does the program offer financial aid?

A limited number of graduate assistantships are offered within the archives concentration, in conjunction with Bobst Library. All program applicants are automatically considered for these assistantships. The Graduate School's Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) encourages students to apply for external grants and provides matching tuition points (from 50 to 100 percent) to eligible recipients of external awards from recognized, academic sources of funding outside NYU. For applications and specific details about TIP eligibility criteria, please visit [www.gsas.nyu.edu/object/grad.pdf.tipapp](http://www.gsas.nyu.edu/object/grad.pdf.tipapp). New York University offers several loan programs to students. Information is available at [www.nyu.edu/financial.aid](http://www.nyu.edu/financial.aid) or at the Office of Financial Aid, 212-998-4444.