Doctor of Philosophy in History

The Department of History (http://www.history.ku.edu) at the University of Kansas is a dynamic place, with a proud tradition of training scholars from across the globe who have transformed the practice of history. The program offers major or minor concentrations in the areas of United States, African American, Modern European, British & Imperial, Russian/East European, East Asian, Latin American, African, Medieval, Women and Gender, Military, and Environmental History. KU offers its graduate students great flexibility in their choice of fields, as defined both by traditional geographical and chronological parameters and thematic topics. Students also have the opportunity to take coursework outside the department in fields such as Public History, Museum Studies, Environmental Studies, and the History of Medicine.

Primarily a doctoral program, the Department currently enrolls approximately 60 graduate students from throughout the United States and the world, including Japan, China, Peru, and Russia. Our students make up a very diverse group, and we encourage applicants from traditional and non-traditional backgrounds.

For statistics regarding our program, please see our Doctoral Program Profile (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/sites/graduate.drupal.ku.edu/files/docs/dpp/DPP_A_HIST.pdf), which demonstrates our success at funding and placing current and recent graduates.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission

Graduate applicants are expected to contact their prospective advisors in advance. It is useful to discuss shared research interests, and to inquire whether the faculty member is taking new students and to decide whether this can become a productive relationship. This faculty advisor will then be able to more effectively advocate for the applicant’s candidacy based upon this correspondence.

Candidates requesting consideration for admission to the M.A., M.A./Ph.D., or Ph.D. program in History must complete the online application through the KU Office of Graduate Studies (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application/). Information about minimum requirements and codes for GRE tests can be found on the Office of Graduate Studies (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application/) site. Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements as described here (http://graduate.ku.edu/english-proficiency-requirements/). Note that documents, including a writing sample and transcripts, should be uploaded to the application. There is no need to send hard copies of application materials to the History Department.

When you submit your online application, it is made available to the Department of History. The application deadline for Fall entry is January 1. International applicants need to submit their materials by December 15.

When you apply, specify which program you intend to join: M.A. only, the M.A./Ph.D., or the Ph.D. We recommend that candidates seeking admission directly into the Ph.D. program first earn an M.A. in History or a related field.

The application materials that each candidate must submit are:

- **Statement of Academic Objectives**, including a clear plan for graduate research in a specific field of study
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Writing Sample** demonstrating independent historical research and analysis (20-25 pages maximum)
- **Submit a writing sample that best represents your scholarly abilities**: The Department is interested in reviewing your well-crafted, persuasively argued sample. Such papers are often derived from an upper-level undergraduate history class in which you conducted independent research and employed both primary and secondary sources. If you have an M.A. in history, the writing sample should be taken from your thesis or a major paper written in a graduate seminar.
- **GRE Scores**, conveyed from ETS to the University of Kansas (School Code 6871)
- **Official Transcript** from each institution that has granted you a degree, or at which you are currently enrolled
- **Three letters of recommendation** – The letters can be directly uploaded online directly by those who write the recommendations, or they can be mailed to the Department of History, ATTN: Graduate Administrator, 1445 Jayhawk Boulevard, Wescoe 3650, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045. A recommendation form for hard copy letters can be downloaded here (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/sites/graduate.drupal.ku.edu/files/docs/ApplicationProcess/KULetterOfRecForm.pdf).

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

Students normally must complete the M.A. degree before they are eligible to enter the Ph.D. program. Students who enter the M.A. program may either complete the degree or petition for direct admission to the Ph.D. program. This petition first must be endorsed by the student’s advisor and the field committee and then be approved by the department’s graduate committee.

Course Requirements

1. A minimum of 33 hours of credit at the graduate level including the following:
   a. A minimum of three historiographical colloquia numbered HIST 801 and above
   b. Two HIST 802 Research Seminars (taken in the second and third semesters of study, respectively)
   c. HIST 805 The Nature of History
   d. HIST 998 Portfolio Preparation
2. At least 24 hours of the minimum credits must be taken as HIST courses.
3. At least 18 hours of the minimum credits must be taken at the 700 level or above.
Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship

In order to fulfill the University research skills and responsible scholarship requirement, all graduate students in History must take HIST 805 and be certified by the department in a foreign language before taking the comprehensive oral exam.

Note: Contact your department or program for more information about research skills and responsible scholarship, and the current requirements for doctoral students. Current policies on Doctoral research skills and responsible scholarship are listed in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog and in the KU Policy Library (https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/research-skills-responsible-scholarship/).

Portfolio and Oral Comprehensive Exam

A written portfolio of the student’s work and an oral examination that will provide the candidate with an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge they have acquired and respond to questions from the committee about their written portfolio. The portfolio exam is taken in the fourth semester of study. Any exception to taking the portfolio exam the fourth semester requires a petition to the History Graduate Committee.

Dissertation Prospectus Defense

Students will defend their Dissertation Prospectus in an oral examination with their Advisory committee the semester following their passing of the Portfolio Exam. The prospectus exam is taken in the fifth semester of study. Any exception to taking the prospectus exam the fifth semester requires a petition to the History Graduate Committee.

Doctoral Dissertation and Defense

The dissertation is a book-length piece of original scholarship that makes a significant contribution to historical knowledge. The candidate for the Ph.D. must defend this piece of scholarship in an oral examination.

For more information about the Ph.D. program in History, consult the History Graduate Handbook on the History Department webpage. (http://history.ku.edu/)