

>> Pro Path Guide >>

for History Majors & Graduate Students

Archivist

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Sources: Interviews with a professional in the field—Professor Jay Trask of UNC’s Archives and research on professional websites.
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Overview of the Profession

Traditionally, an archivist works with the staff and donors of their parent institution—often a university, library, research center, or museum—to organize and enhance existing collections, acquire new collections, and assist researchers in using the collections. Because of their interface with the public, archivists and curators at public institutions are often first to uncover hidden gems of

Are internships during undergrad necessary or recommended for employment in this field?

UNC has a limited number of internships to qualified students and job shadowing opportunities available in some of the fields above, based on local availability. Internships, which are usually competitive and unpaid, are highly recommended and taken during the academic year for 3 credits or performed during the summer. Contact Dr. Melish, jacob.melish@unco.edu

Description of the typical career path

Undergraduate degree in history and relevant internships, graduate degree (if followed by entry level openings) Entry level Assistant positions are often at smaller local museums and libraries.

What is the message to undergraduates?

Do well in your History BA and relevant internships then

Sources <https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/artshumanitiescareers/history/>, <https://www.geteducated.com/careercenter/best-jobs-for-history-majors/>, <https://www.bestcolleges.com/careers/historymajors/>, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#25000, [https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=national%20park%20service&accesed Dec. 2020](https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=national%20park%20service&accesed%20Dec.%202020)

Websites and/or books relevant to this career

- Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists website: <https://www.srmarchivists.org/>
- Society of American Archivists website: <https://www2.archivists.org/>

Are there paid positions for undergraduate or graduate students in this field?

Very limited opportunities as an Archivist Assistant are available.

UNC History Department or other UNC contact for students interested in employment in this field

Professor Jay Trask, Head of UNC Archives & Special Collections: jay.trask@unc.edu. If you do an internship, your supervisor or colleagues will also be good sources of information.