

## Public History Partnerships

The Rutgers Public History program regularly engages in a variety of public history and humanities outreach projects, by assisting with the curation of local exhibits, public programming, developing new outreach opportunities, and more. Through the internship program, coursework, and other partnerships, the program aims to collaborate with and support the work of public historians and history institutions throughout New Jersey and the surrounding area in developing research, outreach, digitization, preservation, and other projects and building lasting internship relationships.

If your site or agency would like to partner with the program and/or potentially host Rutgers public history interns, please contact the program director, Dr. Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan at [publichistory@history.rutgers.edu](mailto:publichistory@history.rutgers.edu) and review the application form at [history.rutgers.edu/publichistory](http://history.rutgers.edu/publichistory)



## History at Rutgers

The Department of History at Rutgers University–New Brunswick is dedicated to the close study and teaching of history from all periods and places. With over sixty members, the faculty boasts an international reputation for the quality of its scholarship and the undergraduate and graduate programs it facilitates.



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**RUTGERS**  
School of Arts and Sciences



**Public  
History**

*Department of History*  
Rutgers University–New Brunswick



## What is Public History?

Public history is history at work in the world. Practitioners of public history work in museums, archives, historic sites, landmarks, architecture firms, government offices, and beyond, where they aim not just to share historical information with diverse audiences, but to critically examine how history is presented.

The Public History Program within the Rutgers University–New Brunswick History Department offers students, faculty, and staff opportunities to participate in public historical engagement through coursework, experiential learning, events, and collaborative projects. Students have the opportunity to engage with current debates over the contested and sometimes controversial memories of the past, work alongside community partners to share historical information with diverse audiences, and to learn more about the myriad methods and fields in which historians work. The program offers an undergraduate Certificate in Public History with exciting course offerings, and an experiential learning Public History Internship, which connects students with opportunities to work and learn hands-on in the field of public history.



## Certificate in Public History

The History Department's Certificate in Public History trains students to think critically about the public presentation of history, while offering hands-on experience in history-related careers. The Certificate is comprised of five courses, totaling 15 credits, inside the history curriculum and in related disciplines. All majors are welcome to pursue the certificate.

**To complete the certificate, students take the following courses:**

- History Workshop, 506:299
- Public History: Theory, Method, & Practice, 506:301
- A course in oral history or digital history
- An approved interdisciplinary elective
- Public History Internship, 506:451

Students must pass all of their certificate courses with a grade of C or higher and submit a declaration form in the semester prior to completion of their degree.

## Public History Internship

The Public History Internship Program provides practical and meaningful hands-on experience at over 100 different historic sites and agencies across New Jersey. Internships allow you to put your history skills to work, giving you the opportunity to try out a career and learn about the variety of ways you can use your degree, by gaining real-world experience working in museums, archives, libraries, historic sites, and other public and non-profit agencies. Students can pursue the internship to fulfill their requirements for the Certificate in Public History, to complete the capstone requirement for the History major, or simply to pursue their interests and a desire to gain experience. Internships are available in Spring, Fall, and Summer semesters. Each semester, the internship cohort meets as a class (506:451) throughout the semester to discuss their experiences, learn more about public history, and hear from a variety of guest speakers who work in the field.

## For More Information and to Apply

Since 2016, the program has been directed by Dr. Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, a public historian and scholar of early American history who has worked in the field as an archivist, curator, research analyst, and consultant.

To learn more about the certificate program and

internships, and a list of potential internship host sites, please visit [history.rutgers.edu/publichistory](http://history.rutgers.edu/publichistory). Interested students should contact the program coordinator Dr. O'Brassill-Kulfan directly to get involved at [publichistory@history.rutgers.edu](mailto:publichistory@history.rutgers.edu)