Public History Internship

_The Rutgers Public History Internship provides practical and meaningful hands-on experience at dozens of historical agencies in New Jersey._

Over 100 different Public History Internships are offered in the Spring, Fall, and Summer semesters, and students may propose new sites.

Why are public history internships so important?

Internships allow you to put your history skills to work. They allow you 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. Along the way, you learn practical and transferrable skills to carry with you into the job market in almost any field.

The Public History Internship is a course open to undergraduate history majors, minors, and students pursuing the Public History Certificate. In this course, students will be placed at a history-related non-profit or other historical agency or institution in New Jersey, and receive instruction from experienced public historians.

Students interested in pursuing a public history internship must meet with the director of the Public History Program, Dr. Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan in the semester before they hope to do an internship.

Students may take a maximum of one internship placement through the program, for a maximum of 3 course credits. Students should meet with the coordinator no later than the middle of the semester preceding the semester in which they want to do an internship. To earn credit, students must work a minimum of 112 unpaid hours at the site and biweekly class meetings throughout the semester of the placement. For additional detail, see the prefatory material with the lists of the available internships.

- Printer-friendly Information Sheet
- List of Public History Internships
- Map of Public History Internships
- Recommendations for Internship Supervisors
- Guidelines for Interns
- Travel Policy for Internships

Please note that the Public History Internship satisfies the seminar requirement for history majors and is a required course for the Public History Certificate. Learn more here: [http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/public-history-certificate](http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/public-history-certificate)
Internship Program Forms

For Students

- Internship Application Form for Students
- Intern Hourly Log Sheet Form for Students

For Site Supervisors

- Internship Site Application Form for Site Supervisors
- Intern Evaluation Form for Site Supervisors
- Internship Contract

To learn more about the field of public history, visit the website of the profession’s largest organization: the National Council for Public History [http://ncph.org/what-is-public-history/about-the-field/](http://ncph.org/what-is-public-history/about-the-field/)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the public history program and opportunities, contact the program coordinator.

Dr. Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan
kristin.obrassillkulfan@rutgers.edu
Department of History
213C Van Dyck Hall
848-932-8226

Selected internship placement opportunities
Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park

Paulsdale Historic Site and Alice Paul Institute
Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives

New Brunswick Free Public Library
Puerto Rican Community Archives at Newark Public Library

Ellis Island/Liberty State Park

What our interns have to say:

- “The Public History Internship Program...led me to new and exciting aspects of history that I had not previously appreciated in the way that they should be. I am invigorated by the ability to show and teach history to a public audience, and make sure my well-researched narrative is not only heard but hopefully
comprehended…. spikes someone else’s interest. Overall I could not be more thankful for this experience and hope that I will be in a position one day to reattach myself to a project such as this in one way or another.”

- “I believe the average person needs to understand the importance of their history without it being beat over their head. This semester, this internship, and this class have led me to believe that my future goal will be challenging, but fully achievable. That is what I believe public history is. Something that is challenging, but achievable, helpful and useful to those who gain access to it; and most of all, necessary.”