HISTORY HANDBOOK

GUIDELINES FOR UG STUDENTS



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

(last updated on Monday 19 August 2026)

The Department of History

The History Department at Ashoka University seeks to equip students with the historian's toolbox and train them on how to use it. A historian combines the skills of a detective, a judge and a ventriloquist. They are an artist and a skilled craftsperson who spin and weave narratives of the past. Historical creativity lies in gathering, wrestling with, and connecting the traces of the past to construct a rich tapestry of human lives, emotions, and ideas. These traces come in various garbs – gravestones, burial sites, forgotten cities, mud pots, musical notes, folklores, war songs, memoirs, archival records, speeches, letters, newspapers, cartoons, cave art, paintings, architecture, clothes, food, chronicles, cinema, advertisements – all and any remnant of human existence.

A historian's ability to make effective use of this material requires inculcation of two core ideas: empathy and imagination. Empathy fuels and glues our connection with other humans. It helps us recognize others' perceptions, feelings and ways of being. Empathy is a vital tool of a historian because it obligates a historian to question and challenge a single conception of the world in order to access other worlds and other lives. Thus, the spirit of questioning and the consciousness of one's own frames of reference is the starting point of historical inquiry. The second feature of imagination is the creative faculty which enables us to form images and feelings that ordinary senses cannot perceive. It is a critical instrument for a historian who studies worlds that are removed both in time and space from his or her own. Conjuring up those historical worlds requires a leap of imagination, a willing suspension of disbelief and a readiness to encounter the unknown.

Why Study History at Ashoka?

- **A flexible curriculum with plenty of choices:** Both the pure and interdisciplinary History Major curricula have only a few mandatory courses. Beyond this, students have the choice to select courses out of a wide range of options depending on their interests. Aside from the gateway course History Matters, the order for taking the other courses is completely flexible. This makes it particularly welcoming for people who decide to join the History Major late.
- **An excellent student-teacher ratio:** Our classes are typically small to medium sized, providing the perfect learning environment and adequate academic attention from the professors, while preventing the myriad learning challenges of large classes. With

an element student-teacher ratio, our classes offer some of the best intellectual discussions and an ideal forum for academic debate and learning.

- **Internship opportunities:** The department and its professors offer an array of internship opportunities ranging from external positions to internal research projects run by individual faculty members that come with their academic and professional mentorship.
- **Inclusive and accommodative degree requirements**: Aside from a wide range of courses offered by the History department, students can also count a number of language courses, cross-listed courses, ISMs, and TA-ship credits towards the four-years degree. This way they gain a rich and well-rounded learning experience.
- **A wide variety in the themes of courses:** Our courses explore different periods of history from prehistory to the modern times. Some focus on India, some on other parts of the world like China, Iran, and West Asia, and yet others offer global historical perspectives. The following sections detail the various types of courses:

A. Mandatory Courses

These courses introduce students to the basics of the discipline of History and the history of South Asia. There are a total of 5 such courses:

1) **History Matters** - What is History? This is a course that introduces such basics of the discipline to newcomers. It offers key concepts and immerses students in the rich diversity of different kinds of history. This could be considered as a gateway course for History and is recommended for all students finding out what our discipline is about. For students, it is best done in the first year. This course is offered in the spring semester.
2) **History of India I** - This explores a large part of ancient Indian history, especially the time period from prehistory to the Mauryan Empire. This course is offered in the spring semester.
3) **History of India II** - This unravels the remaining part of ancient Indian history and a large chunk of the early medieval period, especially the times after the Mauryan Empire till the end of the first millennium CE. This course is offered in the monsoon semester.
4) **History of India III** - This explores the first seven and a half centuries of the second millennium CE, taking students through the early medieval, medieval, and early modern periods. This course is offered in the spring semester.

5) **History of India IV** - This investigates the colonial and postcolonial modern periods of South Asian history, covering the period between mid-eighteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. This course is offered in the monsoon semester.

B. Methods Courses

These courses provide students training in the methodological aspects of reading and writing History. A range of courses are offered along these lines. They are broadly divided into two baskets depending on their level of difficulty and workload. Students are required to choose from the many courses offered in these two baskets.

1) **Basic Methods Courses** - These courses are meant for third-year students; others are discouraged, but not prevented, from taking these courses. They introduce students to the basics of the historian's draft while sometimes focusing on specific historical themes.
2) **Advanced Methods Courses** - These courses are meant *only* for students of the fourth year. It builds on the previous course and offers more advanced training, especially in reading and writing History.

C. Elective Courses

The Department of History offers a large range of electives on various subjects. Students can choose whatever courses they like from among these. All History electives (as well as ISMs and cross-listed courses from other departments) are divided into three baskets depending on their framing and focus. Students are required to choose from the many courses offered in these three baskets.

1) **Global & Comparative History Electives** - These courses explore global histories of specific themes, like war, science, ecology, archaeology, religion, and politics.
2) **Non-Indian Region-Focussed Electives** - These courses offer in-depth studies of specific world regions beyond South Asia, like Europe, China, Iran, Tibet, West Asia, and Southeast Asia.
3) **Indian History Electives** - These courses explore various aspects of the rich history of South Asia, ranging from ancient kingship to colonial science, medieval politics to early modern war, early medieval religion to contemporary culture.

D. Independent Study Modules (ISM)

Students can approach individual professors for courses on specific themes of their interest. These are small classes capped at 5, built around specific topics and centered around students reading texts and discussing their ideas with the professors. For these, the schedules of such discussions are fixed between the students and the professor. All ISMs are included in one of the three baskets of Elective Courses.

E. Language Courses

Languages are keys to the world of knowledge. The university offers courses in several languages like Persian, Chinese, and Sanskrit. The Department of History strongly recommends that its students take some, at least one, of these courses. In the future, the department will explore its options for making more language courses available to its students.

F. Cross-Listed Courses from Other Departments

The department cross-lists a lot of courses from other departments. These stand outside the History course baskets. The department encourages its students to take some of these courses to expand their intellectual horizons.

UG Research at the History Department

History students at Ashoka have the opportunity of entering the exciting world of historical research. Writing a thesis involves an in-depth investigation based on an intensive study of primary and secondary sources. Writing a thesis requires discipline and sustained independent effort, under the close guidance of a supervisor. Students can pursue two kinds of theses with the Department of History.

Third-Year Thesis

The first of these is the third-year thesis, which gives students an opportunity to dip their toes in the process of research. The third-year thesis is a 4-credit elective that History students may take in the Monsoon semester of their third year only. Over the preceding summer and during the semester, students work with a supervisor to complete an independent research paper on a topic of their own choice.

For the third-year thesis, students will receive an email from the third year thesis coordinator in April, and must submit their expression of interest and confirm their supervisor in May in order to begin work over the summer. If by August both the student and supervisor are happy to proceed, they will register for HIS-3991 in the Monsoon semester. Typically, the thesis will be 6,000-8,000 words in length. After submission at the end of Monsoon semester, all students have the opportunity to present their research to the department in the Spring.

Fourth-Year Capstone Thesis

The fourth-year capstone thesis comprises 12 credits, split into 4 credits in the monsoon semester and 8 credits in the spring semester. This is a more extensive immersion in research, where students are expected to produce a more serious piece of work after exploring primary sources. This too is optional for fourth-year students. If they want to pursue this thesis, they have to do so over and above the regular fourth-year coursework.

Students should approach potential faculty members and start discussing their research ideas with potential supervisors by April. Students should concretise their topic on the basis of these conversations. Apart from a single supervisor, joint supervisors as well as a primary and secondary supervisor are possible. Students should proceed to read and think about the topic, and work on a more detailed research proposal through the summer vacation. This proposal (of 1500-2000 words) should contain a clear statement of the research question/s, primary sources, tentative chapterization, and should include a select Bibliography. The proposal should be submitted to the potential supervisor/s and the 4th year thesis coordinator any time before 15th August. If the proposal is approved by the potential supervisor, students can register for the thesis (the course codes are 4991 for the monsoon and 4992 for spring) and start their thesis work. Typically, the thesis will be 12,000-15,000 words in length.

A History Major student who successfully completes the 4th year capstone thesis with the History Department is entitled to the award of a History Major with Research degree. A student pursuing an approved Interdisciplinary Major who registers his/her 4th year thesis with the History or the other Department (e.g. International Relations, Economics, etc.) and successfully completes it is entitled to the award of an Interdisciplinary Major with Research degree

Students are expected to meet their supervisor regularly to seek guidance and discuss their progress, at least once a month. They are expected to submit their chapters for comments to

the supervisor from time to time. Students should have submitted the first draft of the entire thesis to their supervisor by 1st March.

Presentations: Fourth year thesis track students will be required to make a 15-minute mid-term presentation in the last week before the end of the monsoon semester. They will be required to make a 15-minute presentation based on their entire thesis at a university forum facilitated by the department around 15 April.

The deadline for the final submission of the thesis is 30 April and must be taken seriously. The deadline cannot be extended except for compelling reasons (such as illness), and the extension has to be formally approved by the supervisor and the 4th year thesis Coordinator. The student will send the completed thesis to the 4th year thesis Coordinator, who will forward it to the supervisor(s) and a second reader (internal or external) examiner for evaluation. The supervisor and second reader should submit their grades for the thesis to the Coordinator by 10 May. The Coordinator will submit the grades to the OAA.

A History Major student who successfully completes the 4th year capstone thesis with the History Department is entitled to the award of a History Major with Research degree. A student pursuing an approved Interdisciplinary Major who registers his/her 4th year thesis with the History or the other Department (e.g. International Relations, Economics, etc.) and successfully completes it is entitled to the award of an Interdisciplinary Major with Research degree.

Exit Option: Based on a student's over-all progress and performance in the mid-term presentation, the supervisor(s) may decide that the student is not ready to move further with their thesis. The student also has the option of withdrawing from the thesis at this stage. The work put in through the Monsoon Semester will account for a 4-credits ISM, to be graded by the supervisor.

Pedagogical Apprenticeship

Ashoka University provides a chance to its students to learn the basic ropes of pedagogy by serving as Teaching Practicum Assistants (TPA or simply, TA) to assist professors in conducting courses. TAs manage course logistics, maintain attendance records, mentor students outside the classroom in handling readings and assignments. They cannot grade assignments.

Cap: TA-ships are typically done by fourth-year students. Each TA-ship comprises 2 credits. Fourth-year students can count a maximum of 2 such TA-ships (i.e. a maximum of total 4 credits) towards their History Major degree. Students from other batches can do TA-ships with the approval of the department, but they cannot count these credits towards their Major.

The History Major Degree

The History Major Degree comprises four years of coursework worth 72 credits. Out of these, only 20 credits comprise mandatory courses; students can choose the rest of the courses based on their academic interests and some requirements. The resultant coursework is a rich mix of mandatory and elective courses on Indian history, electives on various historical themes, world regions, and global history, as well as electives that train students in methodological issues. The curriculum consists of the following courses:

5 Mandatory Courses

1. History Matters (4 credits)
2. History of India I (4 credits)
3. History of India II (4 credits)
4. History of India III (4 credits)
5. History of India IV (4 credits)

13 Elective Courses (with the following requirements)

6. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
7. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)
8. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)

9-10. Any 2 courses from the Advanced Methods Courses basket (8 credits, to be done *only* in the fourth year)

11-18. Any 8 other courses with 4 credits each. These could be electives, language courses, third-year thesis, ISMs, or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (4 x 8 credits = a total of 32 credits)

- History Major Degree *with* Research

For the History Major degree *with* the research option, students need to complete a total of 84 credits. Towards this, they have to complete - in addition to the above 72 credits - the

Fourth-Year Thesis (12 credits, divided usually as 4 for the monsoon semester and 8 for the spring semester).

CAPS

- A maximum of 3 ISMs (i.e. a total of 12 credits) can count towards the History Major degree in 4 years.
- A maximum of 4 language courses (i.e. total of 16 credits) can count towards the History Major degree in 4 years, with no less than 2 courses in (i.e. a minimum 8 credits) the same language.
- A maximum of 6 courses (i.e. a total of 24 credits) offered by other departments and cross-listed with History can count towards the History Major degree in 4 years.
- Only fourth-year students can count a maximum of 2 TA-ships (i.e. a total of 4 credits) towards their History Major. Till the third year, students cannot count TA-ship credits towards their History Major.

Recommended Order of Courses

One of the main features of the History Major is the flexibility of the curriculum. Students can technically take the mandatory and elective courses in any order. However, the department strongly recommends that students complete the following courses by the end of the third year:

5 Mandatory Courses

1. History Matters (4 credits)
2. History of India I (4 credits)
3. History of India II (4 credits)
4. History of India III (4 credits)
5. History of India IV (4 credits)

8 Elective Courses (with the following requirements)

6. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)
7. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
8. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)

9 - 13. Any 5 other courses with 4 credits each. These could be electives, language courses, third-year thesis, ISMs, or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (20 credits)

In such a scenario, students should be left with the following courses in their fourth year:

14-15. Any 2 courses from the Advanced Methods Courses basket (8 credits)
16-18. Any 3 other courses. These could be electives, language courses, ISMs, TA-ships, or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments. (12 credits)

Students taking the History Major *with research* option will ideally be left with the following courses in their fourth year:

14-15. Any 2 courses from the Advanced Historical Methods Courses basket (8 credits)
16-18. Any 3 other courses. These could be electives, language courses, ISMs, TA-ships or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (16 credits)
19. The Fourth-Year Thesis (12 credits, divided usually as 4 for the monsoon semester and 8 for the spring semester)

- **Requirements for Students Exiting after Three Years**

The total credit requirements in History in three years is 52, i.e. typically 13 courses with 4 credits each. This should comprise:

5 Mandatory Courses

1. History Matters (4 credits)
2. History of India I (4 credits)
3. History of India II (4 credits)
4. History of India III (4 credits)
5. History of India IV (4 credits)

8 Elective Courses (with the following requirements)

6. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)
7. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
8. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)

9 - 13. Any 5 other electives with 4 credits each. These could be electives, language courses, third-year thesis, ISMs, or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (16 credits)

CAPS

- A maximum of 1 ISM (i.e. a total of 4 credits) can be counted towards the three-years History degree.
- A maximum of 2 language courses (i.e. total of 8 credits) can be counted towards the three-years History degree..
- A maximum of 2 courses (i.e. a total of 8 credits) offered by other departments and cross-listed with History can be counted towards the three-years History degree.
- Till the third year, students cannot count TA-ship credits towards their degree.

The History-IR Interdisciplinary Major Degree

This Interdisciplinary Major grounds students strongly in the two disciplines of History and International Relations. It comprises a total of 80 credits (tentatively 20 courses), which are divided equally between the two departments. Consequently, students pursuing this degree are typically required to take 10 courses (each worth 4 credits) with both the History and IR departments. This section details the requirements for the 10 History courses (40 credits).

History Courses (40 credits)

1. History Matters (4 credits)

2 & 3. Any 2 courses from the following:

- History of India I (4 credits)
- History of India II (4 credits)
- History of India III (4 credits)
- History of India IV (4 credits)

4. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
5. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)
6. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)
7. Any 1 elective from the Advanced Methods Courses basket (4 credits)

8, 9, & 10. Any 3 other courses with 4 credits each. These could be History electives, third-year thesis, ISMs, TA-ships (2 credits each), or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (3 x 4 credits = 12 credits).

CAPS

- Students can count a maximum of 2 ISMs (i.e. a total of 8 credits) towards their History-IR Interdisciplinary Major in 4 years.
- A maximum of 2 language courses (i.e. a total of 8 credits) in the same language can count towards the History-IR Interdisciplinary Major degree in 4 years.
- A maximum of 2 courses (i.e. a total of 8 credits) offered by other departments and cross-listed with History can count towards the History-IR Interdisciplinary Major degree in 4 years.
- Only fourth-year students can count a maximum of 2 TA-ships (i.e. a total of 4 credits) towards their History-IR Interdisciplinary Major.

Four-Years Degree with Research

In addition to completing 40 credits in History and another 40 credits in IR, students pursuing the research track are required to write a thesis worth 12 research credits in History or IR, depending on which of these two departments they want to pursue their research in.

- Fourth-Year thesis (4 monsoon + 8 spring credits)

The same caps outlined earlier in this section apply for this degree too.

- **Requirements for Students Exiting after Three Years**

The total credit requirements for the History-IR Interdisciplinary Major in 3 years is 68. Out of this, 36 are in History and 32 in IR. The 36 History credits, i.e. typically 9 courses with 4 credits each should comprise:

3 Mandatory Courses

1. History Matters (4 credits)

2 & 3. Any 2 courses from the following:

- History of India I (4 credits)
- History of India II (4 credits)
- History of India III (4 credits)

- History of India IV (4 credits)

6 Elective Courses (with the following requirements)

4. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
5. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)
6. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)

7, 8, 9. Any 3 other electives with 4 credits each. These could be electives, language courses, third-year thesis, ISMs, or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (12 credits)

CAPS

- A maximum of 1 ISM (i.e. a total of 4 credits) can be counted towards the three-years History-IR degree.
- A maximum of 2 language courses (i.e. total of 8 credits) can be counted towards the three-years History-IR degree.
- A maximum of 2 courses (i.e. a total of 8 credits) offered by other departments and cross-listed with History can be counted towards the three-years History-IR degree.
- Till the third year, students cannot count TA-ship credits towards their degree.

The History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major Degree

This Interdisciplinary Major grounds students strongly in the two disciplines of History and Economics. It comprises a total of 80 credits (tentatively 20 courses), which are divided equally between the two departments. Consequently, students pursuing this degree are typically required to take 10 courses (each worth 4 credits) with both History and Economics departments. This section details the requirements for the 10 History courses (40 credits).

History Courses (40 credits)

1. History Matters (4 credits)

2 & 3. Any 2 courses from the following:

- History of India I (4 credits)
- History of India II (4 credits)
- History of India III (4 credits)
- History of India IV (4 credits)

4. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
5. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)
6. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)
7. Any 1 elective from the Advanced Methods Courses basket (4 credits)
8, 9, & 10. Any 3 other courses with 4 credits each. These could be History electives, third-year thesis, ISMs, or cross-listed courses (with History) from other departments (12 credits).

CAPS

- A maximum of 2 ISMs (i.e. a total of 8 credits) can count towards the History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major degree in 4 years.
- A maximum of 2 language courses (i.e. a total of 8 credits) in the same language can count towards the History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major degree in 4 years.
- A maximum of 2 courses (i.e. a total of 8 credits) offered by other departments and cross-listed with History can count towards the History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major degree in 4 years.
- Only fourth-year students can count a maximum of 2 such TA-ships (i.e. a total of 4 credits) towards their History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major.

Four-Years Degree with Research

In addition to completing 40 credits in History and another 40 credits in Economics, students pursuing the research track are required to write a thesis worth 12 research credits in History or Economics, depending on which of these two departments they want to pursue their research in.

- Fourth-Year thesis (4 monsoon + 8 spring credits)

The same caps outlined earlier in this section apply for this degree too.

- **Requirements for Students Exiting after Three Years**

The total credit requirements for the History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major in 3 years is 60. Out of this, 28 are in History and 28 in Economics; the remaining 4 credits can be done in either subject. The 28 History credits, i.e. typically 7 courses with 4 credits each should comprise:

3 Mandatory Courses

2. History Matters (4 credits)

2 & 3. Any 2 courses from the following:

- History of India I (4 credits)
- History of India II (4 credits)
- History of India III (4 credits)
- History of India IV (4 credits)

4 Elective Courses (with the following requirements)

4. Any 1 elective from the Global & Comparative History Electives basket (4 credits)
5. Any 1 elective from the Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket (4 credits)
6. Any 1 elective from the Basic Methods Courses basket (4 credits)
7. Any 1 other elective with 4 credits each. This could be an elective, language course, third-year thesis, ISM, or cross-listed course (with History) from other departments (4 credits)

CAPS

- A maximum of 1 ISM (i.e. a total of 4 credits) can be counted towards the three-years History-IR degree.
- A maximum of 1 language course (i.e. total of 4 credits) can be counted towards the three-years History-IR degree.
- A maximum of 1 course (i.e. a total of 4 credits) offered by other departments and cross-listed with History can be counted towards the three-years History-IR degree.
- Till the third year, students cannot count TA-ship credits towards their degree.

History Minor

To get a Minor, students need to complete 24 credits in History in 4 years. Here are the requirements:

History Courses (24 credits)

3 Mandatory Courses

1. History Matters (4 credits)

2 & 3. Any 2 courses from the following:

- History of India I (4 credits)
- History of India II (4 credits)
- History of India III (4 credits)
- History of India IV (4 credits)

3 Elective Courses (with the following requirements)

4. Any 1 course from the following baskets (4 credits):
    - Basic Methods Courses basket
    - Global & Comparative History Electives basket
    - Non-Indian Region-Focussed History basket

5 & 6. Any 2 other courses with 4 credits each. These could be History electives, third-year thesis, or ISMs (8 credits).

CAPS

- A maximum of 2 ISMs (i.e. a total of 8 credits) can count towards the History Minor degree in 4 years.
- Students cannot count language courses, TA-ship credits, or cross-listed courses (offered by other departments and cross-listed with History) towards their History Minor.

History Concentration

To get a Concentration, students need to complete 16 credits in History in 4 years. Here are the requirements:

History Courses (16 credits)

2 Mandatory Courses

1. History Matters (4 credits)
2. Any 1 course from the following:
    - History of India I (4 credits)
    - History of India II (4 credits)
    - History of India III (4 credits)
    - History of India IV (4 credits)

2 Elective Courses

3 & 4. Any 2 other courses with 4 credits each. These could be electives, third-year thesis or an ISM. (8 credits)

CAPS

- A maximum of 1 ISM (i.e. a maximum of 4 credits) can count towards the History Concentration degree in 4 years.
- Students cannot count language courses, TA-ship credits, or cross-listed courses (offered by other departments and cross-listed with History) towards their History Concentration.

UG Research at the History Department

History students at Ashoka have the opportunity of entering the exciting world of historical research. Writing a thesis involves an in-depth investigation based on an intensive study of primary and secondary sources. Writing a thesis requires discipline and sustained independent effort, under the close guidance of a supervisor. Students can pursue two kinds of theses with the Department of History.

THIRD-YEAR THESIS

The first of these is the third-year thesis, which gives students an opportunity to dip their toes in the process of research. The third-year thesis is a 4-credit elective that History students may take in the Monsoon semester of their third year only. Over the preceding summer and during the semester, students work with a supervisor to complete an independent research paper on a topic of their own choice.

For the third-year thesis, students will receive an email from the third year thesis coordinator in April and must submit their expression of interest and confirm their supervisor in May in order to begin work over the summer. If by August both the student and supervisor are happy to proceed, they will register for HIS-3991 in the Monsoon semester. Typically, the thesis will be 6,000-8,000 words in length. After submission at the end of Monsoon semester, all students have the opportunity to present their research to the department in the Spring.

FOURTH-YEAR THESIS

The fourth-year thesis comprises 12 credits, split into 4 credits in the monsoon semester and 8 credits in the spring semester. This is a more extensive immersion in research, where students are expected to produce a more serious piece of work after exploring primary sources. This too is optional for fourth-year students. If they want to pursue this thesis, they have to do so over and above the regular fourth-year coursework.

A History Major student who successfully completes the 4th year capstone thesis with the History Department is entitled to the award of a History Major with Research degree. A student pursuing an approved Interdisciplinary Major who registers his/her 4th year thesis with the History or the other Department (e.g. International Relations, Economics, etc.) and successfully completes it is entitled to the award of an Interdisciplinary Major with Research degree

Students should approach potential faculty members and start discussing their research ideas with potential supervisors by April. Students should concretise their topic on the basis of these conversations. Apart from a single supervisor, joint supervisors as well as a primary and secondary supervisor are possible. Students should proceed to read and think about the topic, and work on a more detailed research proposal through the summer vacation. This proposal (of 1500-2000 words) should contain a clear statement of the research question/s, primary sources, tentative chapterization, and should include a select Bibliography. The proposal should be submitted to the potential supervisor/s and the 4th year thesis coordinator any time before 15th August. If the proposal is approved by the potential supervisor, students can register for the thesis (the course codes are 4991 for the monsoon and 4992 for spring) and start their thesis work. Typically, the thesis will be 12,000-15,000 words in length.

Students are expected to meet their supervisor regularly to seek guidance and discuss their progress, at least once a month. They are expected to submit their chapters for comments to the supervisor from time to time. Students should have submitted the first draft of the entire thesis to their supervisor by 1st March.

Presentations: Fourth year thesis track students will be required to make a 15-minute mid-term presentation in the last week before the end of the monsoon semester. They will be required to make a 15-minute presentation based on their entire thesis at a university forum facilitated by the department around 15 April.

The deadline for the final submission of the thesis is 30 April and must be taken seriously. The deadline cannot be extended except for compelling reasons (such as illness), and the extension has to be formally approved by the supervisor and the 4th year thesis Coordinator.

The student will send the completed thesis to the 4th year thesis coordinator, who will forward it to the supervisor(s) and a second reader (internal or external) examiner for evaluation.

The supervisor and second reader should submit their grades for the thesis to the Coordinator by 10 May. The Coordinator will submit the grades to the OAA.

Exit option: Based on a student's over-all progress and performance in the mid-term presentation, the supervisor(s) may decide that the student is not ready to move further with their thesis. The student also has the option of withdrawing from the thesis at this stage. The work put in through the Monsoon Semester will account for a 4-credits ISM, to be graded by the supervisor.

Contact Us

For further information, you can reach out to

- History representatives (historyrepresentatives@ashoka.edu.in)
  UG Coordinator - currently Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan
  (mahesh.rangarajan@ashoka.edu.in)
- For the third-year thesis - currently Dr Eloise Wright (eloise.wright@ashoka.edu.in)
- For the fourth-year thesis - currently Dr Gaurav Garg (gaurav.garg@ashoka.edu.in)
- For the further details - the OAA oaa@ashoka.edu.in

Addendum

Credits in Summary Form

FOUR-YEARS DEGREE

- History Major - 72 credits
- History-IR Interdisciplinary Major - 80 credits (40 History + 40 IR)
- History-Economics Interdisciplinary Major - 80 credits (40 History + 40 IR)

FOUR-YEARS DEGREE with RESEARCH

- Additional 12 credits thesis on top of the above requirements. This applies to all the three streams, i.e. History, History-IR, History-Economics.
- History Major with Research - 84 credits
- History-IR and History-Economics - 92 credits

THREE-YEARS DEGREE

- History - 52 credits
- History-IR - 68 credits (36 History + 32 IR)
- History-Economics - 60 credits (28 History + 28 Economics + 4 either)