



GRADUATE INTERNSHIP IN PUBLIC HISTORY

Requirements

Students may enroll in the internship for one to three credits in a given semester, and may earn up to a total of six credits. For each credit successfully earned, the student will work approximately 30 hours in the participating institution. In addition, the student will keep a journal of activities, engage in necessary preparatory reading, and meet regularly with the internship supervisor. At the end of the semester, both the student and institution supervisor will submit a written evaluation of the internship. For those who select U.S. History as their major field for the M.A., up to two public history courses may be included in their total program, including internships. In addition, while students may take up to six hours of internship credits, only three of these may be applied to the total number of credits required for the degree

For More Information

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*Photographs are courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society

FAU

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BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COLLECTIONS

HIS 5942: GRADUATE INTERNSHIP IN PUBLIC HISTORY

Florida Atlantic University offers graduate history students the opportunity to practice public or applied history in a community setting through HIS 5942: Graduate Internship in Public History. Many students would like to make use of their graduate history degree in ways that might differ from traditional career paths such as teaching, further education, law school, etc. Working within the historical and preservation community is an excellent way to take advantage of the broad range of research and writing skills a humanities education provides. In addition, many of our local museums and historical societies are crying out for help at the professional and semi-professional level. Like early American craftsmanship, the best way to enter this specialized community is through an apprenticeship or internship. This course will provide some of those craft opportunities.



Who is Eligible?

Admission to the internship program is by permission only, which is granted only after an interview with the internship supervisor, Dr. Sandra Norman. Students who have successfully completed HIS 5903: Readings in Public History are eligible to apply. Those with a comparable course at an-

other institution, a public history background, or a strong interest in the program may also apply.

What are Some of the Participating Organizations and Agencies?

Although the number of institutions participating in the internship program each semester may vary, every effort will be made to match a student with an appropriate public history experience. Past participants have included: Boca Raton Historical Society, Wimberley Library Special Collections at FAU, Historical Society of the Palm Beaches, Broward County Historical Commission, Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society, Delray Beach Historical Society, Deerfield Beach Historical Society, Lake Worth Historical Society, Loxahatchee Historical Society, House of Refuge, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. .



The variety of institutions participating will give students a chance to choose between governmental planning agencies, historical societies, small house museums, and larger state or international museums. The



choice of location for an internship will be made in consultation with the internship supervisor and will take into consideration the needs of the applying institutions, the interests of the student and the availability of the student to travel.

Kinds of Experiences Gained and Skills Learned

By working with public historians and other professionals, students will gain on-site, hands-on experience in bringing history into the public realm. Such experiences could include cataloguing written works and artifacts, helping establish public and private archives, writing and putting together museum and gallery displays, and working on oral history projects, among others. In addition, students bring their historical training and skills (research, writing and interpretation) to the experience, enabling them to excel in their work as an intern.



Professional Opportunities

Public history internships prepare students for jobs and careers in a variety of history-related fields, including museum curating, local, state and federal government work, planning departments, historical societies, education, and much more.