

# NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

[www.nipissingu.ca](http://www.nipissingu.ca)

History



## Program Description

The Department of History provides a personalized student experience within a collegial learning community dedicated to creativity, innovation, and excellence in teaching, research and scholarly activities.

The past is a strange place. To understand the past is to be able to understand and think critically about the world, to empathize with those who are different. Our program supports the formation of citizens as whole people. Learning in our department provides skills and a critically-informed perspective on society at large that is essential for an active and involved life in the twenty-first century.

## Our Teaching Approach

In our teaching we seek to expose our students to all elements of the historian's craft. We teach them how to use those elements, instructing them in research skills, the analysis of primary and secondary source material, critical thinking, and writing. We aim to foster the ability to analyze and interpret oral and written material in a sophisticated manner, and to communicate, both orally and in writing, in a clear, coherent and concise manner. Our goal is to teach students to engage in scholarly discussion and to appreciate the limits of scholarly and historical knowledge. We frequently offer opportunities for students to take part in faculty research. We believe analytical thinking and effective communication are vital, not only to those students who proceed to careers as professional historians, but to all of our students. A History degree will also give you key and easily transferable skills that employers from all sectors are looking for: the ability to research, to read, process, and synthesize large amounts of information, as well as the crucial ability to write and present ideas effectively.

History now is not about memorizing names and dates. Rather, as teachers, we show students how to engage with past experience in order to understand ourselves and our present situations. A sophisticated appreciation of history is vital to understanding the diversity and complexity of the world, to creating an awareness of the many differing points of view which are held by different individuals and communities, and to understanding why such differences exist.

The History Department is one of the largest within the Faculty of Arts and Science at Nipissing University. We specialize in a range of teaching and research fields, including ancient, medieval, early modern and modern European history, as well as early and modern Canadian and U.S.

history. Our thematic strengths include the history of state violence and genocide, international relations, Indigenous non-Indigenous relations, oral history, local and community history, women's and gender history, and environmental history.

## Program and Faculty

### Bachelor of Arts

- Honours Specialization
- Specialization
- Major
- Minor
- Double Major

History's state of the art programming and universally-celebrated seminar system gives students the opportunity to work in small class environments (max. 15 students) with highly-trained faculty from first to fourth year. This is a unique feature of the History Department at Nipissing.

Your first-year courses give you the opportunity to work closely with two faculty members to explore themes in European or North American history. While courses shift each year, very popular topics include the history of genocide, sex and sexism in early America, WWII, and Indigenous non-Indigenous relations. These courses, seminars and assignments are designed to support graduated skill development, which will help you transition to the university environment. The small classroom experience means that you will never get lost in a huge, impersonal lecture hall. You will be encouraged to share, discuss, and debate your ideas with your fellow classmates and your professors. You will work on honing your analytical, writing, and presentation skills.

In second and third year, you have the opportunity to explore the impact of national contexts on the past—Canadian, British, American, or European – and investigate themes such as the environment, gender, and terrorism at a higher level. Regularly-offered courses include: War and Terrorism, Environment and Food Systems, the History of Women and Gender, Islamic Civilization, the Holocaust, and more.

In your capstone fourth-year courses, you will return to the seminar environment to merge your new skills with the themes you have been studying. Here you have the opportunity to engage in independent research under the guidance of your professor. Fourth-year history students often



### Student-Faculty Interaction

<b>NIPISSING</b> .....	<b>A</b>	McMaster.....	B+
Queen's .....	A	Waterloo .....	B+
Ryerson .....	A-	Brock.....	B+
Western .....	A-	Laurier.....	B+
Guelph.....	A-	Lakehead.....	B+
Trent .....	A-	Laurentian .....	B+
Carleton.....	B+		



*Students prepare food and present on historical recipes in Dr. Murton's Food History class.*

participate in our Undergraduate Research Conference with researchers from across Ontario. This opportunity will help you to further develop your presentation and public speaking skills.

Other courses we offer include an integrated community-service learning component, giving you the opportunity to take what you learn in the classroom and apply it in real-world settings. For example, our Working Class History course includes an opportunity to work at a local food bank where you can explore historical and contemporary manifestations of class using first-hand experience. In addition, a part of our First Nations in Historical Perspective course is taught at the North Bay Indian Friendship Centre (NBIFC), a not-for-profit charity organization. NBIFC's mandate is to assist Aboriginal people who are transitioning into urban communities. They offer support programs for aboriginal youth, children and family, health and legal matters, education and employment, along with providing a place of community for Aboriginal people. Students are able to learn first-hand in this environment.

Our history professors come from a wide variety of backgrounds. They are nationally and internationally recognized, award-winning and published scholars who are passionate about their areas of expertise and the success of their students. History professors often employ undergraduate students as research assistants. This is a unique feature of the Nipissing experience and sure to provide you with advanced research skills. No matter how broad or specific you choose to be in your studies, our professors will provide you with the tools you need for academic success.

## Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you've completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional

environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.

## Master of Arts in History

If you've already completed an undergraduate degree and are looking to take the next step in your education, consider our Master of Arts degree in History. The program offers five fields of concentration—International, Gender, Canadian, European, and Environmental—and consists of course work and a Major Research Paper. The MA program provides training for entry into a PhD program, and as well, develops research, writing, and presentation skills that will expand your career options in a wide range of fields, including commerce, government, heritage, and teaching.

In the spring, you will participate in the annual Graduate Student Conference by presenting your Major Research Paper (MRP) proposal to an audience of peers and faculty in preparation for defense of your MRP. You can also serve as a research or teaching assistant for a faculty member. This will give you teaching experience at the university level, and includes instructing, marking, and holding office hours. While the program is typically completed within a year, it is offered in both full- and part-time studies.



"My experience with the History Department at Nipissing has completely changed the way I view the world around me, particularly concerning indigenous/non-indigenous relations in Canada. As I work toward a career in the social services sector, my background in Canadian History will be extremely valuable, and a minor in History is an ideal complement to a Social Welfare degree.

"The professors in the History Department have challenged me to critically examine the world that I live in, and have provided me with tools and feedback that have helped me to greatly improve my communication skills."

Evan Newman  
2014

## Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors, even outside of classroom hours.

Nipissing is focused on student success. So you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally. In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself all the great things Nipissing has to offer.

## Where Can I Go From Here?

With your critical thinking skills and the ability to speak and write eloquently, you will have many career options to choose from. History graduates find work in a variety of sectors of the economy, including civil service, the university sector (administration, recruitment, marketing), law, business and consulting. They find jobs in these areas because they have advanced communication and literacy skills, and knowledge that gives them insight into the world and how it works.

You may consider a career in teaching or you may want to follow your love of the subject of history to positions such as museum curator, biographer, politician, entrepreneur, community organizer, journalist, and genealogical and historical researcher.

Sign up for Open House, a tour, or more information: [ibelongatnipissingu.ca](http://ibelongatnipissingu.ca)

For more information on the History Department please visit [www.nipissingu.ca/history](http://www.nipissingu.ca/history)



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Student Recruitment Office, 100 College Drive, Box 5002, North Bay, ON P1B 8L7  
tel: (705) 474-3450 ext. 4200 • toll free (within Ontario): (800) 655-5154 • tty: (877) 688-5507  
[nuinfo@nipissingu.ca](mailto:nuinfo@nipissingu.ca) • [www.nipissingu.ca](http://www.nipissingu.ca) • [www.facebook.com/NipissingU](https://www.facebook.com/NipissingU) • [@NipissingU](https://twitter.com/NipissingU) @NURecruitment

If you would like to request this publication in an alternative format please contact the Student Recruitment Office at (705) 474-3450 ext. 4200