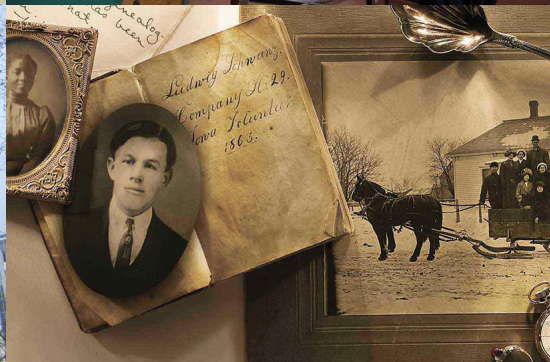


BYU FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM 2024-2025 GUIDEBOOK



Join the
FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM
email list:

Send an email to cfhgoff@byu.edu
and request to be added.
Stay up-to-date on events, courses,
and jobs.



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Access this book electronically at

<https://history.byu.edu/>

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Dear Family History Student:

Welcome to the Family History Program at BYU. Studying family history is the best decision you could make – one you won't regret! The BA in family history is an unusual hybrid of a liberal arts degree in history and technical degree in genealogy. The major has been designed to give you the skills of a historian and the skills of a genealogist. The minor focuses on technical genealogical training to complement your major.

Family history/genealogy is a growing and dynamic field with a variety of professional and volunteer paths. Housed within the History Department, the program provides hands-on learning and personal mentoring with a world-class faculty. You can craft the major to fit your ambitions and dreams because it offers so many courses as well as employment, internship, and networking opportunities. The program has been generously supported by both the university and donors. Let this abundance of resources encourage you to think creatively about your education. Don't just checklist the course requirements, take advantage of all the opportunities before you, talk to your professors to get guidance and direction, and enjoy learning in such a dynamic atmosphere.

We are glad to have you be part of family history at BYU. To join the major/minor email list (where we send announcements, job postings, and scholarship information) write cfhgoff@byu.edu and ask to be added to the list. For more details about all the family history resources at BYU, see <https://familyhistory.byu.edu>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harris

Family History Program Coordinator

EDUCATION * EXPLORATION * INNOVATION

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY • 2130 JFSB • PROVO, UT 84602

(801) 422-4335 • WEBSITE: history.byu.edu

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q How do I learn about family history events, jobs, and funding opportunities at BYU?

A Join the Family History Program email list.
Email cfhgoff@byu.edu and ask to be added to the list.

Q Whom do I speak with about declaring a Family History major or minor?

A Liberal Arts Advisement will help you monitor completing graduation requirements and will handle official declaration of the major/minor. Professor Harris will help you think strategically about courses, minors, internships and careers.

Professor Amy Harris
Family History Program Coordinator
2150 JFSB
(801) 422-6408
amy.harris@byu.edu

Amanda Peterson
Career Director
2136 WVB
(801) 422-5033
amanda.peterson@byu.edu

Q I understand I will be required to do an internship. Where can I get more information?

A You can contact the Internship Advisor or Coordinator.
Also see internship information material in this packet.

Professor Cacey Farnsworth
Internship Advisor
cfarnswo@byu.edu

Tiffany DeWitt
Internship Coordinator
(801)422-1789
or hist_intern@byu.edu
2130F JFSB

Q Has anyone died from talking to a professor?

A No. It turns out that talking about course planning, or career paths, or general advice, reduces stress, facilitates good health, and enhances your good looks. Faculty members are here to help.

Q Will this major help me trace my family back to Adam and Eve?
 A Absolutely not. If after taking History 217 you still want to do this, talk to Prof. Harris. Be prepared for her response.

Q Am I allowed to have a social life while majoring/ minoring in family history?
 A Yes! Spending time with the living is highly recommended and encouraged. You can talk to the living about the dead, but in order to maintain healthy family and social relations, cautiously gauge your audience's interest and endurance level.

Q Who will I meet in the Family History Program?
 A You'll meet people from a variety of backgrounds and generations. That mixture is one of the program's great strengths.

Q Will I be able to convince my parents there are job opportunities in family history?
 A YES! Have your parents read the rest of this packet, or attend RootsTech, or talk to Prof. Harris.

Q How should I answer the following questions?

Q: There's a major in that? (asked in curiosity and interest)	A: Yes! Isn't that cool? You can learn more at https://history.byu.edu
Q: There's a major in that? (asked in a negative derogatory tone).	A: Yes! Isn't that cool? I get to study something with enormous professional and career opportunities that also helps me strengthen family relationships. You can learn more at https://history.byu.edu
Q: Why would you study that?!!?	A: Refer to the answer above.

MEET THE FAMILY HISTORY FACULTY & STAFF

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Prof. Suzanne Adams, AG

CFHG director
1031D JFSB
(801) 422-2944
suzanne.adams@byu.edu
Specialty: Southern European

Prof. Brian Cannon

Department Chair
2130B JFSB
(801) 422-5211
brian_cannon@byu.edu
Specialty: Western US, Utah, LDS

Prof. Mark Christensen

2103 JFSB
(801) 422-9333
mark_christensen@byu.edu
Specialty: Maya, Aztec

Prof. Rebecca de Schweinitz

2127 JFSB
(801) 422-1594
rld@byu.edu
Specialty: African American, Women

Prof. Joe Everett, AG

Family History Librarian
2246 HBLL
(801) 422-7661
joe_everett@byu.edu
Specialty: Eastern European

Prof. Cacey Farnsworth, AG

Internship Advisor
2119 JFSB
(801) 422-0503
cfarnsw@byu.edu
Specialty: Southern European,

Prof. Amy Harris, AG

FH Program Coordinator
2150 JFSB
(801) 422-6408
amy.harris@byu.edu
Specialty: British, LDS, Women

Prof. Leslie Hadfield

2135 JFSB
(801) 422-8013
leslie_hadfield@byu.edu
Specialty: African, oral history

Prof. Christopher Jones

2109 JFSB
(801) 422-1838
christopher.jones@byu.edu
Specialty: Colonial US, African American

Prof. Jenny Pulsipher

2113 JFSB
(801) 422-3286
jenny_pulsipher@byu.edu
Specialty: Colonial American, Native American

Prof. Sarah Reed

2164 JFSB
(801) 422-9167
sarah_reed@byu.edu
Specialty: Scandinavian, German

Prof. Joseph Stuart

2105 JFSB
(801) 422-8283
joseph.stuart@byu.edu
Specialty: Southern US, Genetic Genealogy, African American

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Prof. Kelli Allen, QG

kelli_allen@byu.edu

Prof. Kathy Behling, AG

Kathy.Behling@byu.edu

Prof. Jana Greenhalgh, AG

jana_greenhalgh@byu.edu

Prof. Amber Larsen, AG

amber_larsen@byu.edu

Prof. Liz Snow, AG

liz_snow@byu.edu

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Academic Support Coordinator

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Jayne Corbett

CFHG Office Assistant

(801) 422-1968

jayne_corbett@byu.edu

Tiffany DeWitt

Internship Coordinator

(801) 422-1789

hist_intern@byu.edu

Jen Miller

History Dept Office Manager

2130 JFSB

jen_miller@byu.edu

(801) 422-3816



WHY STUDY FAMILY HISTORY?

BYU's Family History / Genealogy program is unique: it offers the only bachelor's degree in family history in the world and its international scope is unrivaled. It offers intensive training and prepares students for a variety of professions and community service. The combination of evidence analysis, technology, and paleography skills makes family history / genealogy a gateway discipline for multiple historical, genealogical, archival, library, and research professions.



“We can be inspired all day long about temple and family history experiences others have had. But we must do something to actually experience the joy ourselves.”

- President Russell M. Nelson, RootsTech 2017

SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF STUDYING FAMILY HISTORY

“Understanding human history can take a lot of intellectual elbow grease, and a commitment to reading and learning and analyzing. Moreover, the spiritual practice of remembering is more fundamental than mining the experiences of others for our individual spiritual benefit ... It is another way of understanding the world and our place in it, as we move through time as well as space. It means opening ourselves to a different way of seeing all the many ways our lives connect to those of others – past, present, and future.”

Margaret Bendroth

The Spiritual Practice of Remembering

2013

FROM A FORMER STUDENT

“I’ve found that when I consistently make a sacrifice of time to engage in family history work ... I’m actually blessed with more energy. I find that I have a greater abundance of the Spirit in all that I do, especially my interactions with my husband and sons. I also feel better able to prioritize and focus on what matters most. More than anything, this work has helped me to draw closer to Jesus Christ and be filled with gratitude for His central role in our Heavenly Father’s plan.”

FOR MORE ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL ROLE OF FAMILY HISTORY, SEE THE FOLLOWING:

Elder Dale G. Renlund, “Family History and Temple Work: Sealing and Healing,” April 2018 General Conference <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2018/04/family-history-and-temple-work-sealing-and-healing?lang=eng>

Henry Louis Gates Jr., Keynote Speech, RootsTech 2018 [2018 RootsTech Keynote: Skip Gates • RootsTech • FamilySearch](#)

Amy Harris, “How dead cats, siblings, eighteenth-century English clergy, making lists, TED talks, evolutionary biology, Susa Young Gates, and my mom can save the world from being utterly wasted,” BYU Forum Address 18 July 2017 <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/amy-harris/how-family-history-can-save-the-world>

Sister Wendy Watson Nelson and President Russell M. Nelson, RootsTech 2017 Family Discovery Day <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2017/10/open-the-heavens-through-temple-and-family-history-work?lang=eng>

Sister Sherri Dew and Sister Wendy Watson Nelson, Family History Discussion, RootsTech 2016 https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/ldsorg/topics/family-history/host-a-family-history-fair/admin-page-file/handouts/fdd/PD60001197_000-RT16-Nelson-Dew-WEB.pdf

FAMILY HISTORY CLUB

All students should consider joining the
Family History Club:

<https://linktr.ee/byufamhistclub>



ANNUAL EVENTS

February: RootsTech

March: History Department Banquet

April: Family History Program's Professional Networking Dinner

May: National Genealogical Society Conference

September: FamilySearch Internship Information Night

October: Family History Program's Fall Reception

October: National Family History Month

November (some years): Archive Field Trip

KEEP UP ON EVENTS



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/byufamilyhistoryclub>



<https://www.instagram.com/byufamhistprogram/>



<https://www.instagram.com/byu.familyhistoryclub/>
use the hashtag #BYUFamilyHistory

SHIP OF THESEUS

dark stone hanging
a heavy book
a place in the
The face
perhaps
paint
look



What did she
look like???

SEE ATTACHED
and should look
the description

IS HIS NAME
JONAS? I CAN
A description
sh it were
d-on. For

cheer
prised he
She can see
say she was just a girl
"one who felt in love with
sailed away on his ship. S
here on his ship and re
beautiful singing
life made a son
knew many
she was

COURSE PLANNING

...ers
is sur-
g to S. "Some
," she explains,
pean sailor and
some say that she arrived
ained. Some say she had a ←
oice, others say she never in her
and above a whisper. Some say she
of the world's languages, and others say
just a beautiful idiot. My family claims her

JUST LIKE THE
LOVE INTEREST IN
WINGED STORIES.

just like Filomela

WHERE TO BEGIN

HIST 205: Introduction to Family History Doctrine and Practice

This 2-credit religion elective course is designed for those with an interest in family history — no matter their skill level.

Learn more about it here: <https://history.byu.edu/hist205>

See Cosmo find his ancestors here: <https://youtu.be/r2L7-foxJpI>



HIST 206R: Thematic and Regional Studies in Family History

This is a 1-credit class open to all, no matter their experience in family history. It covers genealogical research in a particular location or for a particular group. Depending on the semester, different locations are offered.

Some of the areas include: Latin America, Scandinavia, Australia and New Zealand, African American, France, England/Wales, East Asia, Latter-day Saint, Polynesia, Oral History, and Maya.

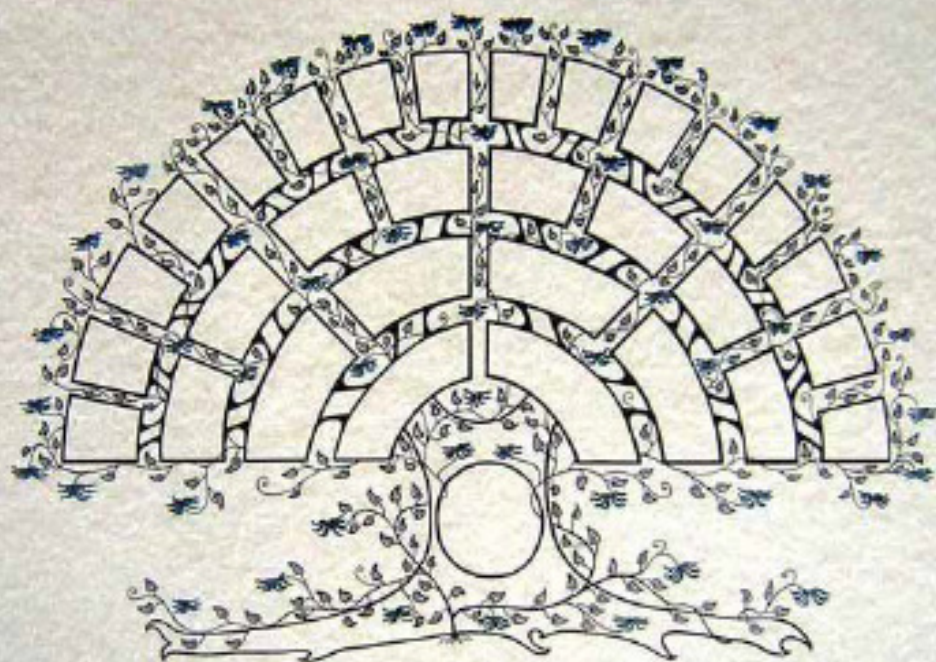
WHERE TO GET HELP

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS AND OPEN LAB HOURS

There are many sources of help and support as you take your first classes.

- Taught by Hist 205 TAs, Family History Workshops are held in 2240 HBLL and are offered multiple times each week. They cover topics introduced in Hist 205 and Hist 217 and are a valuable way to get hands-on experience and additional help. Click here for the detailed schedule: <https://history.byu.edu/famhistworkshops>
- Open lab hours are also held in 2240 HBLL. Hist 205 TAs will help you with citation, research logs, genealogy software, and any other questions you might have. See the schedule on <https://history.byu.edu/famhistworkshops>





COURSE PLANNING

The Family History Program is designed to give you a solid foundation in genealogical and historical methods, genres of genealogical writing, foundational American research, historical research skills, and the opportunity for advanced research in a particular region and/or approach. To best take advantage of the program, courses will ideally follow the path listed below.

FAMILY HISTORY MAJOR

FOUNDATION

HIST 200: Historian's Craft

HIST 205: Introduction to Family History Doctrine & Practice
(fulfills religion elective credit)

HIST 206R: Regional & Thematic Courses in Family History
(different options each semester)

HIST 217: Family Historian's Craft

HIST 218: The Family and the Law in American History

GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH

HIST 280: Northern US

HIST 285: Scandinavian

HIST 281: Southern US

HIST 286: S. European/Latin Am.

HIST 282: Colonial N. Am.

HIST 287: Eastern European

HIST 283: British

HIST 284: German

SKILLS

HIST 298: Digital History

HIST 350-354, 420: Language-Specific Paleography Courses

HIST 381: Computers in Family History Research & Publication

HIST 388: Genetic Genealogy

HIST 396: Telling the Story of History: A Writing Workshop

HIST 431: Public History

APPLICATION/CAPSTONE

HIST 299R: Internship (optional)

HIST 439: Seminar on Professional Family History Research

HIST 490: Capstone Research Seminar

HIST 496R: Academic Internship



FAMILY HISTORY MINOR

17 credits (5 of which fulfill university requirements)

There is flexibility in the minor to make it suit your goals.

Consult with Professor Harris about available options.

FOUNDATION - 8 credits

HIST 205: Introduction to Family History Doctrine & Practice
(fulfills religion elective credit)

HIST 217: Family Historian's Craft (fulfills GE social science credit)

HIST 218: The Family and the Law in American History
(should be taken the semester after Hist 217)

ADVANCED AMERICAN RESEARCH - 3 credits

HIST 280: Northern US

HIST 281: Southern US

HIST 282: Colonial North American

SKILLS - 3 credits

HIST 298: Digital History

HIST 350: English Language Paleography

HIST 351: German Language Paleography

HIST 352: Scandinavian Languages Paleography

HIST 353: Romance Languages Paleography

HIST 354: Russian Language Paleography

HIST 381: Computers in Historical Research and Publication

HIST 388: Genetic Genealogy

HIST 396: Telling the Story of History: A Writing Workshop

HIST 420: Latin Paleography

HIST 431: Public History

ADVANCED RESEARCH ELECTIVE - 3 credits

Courses used for the Skills requirement cannot double count for the Advanced Research Elective

HIST 206R: You may take 3 different sections of 206R (each worth 1 credit) instead of a 3-credit class

HIST 280: Northern US Family History Research

HIST 281: Southern US Family History Research

HIST 282: Colonial North American Family History Research

HIST 283: British Family History Research

HIST 284: German Family History Research

HIST 285: Scandinavian Family History Research

HIST 286: Southern European / Latin Am Family History Research

HIST 287: Eastern European Family History Research

HIST 496R: Internship

GOOD MINORS FOR FAMILY HISTORY MAJORS

The Family History major already combines historical and genealogical training, but supplementing that with additional cross-training is a good idea. Being cross-trained in another field will hone your skills and make you better prepared for the occupation and volunteer opportunities in family history / genealogy.

TECHNICAL

Digital Humanities
Information Technology
Computer Science

GRAPHIC & VISUAL ARTS

Design Thinking
Media Arts

BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS

Marketing
Communications
Public Relations
Global and Community
Impact

AREA STUDIES

Africana Studies
American Studies
Asian Studies
European Studies
Latin American Studies
Scandinavian Studies

SOCIAL & BIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Anthropology
Genetics (Microbiology)
Geography
Global Women's Studies

WRITING & LANGUAGES

Editing
English
Foreign Languages

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

BYU offers a host of out-of-classroom resources designed to help you succeed in your classes. There are also classes in other programs that might interest you. Of particular interest to family history students are writing resources. If in your studies you discover other classes or resources that would benefit your fellow family history students, please inform Professor Harris.

WRITING SUPPORT

FHSS Writing Lab 1175 JFSB

<https://fhsswriting.byu.edu>

GENEALOGICAL WRITING SAMPLES

There is a binder available for review at the CFHG (1031 JFSB). It contains examples of professional client reports, credential application materials, and examples of student writing.

WRITING CLASSES

WRTG 311: Writing about Art and Humanities

WRTG 312: Persuasive Writing

WRTG 315: Writing in the Social Sciences

WRTG 316: Technical Communication

ENG 317R: Writing Creative Nonfiction

OTHER CLASSES OF INTEREST

DIGHT 210: Intro to Programming

DIGHT 215: Intro to Digital Humanities

DIGHT 250: Web Publishing

GEOG 130: Intro to Human Geography

GEOG 211: Mapping your World

GEOG 212: Intro to GIS

PWS 168: Personal Genomics: Me and My Genes



**INTERNSHIPS
&
EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING**



FAMILY HISTORY INTERNSHIPS

An internship is intended to provide you with valuable experience and help you find satisfying employment after you graduate.

It is an important part of your training!

HOW TO GET STARTED - THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. You arrange your own internship, either by contacting the organizations on the potential internship list, or a company, archive, or genealogical society of your choice.
2. Consult with a family history faculty mentor about internship possibilities in your area. See page 9 for faculty contact information.
3. Meet with the Internship Coordinator in the History Department Office: Tiffany DeWitt 2130F JFSB (801) 422-1789 hist_intern@byu.edu
4. There are credit-load/registration status requirements in the semester surrounding an internship

FOR DOMESTIC INTERNSHIPS

4. Submit an application:
<https://experience.byu.edu/students>

scroll down to icon:



Internship Application

5. When approved at all levels, register for HIST 496R.
6. Complete the internship, including reports required in

FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

4. Visit the Kennedy Center Individual Experience office.
5. Have the History Dept. Internship Coordinator and faculty advisor sign your paperwork.
6. Enroll in IAS 369R before your internship.
7. Complete the internship, including reports in the HIST 496R syllabus.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships and experiential learning opportunities abound at BYU, especially within the Family History Program. There are also abundant funding resources to support those opportunities. While one internship is required, don't see this as a checklist, but as an opportunity to learn in a "real-world" environment. Consider completing more than one internship.

HOW TO PLAN & PREPARE

It is important that you are fully prepared for your internship. Many students intern between their junior and senior years, or their final spring term.

Create and continually update a resume, a basic cover letter, and other application materials. Taking [STDEV 317](#) (Job and Internship Search Strategies) is a helpful preparation.

FOR ALL INTERNSHIPS

- HIST 220
- HIST 205
- HIST 217
- HIST 218
- A Paleography Class (HIST 350-354)
- One of the elective Family History Courses

FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

- In addition to the courses listed for ALL internships, students must be proficient in speaking and/or reading language(s) applicable to the internship.
- The appropriate paleography class.
- The family history course for your country or region of choice.

Some internships are best only for students with a high level of training and proficiency. For the following internships, we strongly recommend at least a B+ average in the major.

- Society of Genealogists – London
- Folger Library – Washington D.C.
- New England Historic & Genealogical Society – Boston MA

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many sources for funding. Check with a faculty mentor or Internship coordinator early in your planning to make sure you're familiar with the sources and deadlines. Funding is available, on a competitive basis, from the CFHG, the History Department, and FHSS. Note that the CFHG application deadline is usually in early November for scholarships the following calendar year (January through December).

POTENTIAL INTERNSHIPS

National & Regional Archives

State Archives (U.S.) and County Archives (U.K.)

Historical Societies

Library of Congress
(Washington D.C.)

Newberry Library (Chicago)

Folger Shakespeare Library
(Washington D.C.)

Clayton Library (Houston)

Society of Genealogists
(London)

Professional Research Companies

New England Historical
Genealogical Society (Boston)

Commercial Genealogical
Companies

New York Genealogical and
Biographical Society

Irish Family History Research
Center (Dublin)

Regional Office of US National
Archives

Allen County Public Library
(IN)

Family Search / Family History
Library



WHY AN INTERNSHIP?

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

"I am glad that I chose to do an academic internship at the genealogy center (in Indiana), as it helped broaden my ideas of what can be done with a degree in family history and genealogy."

-United States

"This internship has opened my eyes to new opportunities and shown me that I can apply the skills that I have learned in my other classes at Brigham Young University. This experience has changed my life."

-Washington Seminar



"While I somewhat expected the internship to just be a checklist item on my list of things to do in order to graduate, it proved to be an important experience in the development of my skills as a genealogist. I definitely feel more prepared... There is significant value in having "real-world" experience before you graduate and try to start your career on your own." - On campus

"This internship completely changed my perspective on Southern European family history and will impact my research for the rest of my life. I don't regret going, in fact, this has been probably one of the most educational times of my entire stay at BYU."

-Spain and France



"This was an amazing experience both on a personal and academic level. For starters, I am forty-seven-years old and I made the bold decision . . . to do a semester abroad in Vienna, Austria . . . I learned so much . . . about the cultures, the history and the research strategies; all of which has enriched my life . . . I will forever be grateful for this opportunity."

- Austria



NETWORKING
&
CAREER DEVELOPMENT





PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE WHILE IN SCHOOL

MAP FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1

FIRST YEAR join the Family History Club; attend all events possible, particularly the Fall Reception and Spring Professional Networking dinner. Join Phi Alpha Theta – the Department of History’s honor club. At the end of the year apply for on-campus family history jobs and/or consider an internship. Meet with faculty mentors.

2

SECOND YEAR join club leadership. Attend RootsTech and consider presenting there. Consider presenting with the Utah Genealogical Virtual Chapter or a regional family history conference. Apply for assistant research or teaching positions. Apply to be a TA for the Family History Workshops. Submit papers to the Thetean, the Department of History’s undergraduate journal by participating in the department student paper competition. Attend the FHSS Mentored Learning Conference (April and December) to see student research. Consider presenting at BYU’s Family History Technology Workshop. Complete an initial internship. Meet with faculty mentors.

3

THIRD YEAR apply for a grant to attend NGS. Submit an essay for publication. Continue to meet with family history and history faculty mentors. Consider joining the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG). Apply for awards and scholarships in the college and department. Present your research at FHSS Mentored Learning Conference in April and December. If you’ve worked at the Center for Family History and Genealogy for over a year, consider requesting a new assignment there in order to expand your experience. Meet with faculty mentors.

4

FOURTH YEAR apply for internship grants. Attend NGS. Apply for graduate school. Begin compiling portfolio materials for an AG or CG application. Volunteer to help plan a local conference/organization. Join APG. Meet with faculty mentors.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Consider taking
Student Development Class ([ST DEV 317](#)):
Career Strategies for Employment and Internships

2 credits

University and college services can help you
craft a resume, prepare for interviews, and learn
important job skills.

Liberal Arts Advisement and Careers

801-422-3541

1041 JFSB

<https://liberalarts.byu.edu/>

<https://experience.byu.edu/>

BYU
**Careers &
Experiential Learning**

CAREER PATHS IN FAMILY HISTORY

“The (BYU family history students) I’ve hired in the past were the very best at professionalism, work ethic, and knowledge about genealogy research.”

-Genealogical Management Professional, 2019

The Family History / Genealogy major offers undergraduates an unparalleled opportunity to hone their skills outside the classroom. In addition to internships, many students are employed as research assistants, teaching assistants, or as researchers at the Center for Family History and Genealogy. Because the program is relatively small, majors and minors build friendships and working relationships with other students that benefit not only their college career, but also their post-graduation pursuits.

CAREERS

Genealogical Research Companies

Genetic & Forensic Genealogy Firms

Genealogical Corporations

National Parks / Historic Sites

Libraries/Archives

Historical Societies

Museums

Technology Companies

Probate / Heir Research

Research Libraries

EXAMPLES OF CAREERS PURSUED BY BYU FAMILY HISTORY GRADUATES

PRIVATE RESEARCH

This Texas graduate received a Master of Arts in International Relations. She is in the process of becoming credentialed and has started her own business as a private researcher.

SPEAKING

This graduate earned her M.A. from the University of Alberta and does private research, is a stake Family History Center Director, and speaks throughout Western Canada on genealogical topics.

VOLUNTEERING

This graduate of Brea, California, a mother and homemaker, volunteers at the Orange County FamilySearch Library.

TEACHING

This graduate earned her Master of Library Science and is a librarian on a naval base in Japan. She teaches a 6-week genealogy class, free to the public, through a local library. She also teaches a 4-week children's genealogy class during the summers.

GOVERNMENT RESEARCH

A graduate in Culpeper, Virginia, is an adjunct instructor at BYU-I and conducts private client research. Another graduate living in McLean, Virginia, works for the Bureau of Economic Research as a research assistant, analyzing Union Army veterans for trends in disease and mortality.

DIGITAL HISTORY

This graduate, living in Chicago, Illinois, received a Master of Arts Digital Humanities from Loyola University, is owner of Roots4All Genealogical Services, and is a part time contractor for Genlighten.com.

CONSULTANT

This graduate, living in Oregon, works privately as a family history consultant for various research clients. She also does part-time work, legal work, volunteer work, church work, etc.

RECORD MANAGEMENT

This graduate, living in Maryland, received a Master in Library Science and works in records management. She is the Assistant Director for records operations for the US Department of Justice.

START-UPS

This graduate and his wife own and operate a small online genealogy company in Idaho.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This graduate is pursuing his Masters in Library Science and a Master of Information Science at Indiana University.

PART-TIME

This graduate from Ohio has been a self-employed, part time genealogist continuously since 2004.



NETWORKING & LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Be sure to keep in touch.

Support the students who join the program after you. Invite current students to contact you about your internship and campus experiences. Provide meaningful feedback on senior and alumni surveys.

Make sure you are on the Family History Alumni email list, so you can receive employment notices and other information. To confirm you are on the list, or to change your address in the future, please contact cfhgoff@byu.edu.

Join other Networking sites:

LinkedIn, NextGen Genealogy Network <https://www.tnggn.org/>,

Join Facebook groups managed by other alumni.

Follow #BYUfamilyhistory

Take advantage of BYU's Alumni Career Services

<https://alumniCareers.byu.edu>

Stay connected and involved with the BYU Alumni Association

Visit <https://alumni.byu.edu>



CONTINUING EDUCATION, FUNDING PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CREDENTIALLING

CONTINUING EDUCATION

There are numerous ways to expand your genealogical education while a student and to continue it once you graduate. During your time as a BYU student, you can apply to the History Department for Experiential Learning funds to help defray costs. You are especially encouraged to consider participating in a genealogical institute. Institutes are weeklong courses focused on a particular topic.

- Webinars: as updated on [Cyndislist](#)
- Conferences: <https://conferencekeeper.org/>
- Institutes: as updated on [Cyndislist](#)

FUNDING

As stated above, there are funds meant to help you access these opportunities. Talk with a faculty member or internship coordinator. Don't assume you have to pay all the costs for every opportunity in the program. As Dr. Harris is fond of saying: "God is abundant. And so is BYU funding." Explore funding information from the university, FHSS college, the library, the History Department, and the Center for Family History and Genealogy:

- <https://enrollment.byu.edu/scholarships>
- <https://liberalarts.byu.edu/fhss-financial-aid>
- <https://history.byu.edu/students>

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Consider joining a relevant professional genealogical organization during your undergraduate career. They often offer discounted membership dues for students.

Alternatively, you could apply for Experiential Learning funds to pay for your membership dues. There is not a guarantee the History Department will pay the dues, but if funds are tight, apply and find out.

There are hundreds of genealogical organizations you could join. Be wise in your choices. You can learn about them on [Cyndi's List](#). We recommend joining Association of Professional Genealogists for connections to the field across the world and the National Genealogical Society to connect to the major American society. If you do not plan to work in the United States, then join the national society for the place



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

Association of Professional
Genealogists

<https://www.apgen.org/>



NATIONAL
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY®

National Genealogical Society

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

CREDENTIALLING

You are strongly encouraged to work toward a credential. Most students need 1-2 years of study after graduation to be adequately prepared to apply.

Some students pursue the credential simultaneously with the bachelor's degree. If this is your goal, talk with a faculty member as soon as possible so you can strategize a path.

There are two credential-granting organizations in the United States. They test the same skills, but in different ways.

You can learn more about them via their websites, at Family History Program events, from course content, and by discussing options and plans with a faculty member.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



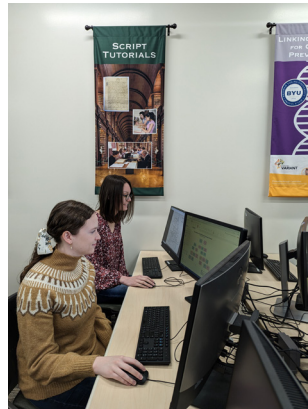
THE CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY & GENEALOGY

The CFHG is a community of family history scholars – faculty, students, and volunteers – working and learning together to:

1. Simplify the finding of ancestors.
2. Support the training of family historians and genealogists.
3. Aid researchers in the study of families and the populations in which they reside.

EMPLOYMENT AT THE CENTER

The Center currently employs up to 50 students to conduct research, supervise projects, and create tutorials, giving our students excellent experience in their chosen field of study. Students who have successfully completed History 217 are eligible to apply for employment at the Center. Watch Y Jobs (the student employment job board) at the beginning of every semester for available openings.



CURRENT CFHG PROJECTS

EARLY BRITISH CENSUS PROJECT

This project compiles the numerous surviving census returns from 1801 to 1831 from Britain and Ireland into one searchable database. As of summer 2024 the database comprises over 400 parish returns containing information about nearly 170,000 households and 265,000 individuals. Website:

<http://ebc.byu.edu/>

LINKING FAMILIES FOR CANCER PREVENTION

Linking Families for Cancer Prevention is conducted in partnership with the nonprofit organization, ConnectMyVariant. This effort is a public health initiative for families with genetic variants that can cause hereditary cancer. The Center uses genetic and traditional genealogical research to build family trees for the participants. Then the team at ConnectMyVariant helps the participants inform their relatives of the family's increased risk, so the families can take preventative measures.

Website: <https://cfhg.byu.edu/linking-families>

NAUVOO COMMUNITY PROJECT

BYU student research on residents of the community of Nauvoo assists descendants with genealogical research, as well as assisting historians of frontier towns in learning more about westward migration and life in frontier societies. Website: <http://nauvoo.byu.edu/>

THE SCRIPT TUTORIAL

The Center has developed the Script Tutorials, which offer guidance in deciphering documents written in handwriting styles or alphabets no longer in general use. Most of the tutorial explanations are also available in the native languages. Website: <https://script.byu.edu>

REPATRIATION PROJECT

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to account for all missing soldiers, and where possible, return their remains to their families. Over 81,000 soldiers remain missing from our country's wars back to World War II. Students at the Center use traditional and genetic genealogical research to assist in identifying the soldiers' living next of kin and potential DNA donors to assist in identifying remains. This provides a meaningful service to our country's military families. Website: <https://www.dpaa.mil/>



DID YOU KNOW?

The Center also has a book collection and writing samples for you to use.

The Center for Family History and Genealogy is an open computer lab. All family history students are encouraged to see it as a place they can work on projects, work with classmates, use the library and computer resources, and enjoy comradery with fellow students.

The Center includes a library with major reference texts for the use of all students.

QUICK LINKS

Family History Workshops

<https://history.byu.edu/famhistworkshops>

BYU Family History Center <https://fh.lib.byu.edu>

BYU Harold B. Lee Library <https://lib.byu.edu/>

FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

BYU History Department <https://history.byu.edu>

FHSS Student Resources <https://socialsciences.byu.edu/students>



Once you've completed your education at BYU, consider all the ways you can help others. This is partially accomplished via employment or volunteer opportunities.

You can also help your wards, stakes, and communities with family history research, genealogy fairs, and preservation of living memory.

Also, consider supporting future students by donating to scholarship funds <https://history.byu.edu/support-the-department>, attending the Professional Networking Dinner, and helping others network at the conferences.

