



WHO HAS MAJORED IN HISTORY?

History degrees not only open doors to a variety of careers but also create opportunities to wield significant influence. At least eight presidents of the United States majored in history. Around 34% of current Australian parliamentarians have a BA, many with an emphasis on history. As the [Financial Times recently said](#) of this high correlation between power and the BA: “there’s a certain synchronicity ... these degrees teach people analytical skills, as well as strong written and verbal communication skills.” Here is a (continually updated) list of some prominent history graduates:

Diane Abbott, first black woman MP in the British parliament
Chinua Achebe, Nigerian novelist and poet
Gordon Brown, former British PM
Steve Carell, comedian
Bob Carr, former premier of NSW
Max Chandler-Mather, Australian Greens MP
Kenneth Chenault, CEO of American Express
Julia Child, TV chef
Larry David, comedian
Megan Davis, Indigenous constitutional lawyer
Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard
Richard Fisher, chairman of Morgan Stanley
Robert Fogel, Nobel prize winner in economics
John Gorton, former prime minister of Australia
Gerard Henderson, journalist
Chris Hughes, co-founder of Facebook
Matt Keogh, Australian Federal Minister
Kwasi Kwarteng, former Conservative MP in the UK
John Lithgow, actor
Giordano Nanni, founder of Juice Media
Conan O’Brien, comedian
Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of Reddit
Clare O’Neil, Australian Federal Minister
Michael Palin, Monty Python
Sam Palmisano, CEO of IBM
David Ritter, CEO of Greenpeace Australia
Salman Rushdie, novelist
Shashi Tharoor, former Under-Secretary General of the UN
Matthew Trinca, former director of the National Museum of Australia
B. A. Santamaria, political leader and journalist
Ben Silverman, co-chair of NBC
Martha Stewart, media mogul
Howard Stringer, CEO of SONY
Louis Theroux, documentary-maker
H. G. Wells, novelist

Susan Wojcicki, CEO of YouTube

Judith Wright, environmentalist and poet