



## WHY STUDY HISTORY?

On [this page](#) we outlined the four main ways that historians talk about the value of history: they emphasise its civic function; its career outcomes; its personal outcomes; and its development of analytical skills. To students thinking about a major in history, we'd summarise these features like this:

### 1. *History will help you become a knowledgeable and engaged citizen*

- These essays are instructive testimonies about how history can develop your [understanding of the world](#), your sense of [belonging to the world](#), your [role in society](#), and your [social grace](#).
- This is [a review of recent Australian book, \*Lessons from History\*](#), on how history is essential to good policy making, and [here's an essay](#) by the book's editor on how citizenship depends on history.
- Here is [a succinct statement](#) about how history makes you better understand politics, yourself, and the world.
- Mangione et al. in *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (Jan 29, 2018), showed that medical students with significant exposure to humanities courses correlated with more positive personal qualities than those without.

### 2. *History will help you obtain well-paid and satisfying employment*

- Recent Australian research shows that [72% of humanities graduates](#) find fulltime work within six months and enjoy a [higher median income](#) than graduates of science, architecture, or communications (exact history data not available, but history is a core [humanities](#) subject, along with philosophy, literary study, and religious study).
- [This page](#) and the [bottom half of this page](#) and [this podcast](#) and [this essay](#) all discuss the practical skills that history provides in the workplace.
- There are countless testimonies from business employers about their preference for history graduates: see this [financial services employer](#) (p. 8); this [lawyer and business executive](#); this [discussion of Australian businesses](#); and this [report from Deloitte](#).
- A [British Council report](#) found that in a study of 17,000 government, business, and non-profit leaders in 30 countries around 55% had humanities or social science degrees.