

30 Reasons it's Smart to Hire a History Student

When my high-tech clients ask how my business relates to my History degree, I don't know what to tell them. Not because the job doesn't relate to my studies—it does. Almost everything does, if you ask me. On the transferable skill side, there is just so, so much.

Yet, I can't help but notice how underrated the History half of my education seems to be. It has helped me thrive in so many work worlds—from the public service, to high tech marketing, to education and tourism. It's time we stopped overlooking the History degree.

Here are 30 reasons why.

1. History students are experts at **tracking trends**. They know how people, strategies, and time-stamped statistics work (or don't work).
2. ...and, yes, they know how to **communicate** that information back.
3. When presented with a whole bunch of information, History students are trained to be able to quickly **judge** what is relevant, and why it is relevant.
4. History students need to pick up on the jargon, locations, and terms associated with different historical periods and disciplines. If there's unique lingo, acronyms, or **language** that your team/organization uses, they will be quick to understand and adopt it.
5. These kids know how to **write**.
6. Oh, and they know how to **summarize**. Throw them a hodge-podge of random information, and they'll turn it into a concise, focused, and coherent package (hey, maybe they'll even make you a list! Eh? Eh?)
7. They can **recognize** long term effects.
8. ...which means they can help **develop long term solutions**.
9. And they're **aware** that the world changes *constantly*, so those solutions (and their attitudes) will likely stay flexible.
10. They recognize the need for a plan B (and C...and D...)
11. History scholars tend to be naturally **interested** people. Interested people are the best employees.
12. They know how to back up their points, and are champions of logical argumentation.
13. They understand how individuals affect situations and organizations.
14. They understand how the environment affects situations and organizations.
15. They understand how internal culture affects situations and organizations.
16. ...basically, History students **understand** stuff. Or they can figure it out pretty quickly, after years of studying how things play out and why.
17. Chances are they have an **awareness** of international relations and the history/culture of different countries. With our increasingly global economy, this shouldn't be underestimated.
18. They do their research.
19. And they do that research *well*. They know how to confirm data, to critically evaluate sources, and to filter out irrelevant information.
20. History majors know how to **make connections**. They can learn how a system works (or how it doesn't work) incredibly quickly.
21. They are open to **abstract thinking** and ideas.
22. These are critically thinking **storytellers**. They can make almost anything look and feel interesting.
23. History degrees involve seminars and discussions, so a History student will have refined **oral communication** skills.
24. History scholars genuinely **enjoy learning**, and they're quick to do it. Throw them information, and they'll catch it.
25. They know how to use media and technology as a **research and a communication tool**.
26. They work freakin' hard. (I know multiple very smart people who tried taking a first year history class as a "bird course" and either dropped it or called me crying "Why is this so hard?!")
27. They know what kind of **innovative, thoughtful** ideas have influenced the world in the past. This means that their ideas are usually pretty innovative and thoughtful.
28. Most History students **understand economics**—they get how money works, moves, and influences things.
29. They are trained on how to **observe** human behavior. Like, say, a client or customer's behavior.
30. They can **organize** ideas into tables and timelines like you would not believe.

Basically, studying History helps you develop key skills like critical thinking, communication, research, and writing. History students can pick up on patterns and systems quickly, think in big picture/abstract ways...and still rock that always important attention to detail.

I'm biased, I'm biased, I'm biased (so biased, I said it three times). But, hey, at least I recognize that bias and mention it when presenting a listed-out argument, right?

(Thanks, History degree.)

Shauna Vert has a B.A. in History and Communications from the University of Ottawa. After working in marketing and heritage for several years, she launched a freelance consultancy, Content Counts, to help organizations understand and communicate the past in marketable ways. Her clients come from a variety of sectors, including technology, tourism, legal services, First Nations education, and non-profits.

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