

HISTORY

Explore the events, ideas, and movements that have shaped human societies across time. History at Franklin equips you to analyze change, understand the present, and make informed decisions about the future.

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MAJOR OVERVIEW

The History major at Franklin emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and effective communication through reading, writing, and oral presentations. You will study past events to gain insights into contemporary issues, preparing yourself for careers in law, business, diplomacy, government, international organizations, journalism, education, or for advanced graduate study.

YOUR DEGREE

A 120-CREDIT DEGREE DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

To earn a Bachelor's degree at Franklin, students must complete 120 credits across university-wide core requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. The curriculum combines a shared liberal arts foundation with specialized study in your chosen major, giving you both breadth and depth throughout your undergraduate experience.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Courses and academic experiences shared by all Franklin students, designed to build essential skills and knowledge across disciplines.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses specific to your chosen major, including foundational, required, and elective courses within the discipline

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

Courses selected from across Franklin's curriculum to explore additional interests and complement your major.

Shared by all Franklin students

66 CREDITS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	WHAT IT DEVELOPS
First-Year Seminar, 3 credits	Introduces students to Franklin's liberal arts approach and develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills.
Academic Travel, 12 credits	Connects classroom learning with experiential study across different cultural and geographic contexts.
Academic Writing, 12 credits	Develops written and oral communication skills for academic and professional contexts.
Global Responsibility, 18 credits	Examines intercultural competencies, international engagement, and social responsibility.
Modern Language, 15 credits	Builds language skills and cultural literacy, with a focus on Swiss languages.
Quantitative Literacy, 6 credits	Develops the ability to interpret, analyze, and communicate numerical information and data.

Please note: in some cases, courses may fulfill both a Core Requirement and a Major Requirement.

HISTORY REQUIREMENTS — 48 CREDITS

INTRODUCTORY HISTORY — 6 credits

HIS 100	Western Civilization I: Ancient and Medieval
	And
HIS 101	Western Civilization II: Modern
	Or
HIS 104	Global History I: Traditions, Encounters, and Adaptation from the Stone Age to the 16th Century
	And
HIS 105	Global History II: Globalization, the Emergence of the Modern State, and Coping with Change

THE WRITING OF HISTORY: THEORY AND METHOD — 3 credits

One of the following

HIS 211	The Human in History: Biography and Life Writing
HIS 213	The End of the Roman Republic in Past and Present

HISTORICAL STUDIES — 21 credits

Seven of the following (including at least two at the 300-level)

HIS 199	First Year Seminar in History
HIS 202	History of Switzerland
HIS 204	Love and Betrayal in the History of Italy from the Renaissance to the Present
HIS 215T	Central Europe: An Urban History
HIS 243	Worlds of Islam
HIS 245	Worlds of Judaism
HIS 260	The Holocaust and Genocide
HIS 275T	History of Modern Ireland: Union and Dis-union, 1798-1998
HIS 330	East Asia, 1900 to the Present
HIS 345	Propaganda: A Modern History
HIS 351	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict in Europe
HIS 358	Global Britishness
HIS 360	The Revolutionary Idea in Theory and Practice: Russia 1917 in Context
HIS 370	Special Topics in History

THE WRITING OF HISTORY II: CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT — 6 credits

One of the following

HIS 430	East Asia, 1900 to the Present
HIS 451	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict in Europe and the Middle East
HIS 460	The Revolutionary Idea in Theory and Practice: Russia 1917 in Context

And

HIS 499	History Senior Thesis

*The remaining credits required to complete the degree are fulfilled through **interdisciplinary electives,** allowing students to explore courses across Franklin's academic offerings.*

CLICK HERE TO **LEARN MORE** ABOUT THE MAJOR

3-YEAR OPTION

This major is also available as a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree for students who qualify for advanced standing based on their high school academic credentials. Students admitted with 30 U.S. credits of advanced standing receive a head start on their university studies, allowing them to complete their degree in three years.

GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY



FINTAN HOEY

Professor and Program Director, History



ARIANE MOTTALE

Adjunct Professor of Modern Languages (Italian) and History

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLACES YOU STUDY

Academic Travel courses allow students to learn beyond the classroom by exploring real-world environments alongside knowledgeable and passionate professors, turning travel destinations into immersive, living classrooms.

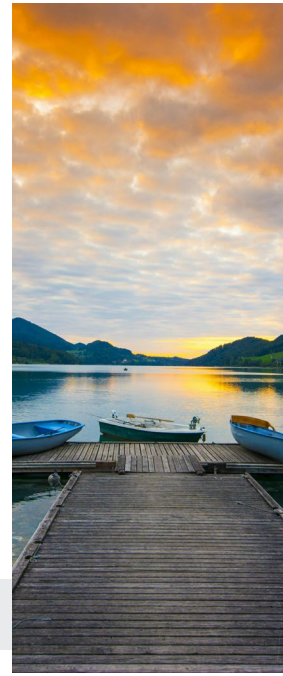
EXPLORE SOME MAJOR-RELATED ACADEMIC TRAVELS



HIS 275T HISTORY OF MODERN IRELAND: UNION AND DIS-UNION, 1798-1998 – IRELAND
Explore Ireland's social, economic, and political transformations over two centuries, focusing on its complex relationship with Britain. Analyze events from the famine to the Celtic Tiger while understanding broader cultural and societal shifts.

HIS 241T MODERN TÜRKIYE: DREAMS OF MODERNITY
Trace Türkiye's evolution from the Ottoman Empire through Atatürk's reforms to the Erdoğan era, examining the nation-building processes that have shaped modern Turkish identity. This course explores the political and social transformations that turned Türkiye into a key actor in the Middle East and North Africa.

HIS 268T HISTORY OF MODERN JAPAN
Explore Japan's rapid transformation from forced opening in the 1850s to industrialization, empire, postwar recovery, and today's economic and environmental challenges. Field research across Japan offers firsthand insight into how these historical shifts continue to shape Japanese society and its global role.





LEARN MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC TRAVEL AND EXPLORE OUR COURSES

WHY CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Dual Accreditation
United States (MSCHE) & Switzerland (Swiss Accreditation Council)

Residential Campus
with 6 residence halls

350+ Students representing
55+ Countries
8K+ Alumni Community

Academic Travel
once a Semester for Experiential Learning

19 Majors
1 Master
(Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation)

Language
Programs fully taught in English

Small Class Sizes
with 16 students on average; 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Career-Ready Graduates
75% of Franklin students secure full-time employment within 6 months of graduating; 95% within 12 months.



HOW TO APPLY

1. **Online Application**
   Apply online through our **website** or **Common App.**
2. **Academic Transcripts**
   Submit at least 3 years of High School transcripts.
3. **Personal Statement**
   Share what motivates you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the goals you hope to achieve.
4. **Recommendation Letter**
   The recommendation letter can come from a teacher, counselor, or other staff member who is well acquainted with your academic profile.
5. **English Proficiency (if required)**
   If your studies were not in English, submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.
6. **WELCOME TO FRANKLIN**

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Write to our counselors at **admissions@fus.edu** or visit **www.fus.edu**