



*Australian Council of  
Professional Historians  
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## **NATIONAL STANDARD FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS IN AUSTRALIA**

### **PREAMBLE**

Under national criteria endorsed by the **Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations (ACPHA)**, Australia-wide accreditation is available in the categories known as **Professional Historian**, **Professional Historian (Associate)** and **Graduate Historian**. Each Professional Historians Association will consider applications from historians who reside in its state or territory or in an adjacent state, territory, or country that does not have a PHA. Any applicant who is not resident in Australia must satisfy the PHA that Australian accreditation is relevant to his/her professional practice.

Most applicants seeking accreditation will have undertaken the predominant part of their tertiary training in the discipline of history. The National Standard reflects this situation by basing the accreditation of historians on tertiary qualifications *in* the discipline of history. In doing so, it recognises that not all such qualifications will result from study undertaken in history departments, faculties, schools and programs. In assessing an application for accreditation, a PHA will therefore focus on the study completed by the applicant rather than the nature of his/her university enrolment.

The minimum requirement for accreditation in the **Professional Historian** and **Professional Historian (Associate)** categories is an **Honours degree** or its equivalent in the discipline of history combined with appropriate professional experience and workplace skills. That qualification, unless it is of the type described in the next paragraph, will be underpinned by **Bachelor study** in which at least 25% of the requisite credit points derive from units in, or allied to, the discipline of history. No more than 35% of those credit points can derive from units studied at the first year level.

The Bachelor study mentioned above will not be required in instances where an applicant seeking accreditation in category (i) or (ii) of the **Professional Historian** level, or in category (i) of the **Professional Historian (Associate)** level, gained a higher degree in the discipline of history after being admitted to a program of study on the basis of prior learning or relevant professional experience.

The minimum requirement for accreditation in the **Graduate Historian** category is a **Bachelor degree** in the discipline of history combined with appropriate professional experience and workplace skills. At least 25% of the requisite Bachelor credit points will derive from units in the discipline of history. No more than 35% of those credit points can derive from units studied at the first year level.

A person who is recognised as an historian but does not have the tertiary qualifications identified in this document can apply for accreditation if his/her qualifications and experience appear to be equivalent to those identified in the document. An ACPHA Selection Committee will decide the eligibility of such applications.

In applying for accreditation, each applicant must provide tangible evidence of tertiary qualifications and, where necessary, professional experience in which the accepted scholarly conventions have been used to research, document, interpret, and/or educate people about, the past and/or other aspects relevant to the field of history. The PHA to which the application is made will determine its acceptability.

The qualifications and professional experience required for admission to each of the categories are identified below. The term 'recognised' is used to indicate that the qualification must be nationally consistent or internationally comparable with one that is listed in the Australian Qualifications Framework (<http://www.aqf.edu.au>).

All members accredited at levels below the Professional Historian level will, subject to the completion of further relevant study, professional experience and/or professional development, be entitled to seek admission to the levels of accreditation up to and including the Professional Historian level.

### A Professional Historian

as well as adhering to the objects of his/her Association, will:

(i) hold a recognised Doctoral degree **in** the discipline of history;

**or**

(ii) hold a recognised Masters degree with a 50% or greater research, thesis and/or workplace component **in** the discipline of history **and** have the equivalent of **one year's** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble);

**or**

(iii) hold a recognised Masters degree completed predominantly by coursework **in** the discipline of history **and** have the equivalent of **18 months'** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble);

**or**

(iv) hold **either** a recognised Honours degree **in** the discipline of history **or** a recognised Masters Preliminary or Masters Qualifying **in** the discipline of history **or** a recognised Graduate Diploma or Postgraduate Diploma **in** the discipline of history **with**, in each of the latter two cases, a 50% or greater research, thesis and/or workplace component, **and**, in all cases, have the equivalent of **two years'** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble);

**and/or**

(v) hold **current** membership of a Professional Historians Association to which he/she was admitted at the Professional Historian level prior to 6 December 2002.

### A Professional Historian (Associate)

as well as adhering to the objects of his/her Association, will

(i) hold a recognised Masters degree **in** the discipline of history;

**or**

- (ii) hold **either** a recognised Honours degree **in** the discipline of history **or** a recognised Masters Preliminary or Masters Qualifying **in** the discipline of history **or** a recognised Graduate Diploma or Postgraduate Diploma **in** the discipline of history **with**, in each of the latter two cases, a 50% or greater research, thesis and/or workplace component, **and**, in all cases, have the equivalent of **one year's** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble);

**and/or**

- (iii) hold **current** membership of a Professional Historians Association to which he/she was admitted at the Professional Historian (Associate) level prior to 6 December 2002.

### A Graduate Historian

as well as adhering to the objects of his/her Association, will

- (i) hold **either** a recognised Honours degree **in** the discipline of history **or** a recognised Masters Preliminary or Masters Qualifying **in** the discipline of history **or** a recognised Graduate Diploma or Postgraduate Diploma **in** the discipline of history **with**, in each of the latter two cases, a 50% or greater research, thesis and/or workplace component;

**or**

- (ii) hold a recognised Graduate Diploma or Postgraduate Diploma completed predominantly by coursework **in** the discipline of history **and** have the equivalent of **six months'** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble);

**or**

- (iii) hold a recognised Bachelor degree **in** the discipline of history **and** have the equivalent of **one year's** full-time professional experience (as defined in the preamble);

**and/or**

- (iv) hold **current** membership of a Professional Historians Association to which he/she was admitted at the Graduate Historian level prior to 6 December 2002 on the basis of a recognised tertiary qualification **in** the discipline of history.

The above criteria constitute a revised version of criteria endorsed by the Member Associations of the Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations on 12 December 1999. Both the *National Standard for the Accreditation of Professional Historians in Australia* and the By-law that governs its use are subject to periodical review by ACPHA. A separate National Standard covers the accreditation of Historical Researchers in Australia.