The Current Job Market – JYRoig

The current job market for history is broad.[[1]](#footnote-1) Graduates tend to go to government institutions or education. Personally, education is something that I am not at all interested in, even though the pay and job rights are good. Education at an elementary, middle and high school level involves communicating knowledge to people who, are in essence, forced to be there. Managing children, in addition to communicating knowledge, seems like a task that I personally do not have the patience. The other options are research and government institutions.

To address the first option, research. The current market regarding university positions and PhDs in history is quite competitive. Data trends indicate that since 2013 PhD recipients in humanities and arts have been decreasing. History follows this general trend.[[2]](#footnote-2) A caveat is that the data shown is from the United States (US). The Netherlands shows a different trend regarding PhD’s.[[3]](#footnote-3) PhD positions vary drastically depending on where they are conducted. In the United States PhD positions require payment to the university while in the Netherlands PhD candidates are funded by universities.[[4]](#footnote-4) However, PhD graduation does not guarantee teaching positions at universities. Graduation from a PhD is followed by the processes of looking for jobs at universities. Job security is also dependent on the country. Recent trends in the Netherlands show positive trends regarding the labor market in academia.[[5]](#footnote-5) For this field the university teaches a lot of soft skills that are suitable for this. Specifically geared towards examining literature, identifying gaps within literature and formulating a particular research question. Personally, since I lack history background a non-research MA is what I aimed for, however I am thinking of maybe applying for the research route either for the winter semester or upon finishing the non-research MA. However, my degree focused on social phenomena. This particular perspective of observing the world as a socially constructed environment is something I personally value highly.

The second is government institutions. Government institutions is a very broad category. Therefore, I will focus on museums. The legal status of museums is complex. They were privatized in 1993[[6]](#footnote-6) but depend on the local governments for financing.[[7]](#footnote-7) The statistics provided by the university does not specify if museums fall under government or cultural institutions. Therefore, in this discussion I will treat them as government institutions. Museums are essential for communicating knowledge to the general public. Currently the number of jobs in the museum industry within the Netherlands have remained steady.[[8]](#footnote-8) Museums are a very public facing job. Public speaking requires a set of skills that are not emphasized at research universities and tend to be the focus at Hogeschools. Therefore, that is a skill set that I will be at a disadvantage however this particular profession has more open possibilities. I would still like to do research however I am more open to different roles.

Another final option is a mix of both, entering the labor market for a while and then coming back to do a research MA and PhD. This combines the two options and gives me both practical work experience and the possibility of further education.

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Appendix

*Figure 1*.[[9]](#footnote-9)

**A graph with blue lines and numbers

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*Figure 2*.[[10]](#footnote-10)

A graph with numbers and a line

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1. (“Career Prospects - History MA,” n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See figures 1 and 2 in the Appendix. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. (“Academic Careers of Researchers” 2024) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. (“PhD Programme of the Institute for History,” n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. (Daggers and Deijl, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. (Bína, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. (“Jobs in the Museum Industry Netherlands 2020” 2024) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. (“Research Doctorate Recipients, by Trend Broad Field of Doctorate and Citizenship Status: Selected Years, 1978–2023” 2024, 1978–2023) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. (“Research Doctorate Recipients, by Trend Major Field of Doctorate: Selected Years, 1993–2023” 2024, 1993–2023) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)