

NATIONAL STANDARD FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS IN AUSTRALIA PREAMBLE

Under national criteria endorsed by **Professional Historians Australia (PHA)**, 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.

In considering an application for admission to a PHA, history training must be the primary consideration. All applicants must demonstrate that they have studied and can apply the methods and practices of an historian. The 25% of the requisite credit points in a Bachelor degree discussed in the succeeding paragraph provides a clear guideline for acceptance. It might be thought, that this 25% of study has also been gained at Masters or PhD level and not at Bachelor level and, as such, an applicant with this 25% baseline training will be eligible for admission to membership.

Considering the changing nature of training for historians it might well be that an applicant presents with a degree other than 'history', for example in Australian studies or heritage studies. Provided that the 25% history baseline is established then such applicants will be eligible for membership to a PHA. Without limiting the likely courses other than history which an applicant might have undertaken, students of art history, Australian studies, heritage studies, architectural history,

landscape history and urban planning studies **may** have sufficient history units to fall within this guideline.

An applicant who has no history training and applies for membership on the basis purely that they are now 'working within the field of history' should not be accepted for membership. This guideline will be reviewed in 2019.

As an interim measure PHA Membership Secretaries should quarterly circulate to the PHA Accreditation Secretary the qualifications of people accepted to membership. This procedure will provide some national consistency.

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. A Professional Historians Australia Selection Committee will decide the eligibility of such applications. National Standard for the Accreditation of Professional Historians in Australia.

In applying for accreditation, each applicant must provide tangible evidence of tertiary qualifications and, where necessary, professional experience in which accepted historians' 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.

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.