

Statement of Purpose

The publication of student papers and research in the *Undergraduate History Journal* support the individual learning experiences of students and enhances the intellectual environment and community of the history department.

First, this publication acts as a model for new students coming out of high school or mature students who have been away from academic life for some time. Students can see real and recent examples of works graded for top marks in history at the University of Calgary. There will be many examples and formats of different approaches and styles for assignments, as opposed to a “paint-by-numbers” approach, which would inhibit innovative approaches to historical inquiry. The *Journal* grants students an understanding of the efforts expected of them in their courses and will be inspired to achieve equal, if not better, results.

Second, the *Journal* has been intended for in-house use as a printed physical journal only, but this year there has been a shift to an online platform. This is intended to give wider access to the undergraduate work to those in the history department, but also to those who may not be in the department but have an interest in history. Moving to an online platform also allows to showcase the exemplary work of history students at the University of Calgary. Its intent is to act as a collection of exemplary assignments for teaching and learning purposes, rather than a source of knowledge and citations for other scholars.

Third, the *Undergraduate History Journal* will give students experience in submitting papers for publication, and in peer-reviewing those publications, through membership on the Editorial Board. The Board is composed of students, under the direction of a faculty member. Students gain experience by examining submissions as critical editors, making suggestions about the academic work of their peers, and collaborating in a team environment with a collective goal. The peer-reviewing process is double-vetted and entirely anonymous, with papers going through multiple rounds of editing, with no bias involved to ensure fairness. Editors become knowledgeable in the process of publication, through workshops run by faculty members, such as copyediting workshops and the proper use of editing technology. This expertise can be used in careers connected to the fields of editing, writing, and publishing.

Fourth, editing experience with the *Journal* will be useful for students who wish to pursue graduate studies, as the connections with a history faculty member will provide students with additional sources for reference letters. Editors will gain experience taking work that has received a high grade and elevating it to an even higher standard. Published works can be used for Graduate school applications. In addition, granting bodies, such as the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, look favourably upon a publication track-record which the *Journal* fosters.

Fifth, the *Journal* will act as a hub to build community amongst undergraduates and act as a steppingstone for community events. For example, the *Journal* can sponsor undergraduate conferences and publish the proceedings. The *Journal* can include a section on community news and events of the past and coming year, announcing the Randall Prize winner, Group Study Programmes, sources of funding (such as PURE Awards), exhibitions, dates for Departmental History Talks, paper presentations around the University and elsewhere, and the Honours' Students Conference. The *Journal* can also host undergraduate seminar papers for students who wish to present their work to the History Department, similar to the History Department's Colloquium Series for faculty, acting as good practice for the Honours Conference and the development of public speaking skills.

Further, the *Journal* will contribute to the initiative of supporting undergraduate research as well as fostering collaboration between students. Editors will be in a position of mentorship, helping newer undergraduates navigate their experience in the History Department and at the University of Calgary as a whole. The publication will highlight the achievements of history students at the University of Calgary and give family and friends a deeper appreciation of student work conducted at this institution.