M.A./M.S. in Public History and Library and Information Science

ABOUT THE PUBLIC HISTORY AND LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM
St. John’s University is the only institution in New York City—and one of a dozen nationwide—offering you the opportunity to complete both a Master of Arts degree in Public History and an American Library Association (ALA)-accredited Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science. Through this dual degree program, you can apply four courses (12 credits) to both degrees, saving time and money in accomplishing your professional goals.

Our interdisciplinary and digital-savvy approach to instruction prepares you for a career helping colleges and universities, libraries, archives, and museums across the world identify, document, interpret, preserve, and facilitate real or virtual access to buildings and landscapes, artifacts, electronic and paper record and documents, and other cultural resources. We offer mixed-mode instruction featuring face-to-face courses on the Queens and Manhattan campuses, along with fully-online courses.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH DUAL DEGREES IN PUBLIC HISTORY AND LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE?
With the combination of both master’s-level degrees, you become an expert in
- Locating, analyzing, and disseminating research materials in a wide range of formats and platforms;
- Understanding the legal and ethical issues relevant to research and instruction in library and information science and public history;
- Conducting both individual and collaborative research;
- Assessing individual and institutional effectiveness; and
- Contributing to theory and practice supporting the fields of library and information science, public history, and digital humanities.

You become a trained practitioner of “living history,” able to master changes in research, publishing, image reproduction, and other areas of digitization. The changing nature of libraries, museums, historic sites, heritage tourism, and historical research requires professionals who are adept at facilitating information exchange and coping with an overload of information from diverse sources. They also need to be sensitive to ethical issues related to collecting and exhibiting cultural property, and strong advocates for cultural institutions and information resources.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS
This dual degree in Public History and Library and Information Science offers you the exciting opportunity to achieve the academic background necessary for rewarding careers in academic librarianship and archives. You may pursue several directions within this program to become a digital librarian, archivist, digital repository coordinator, or collection development manager, among other exciting career possibilities. The combination of online and face-to-face instruction offers a flexible structure that accommodates working professionals. We look forward to welcoming you as a student in this innovative and exciting program.

James Vorbach, Ph.D.  Kristin M. Szylvian, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Director, Associate Professor and Director,
Library and Information Science  Public History
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RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Both the Public History and Library and Information Science programs offer diverse student internships throughout the New York metropolitan area, including in libraries, museums, archives, galleries, corporations, and nonprofit organizations. By completing internships in both Library and Information Science and Public History as part of the dual degree program, you gain valuable real-world experience and professional contacts in both related fields. You’ll also complete a Library and Information Science ePortfolio and a Public History capstone project, both of which will showcase your graduate work and high-level skills for potential employers.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID
The Division of Library and Information Science offers the Rev. Brian J. O’Connell, C.M. Scholarship, named after the late Dean of St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, to high-achieving applicants who earn GPAs of 3.4 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) for their most recent degrees. Incoming students do not need to apply separately for this scholarship, but are automatically granted partial tuition reprieve for Library and Information Science courses based on academic merit.

A graduate education is an investment in your future. For more information about tuition and financial aid for graduate students at St. John’s University, please visit stjohns.edu/admission-aid/tuition-and-financial-aid.