

Paul

**What subjects did you study prior to arriving in Durham?**

I studied History, English and French at A Level and did History S level as well.

**What are you doing now and how did your degree help prepare you?**

I thought I was going to be a History teacher and went to Cambridge to do my PGCE, but did a complete about turn and joined the Royal Navy for five years. After that I became a Regional Marketing and Communications Manager for the National Trust initially in the North East and then East Anglia. History was very much to the fore in that job. After 15 years with the Trust, I became a freelance PR consultant, based in Norfolk. My work was mainly working for tourism clients (some were heritage based), but I also did a lot of writing - features for local magazines (always looking for a history angle) and jobs for Norfolk County Council. I ended up ghost writing two biographical books - one called *Miracle in Kigali* is the story of a Rwandan's survival during the Genocide and subsequent life in Norwich. Six years ago I trained as a City of Norwich tourist guide. I did a year long course, much of it covering the history of the city. For the last five years I have been leading guided tours for the Tourist Information Centre, as well as developing my own tour guide business. It's very exciting to be doing work which covers a whole range of the subjects that I did in my history degree - linking the Norwich story with the national story. I have also become an independent publisher in recent years, and have worked with a journalist who has written three books, full of East Anglian history stories.



**What advice do you have for prospective applicants to History at Durham?**

Always be flexible in your approach to a career. You never know where history is going to lead you.