Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

The MA in Art History offers advanced training in the study of visual and material culture from the Middle Ages to the present. The Queen's Art History program is strongly committed to mentoring and to the training of graduate students in a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, methodologies, and issues, including the technical examination of art, gender studies, critical theory, cultural representation, and the relationships among art, literature, and science.

The program offers a wide range of courses that delve into case studies relating to broader issues. All Art History courses emphasize visual literacy and the contextual relevance of the discipline within culture and history.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Art History program at Queen’s maintains close ties with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on campus, which features innovative exhibitions, programs, and high-quality collections.

“Choosing Art History at Queen’s was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Attending Queen’s was a positive and nurturing experience, made possible because of an advisor and faculty members who were active scholars, thoughtful pedagogues and caring mentors.”

– John Potvin, PhD

The Queen's Art History program shares a department with Canada's only Master's in Art Conservation programme, and our graduate students have the opportunity to take lecture courses in Art Conservation and work with Art Conservation Faculty. Graduate students in Art History carry out internships locally and abroad, recently at such institutions as the National Gallery of Canada, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, and the Louvre. The program offers opportunities to teach, has an outstanding record of supporting students to win major grants, and offers opportunities to participate in a student-organized peer-reviewed interdisciplinary international conference.

Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master of Art History is offered in 2 patterns:

• Pattern I: Four term-length courses in Art History, and a Master’s Thesis of 20-25,000 words.
• Pattern II: Six term-length courses in Art History, and an Advanced Research Paper.

For both patterns, the student shall choose a potential supervisor and pattern by the end of the second term.

RESEARCH Areas

• 14th-18th century Southern and Central European arts
• Modernism
• Indigenous cultures
• Global cultural contact
• Canadian visual culture
• Dutch and Flemish art of the 17th century
• Technical Art History
• History of photography
• Medieval art and architecture and neo-Medievalism
• History of conservation, preservation, collecting, and museums
• & many more

Visit the Art History Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.
A graduate degree in Art History can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness: an understanding of sound ethical and professional practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision, leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?
A Master’s degree in Art History can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and teaching
- Museum, curatorial and cultural policy positions
- Writing and publishing
- Business and commercial galleries
- Auction houses
- Archives

Taking time to explore career options, build experiences, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours BA in Art History or related discipline.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+/A- average over all 4 years of undergrad study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- A reading knowledge of a language other than English, usually chosen from French, German, or Italian, is required. (The language competency can be gained while carrying out graduate studies.)
- Writing sample
- Statement of Research Interest
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 10th.
- Notification of acceptance: early March.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

M.A. students in Art History receive funding for each of the two years of the program. The amount varies each year, but will be approximately $10,000-$15,000 per year for students who do not hold major external awards. Depending on the needs of the Department, a portion of a Master’s student’s funding may be allocated as a Teaching Assistantship.

Queen’s Art History is proud to have an extraordinary record of success with SSHRC and other major external awards. The program offers a series of workshops to help with these applications. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Master’s winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.