Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

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?

“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

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

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

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, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, demonstration of a reading knowledge of language(s) (depending on the topic), field essays and field exams, thesis proposal, thesis.

Program Map For PhD Students

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Creating a path to your future at Queen’s University

Queen’s: A World of Opportunity

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact

www.queensu.ca/sgs
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

**YEAR I**
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exams.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Works in Progress. Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Consider volunteering with community organizations.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**YEAR II**
- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons and the SGS Habitat.
- Seek experimental/professional development opportunities.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Context and Meaning.

**YEAR III**
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation.
- Check out the SGO Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Continue discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and workshops with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Visual Culture Association for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CTV, and the SGS Blog. Talk in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with community organizations, museums, or cultural studies groups, such as the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.
- Join the Department's Fundraising or Social Committee or participate in organizing Context and Meaning.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s Alumni or find alumni in various careers through Ask An Alum. For more information check out Career Counseling.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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
- Persistence
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of research and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

A PhD in Art History can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or nonprofit.

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

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you take a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- MA in Art History or a related discipline with A average in the primary courses.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Curriculum vitae
- 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: mid-March.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Art History PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. In recent years, doctoral students who do not hold a major external grant have received $20,000-$24,000/year for 4 years. The funding package may be comprised of Queen’s Graduate Awards, Teaching Assistantships, and named internal Fellowships. Many doctoral students in their 3rd year are eligible for a Bader Fellowship, worth up to $30,000.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.