Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- An MA degree from a recognized university in Gender Studies or cognate fields (women’s studies, feminist studies, sexuality studies) or in another field with evidence of a prior focus on gender.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ (75%) average in the last 2 years of university study.
- Consideration will be given to practitioners of gender studies in the public or private sectors who hold a BAHon/BA and who demonstrate exceptional and relevant professional experience and achievement in an appropriate field.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of interest (200-300 words).
- Statement of skill (200-300 words).
- Writing sample (maximum 12 pages).
- Two copies of official transcript.
- 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, (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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: December 15th for early admission; Final application deadline is February 1st.
- Notification of acceptance: 4 weeks after the full application has been received.

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

What about FUNDING?

Ph.D. students in Gender Studies generally receive minimum funding of $18,000/year, which consists of graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically consider all qualified applicants for Queen’s Graduate Awards, including for those who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Queen’s graduate students in Gender Studies generally receive minimum funding of $18,000/year, which consists of graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ Information on awards and scholarships.

Why QUEENS’?

Gender Studies at Queen’s teaches critical race, gender, and sexuality studies while offering advanced training in applications of gender studies research within work for social change. Students examine gender, our key category of analysis, in terms of its connections to race, class, nation, sexuality, disability, age, religion, colonialism and globalization. Our program emphasizes critical race conceptual frameworks at all levels of instruction. Our world-class faculty hold SSHRC grants, supervise active research programs, serve as editors of peer-reviewed journals, and publish widely in Canadian and international presses.

Research Areas
- Activism and Alliance Building
- Anti-Colonial Thought
- Anti-Racist Feminisms
- Black Geographies
- Colonialisms
- Diaspora
- Creative Emancipatory Work
- Critical History

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN GENDER STUDIES?

Gender studies opens doors for students to address growing concerns for inequity, equity and justice across national and global society. Gender studies is a space where our theories and our practices pay attention to the differences and connections between diverse peoples worldwide.

As an interdisciplinary field, gender studies helps students take up social science, humanities, arts, and natural science methods and connect them to produce innovative new knowledge. Graduates of the PhD in Gender Studies at Queen’s pursue advanced degrees in American studies, English, environmental studies, gender studies, legal studies, and medicine, art and cultural studies, history, political economy, religion, history, public policy, social research, social work, media, arts and community organizing. Gender Studies prepares students for both academic and nonacademic careers.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES PhD Map

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guides offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Where can I get help?

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SSLS habitats for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES
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**Gender Studies PhD MAP**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

**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** or **Student Academic Success Services** for a variety of supports.

**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 **TSHR, OIG, 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 **SSG**, or media outlets like the **Queen’s Journal**, **CFRC**, and the **SSG Blog**. Look 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 different community organizations, such as the **Reelout Arts Project** and **Queen’s Students for Literacy**.
- Join the Department’s **Funding 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 counsellor 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.

**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 **SSG Habitat**.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**YEAR III**
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the **SSG 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 workshops**.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at conferences and work 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.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
A graduate degree in Gender Studies 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 practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- **Professionalism**: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership**: intuitive and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
A PhD in Gender Studies 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 non-profits.
- **Advocacy**
- **Public Policy**
- **Community/Social services**
- **International Development**
- **Research**
- **Advertising**
- **Arts administration**
- **Education**
- **Ethics**
- **Healthcare**
- **Human resources**
- **Immigration Services**
- **Journalism/Media**
- **Labour/Industrial Relations**
- **Law**
- **Mediation and Labour Relations**
- **Social Work**
- **Student Affairs**

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, 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!