**Application FAQs**

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- MA in History or equivalent from a recognized university with first-class standing (minimum A-average).

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
- Writing sample.
- Extended statement of 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, TOEFL iBT: Writing 20/30, Speaking 20/30, Listening 20/30, for a total of 880/120 (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: Third week of January.
- Notification of acceptance: 4 weeks after we receive your full application.

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

**What about FUNDING?**

The minimum funding guarantee for History PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. The Department of History at Queen’s offers numerous internal awards that students are automatically considered for: PhD students receive financial support from a variety of sources including Queen’s Academic Excellence Awards, Teaching Assistantships and Teaching Fellowships, and travel scholarships.

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 incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HISTORY?**

Consider a graduate degree in History for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical reading, writing, and research and, perhaps even more importantly, engagement with oneself and the world we all inhabit.

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social and technological phenomena.

Today’s employment marketplace seeks people who are critically informed, culturally literate, capable of synthesizing information and adept at creating and managing knowledge. Study History and you will acquire such skills.

**Why QUEEN’S?**

The Department of History at Queen’s offers a challenging and innovative PhD program in established and new fields of historical inquiry.

Our students are taught primarily in small seminar and reading groups, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of historical writing, and delve into their own research. We are a mid-sized university and department, and are therefore able to create for our students a rich, supportive learning community. Our Graduate History Students’ Association fosters a vibrant community through a variety of social events and professional development workshops.

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

**Program STRUCTURE**

PhD (4 years): 5 seminar courses, including historical theories and methods, two field requirements, one language requirement, thesis proposal, thesis and defence.

**RESEARCH Areas**

- Canada
- United States
- Atlantic World
- Modern Europe
- Intellectual
- Mediterranean World
- Medieval and Early Modern Worlds
- Africa
- Middle East
- Britain
- South Asia
- Islam
- East Asia
- "Race" Historical International Perspectives
- Global, World, and Transnational History

**Why 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 guide 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 SGS HABITAT 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.

**Government, Nonprofit, Community, Public Service**
24%

**PhD Career Outcomes in the Humanities**

- Council of Graduate Schools and Educational Testing Service.
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.
• Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
• Attend and participate in graduate seminars.

YEAR II

• Write and defend your thesis proposal.
• Embark on your 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 SSHG Habitat.
• Seek experiential/professional development opportunities. Attend or present at a graduate conference such as McGill Queen’s.

YEAR III

• Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS 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.
• Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiner.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

• Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
• Present your research to graduate students and faculty or 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 History can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
• Knowledge and technical skills
• Effective communication skills in multiple formats 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, understanding, and application of ethical 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 PhD in 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 non-profits:
• Law
• Government
• Social Policy Research
• Museums and Public History
• Documentary Filmmaking
• Military
• Journalism
• Education
• Public Service
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!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and career options, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.