Get to know ART HISTORY

The Department of Art (Art History and Art Conservation) offers degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level. Art History courses offer students a unique opportunity to develop the essential skill of visual literacy -- learning to look carefully and think critically about the visual images and material objects that surround us. Art History is also another approach to the study of History. Exploring periods from medieval to contemporary, Art History students learn how visual and material culture have shaped and expressed the ideals of societies across time and around the world.

Queen’s Art History students can take advantage of experiential learning seminars in Venice, Italy, art and architecture courses at the Bader International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle in England, and museum practicum courses at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on campus, home to The Bader Collection of European art as well as contemporary, indigenous, African, and Canadian collections. Through field trips, internships, and other activities in and out of the classroom, students gain first-hand experience in analyzing and interpreting works of art and architecture while also developing skills of critical thinking, writing, and presentation that prepare them for careers in museums and archives, heritage preservation and tourism, art business and art law.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Art History / Specialization in Computing and the Creative Arts
Bachelor of Arts (General)

“Art History at Queen’s offers rich and varied opportunities for first-hand study of visual images and material objects from across time and around the globe.”

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Secondary School prerequisites include Six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year will be a great experience at Queen’s.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Art history courses at Queen’s explore diverse aspects of visual and material culture, situating art in relation to key concerns such as gender, class and society; museums, collecting and cultural policy; and cross-cultural interactions in post-colonial perspective. Popular courses include the introductory “Art in the West from Antiquity to Modernity” and historical courses in Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Modern and Contemporary art as well as Arts of the Arctic; Introduction to Technical Art History; Culture and Conflict; and Feminism, Art, and Art History. A special program enables computer science students to focus on Computing and the Creative Arts, and some art history students go on to our graduate programme in Art Conservation, the only one of its kind in Canada.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

1ST YEAR
Take ARTH 120 (or ARTH 116 and 117 at Herstmonceux Castle).
For details on plan requirements or thresholds, see the Arts and Science website. See an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help.

2ND YEAR
Register for 200-level ARTH option courses. 200-level courses may also be taken in upper years, but ideally a majority of your 24.0 units will be satisfied by the end of your second year.
See the Art History Undergraduate Chair to discuss your course selection.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
Register for 300-level ARTH option courses as well as 200-level if needed. 300-level courses may also be taken in your fourth year, but ideally at least half of your 21.0 units will be satisfied by the end of your third year.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Register for 9.0 units of 400-level seminar courses.
Apply to graduate on SOLUS.
If space allows, students can register for more than three seminars, but taking more than four seminars is not advised.

WHERE COULD I GO AFTER GRADUATION?
Advising
Architectural preservation
Architecture
Archivist
Art auctioning
Art conservation
Art criticism
Art education
Art law
Art therapy
Arts programming (TV or radio)
Banking
Community college teacher
Design
Editor
Event planning
Fellowship
Funding
Gallery administration
Grants officer for the arts
Heritage policy
Interior/fashion designer
Journalist
Landscape architecture
Lawyer
Marketing and promotions
Media and communications
Museology
Museum curating and administration
Professor
School teacher
Tourism & Travel

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

1ST YEAR
Join teams or clubs on campus such as Vogue Charity Fashion Show and Ultraviolet Magazine.
Look in the Co-Curricular Opportunities Directory or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

2ND YEAR
Volunteer at places like the Queen’s Archives or the Union Gallery. Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICSI).

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
Apply to ARTH 395 to get academic credit for a hands-on internship. Apply for upper-year volunteer positions at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Consider joining professional associations like Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC-AAUC), Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC), and the College Art Association. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Art History.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

1ST YEAR
Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters or Muse Magazine.

2ND YEAR
Get involved with the Art History Department Student Council (DSC).
Volunteer at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, where student docents lead school programs, family programs, and assist with children’s art classes.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
Attend the Queen’s annual art history graduate student conference, Context and Meaning, in February.
Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects. Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Consider joining professional associations like Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC-AAUC), Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC), and the College Art Association. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Art History.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

1ST YEAR
The Queen’s University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
Speak to a QICSI advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

2ND YEAR
Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your faculty’s International Office. Start studying a foreign language: German, Italian, and Spanish are popular choices.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
Check QICSI’s resources for ideas to go abroad, volunteer or attend one of their events.
In alternate years, ARTH 380 Venice and Its Biennale: The Display of Contemporary Art and Culture in a Historic City is offered as a summer course in Italy.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QICSI’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

1ST YEAR
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help considering career options from Career Services.

2ND YEAR
Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Careers for Culture Lovers. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the GRE or LSAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.
Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.
Art History
MAJOR MAP

How to use this map
• Got questions about careers and classes?
• Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
• Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen’s.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?
In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

HOW DO I GET THE SKILLS I NEED?
It is important to develop a balanced skill set – many of which you will develop during your studies. To stand out, take advantage of experiential learning through the multitude of clubs and activities in and around Queen’s. Check out the Get Relevant Experience section of this map.

WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING ART HISTORY AT QUEEN’S?
• Visual literacy: how to look carefully and think critically about visual images and material objects of all kinds
• Knowledge of artistic movements and ways of interpreting art
• Knowledge of art theory and historical trends in art
• Understanding of the relationships between art, history and culture
• Oral and written communication – present information in writing and give presentations based on research
• Attention to detail – notice and interpret visual patterns and symbols
• Research skills – select relevant information from large amounts of information
• Analytical skills – analyze an argument and evaluate its validity
• Resource and time management

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?
No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

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queensu.ca/art/arthistory.html