History

Get to know HISTORY

The undergraduate program in History at Queen’s provides students with exciting opportunities to critically explore the roots of contemporary societies throughout the world. You can explore such diverse areas as the Crusades, slavery and race relations, Native history in the Americas, the Russian Revolution, the problems of 20th century Canadian unity, the economic development of Africa, and the perception and treatment of women in North America. Our seminar-based undergraduate program offers something hard to find these days — small classes where students and instructors discuss what they have read, what they think, and what they believe. With an emphasis on developing speaking, research and writing skills, a history degree provides a sound preparation for careers in education, law, public service, journalism, and business.

History courses at Queen’s are divided into two types: lecture courses and seminars. Lecture courses are larger with approximately 100 students enrolled. Lectures introduce students to the broad contours of historical inquiry. Second-year seminars form a fundamental part of the program. Seminars are small, discussion-based classes of roughly 20 to 25 students. Seminars provide an opportunity to develop communication skills necessary to pursue the discipline at the graduate level or in the marketplace. With the emphasis on developing speaking, research and writing skills, you will gain a sound preparation for careers in education, law, public service, journalism, and business.

“We are a medium-sized department; small enough to preserve a sense of community, but large enough to offer a comprehensive range of courses.”

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Arts (General)

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.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

If specific time periods are your interest there are courses that cover every period such as The Crusades, Slavery in North America from the Colonial Era to 1865, or The Holocaust. If your interest in more regional there are course such as India and the World, Africa in the Modern World or The History of Sexuality in Canada. Medicine and history overlap with courses such as Health and Disease in Western Society, Historiography of Medicine, and Nobel Prize in Medicine: Who won it; Who didn’t; and Why? Two of the most popular courses are the Queen’s Archives Internship and the new Food in Global History.

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

1ST YEAR
Take one of HIST 121, HIST 122, HIST 124, or HIST 125.

2ND YEAR
You must take a 6.0 unit second year “core seminar” (HIST 300-329) before proceeding to Upper Level seminars in third and fourth year. See more on core seminars at the History Department website.

3RD OR FINAL YEAR
You need the equivalent of 3 full year upper level seminars (27 units) to fulfill your seminar requirements.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen’s Debate Union (QDU) and Queen’s International Affairs Association. Look in the Co-Curricular Opportunities Directory or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the AMS Social Issues Commission and the Kingston Museum of Healthcare.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
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.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

2015 - 2016

History MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS (MAJOR, MEDIAL, MINOR) | BACHELOR OF ARTS (GENERAL) | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS (MINOR)

History Graduates in the Career Services library, such as Top Careers for History Graduates. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year. Apply to the Historical Practice (experiential learning)/ Archive Internships if interested.

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Where could I go after graduation?
Anthropology
Archaeology
Archival science
Business administration and management
Campaign organization
Communications
Community development
Counselling
Ethics
Events management & fundraising
Genealogical research
Human resources
Insurance
Intelligence analysis
International development
International relations
Journalism
Law
Library science
Management consulting
Marketing and marketing research
Medical records & research
Museum curator
Museum management
Policy analyst
Public administration
Publishing
Social work
Technical writing
Tourism and travel
Urban and regional planning

*some careers may require additional training.

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
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 HISTORY AT QUEEN’S?

• Knowledge of a broad spectrum of historical events and trends
• Understanding of how historians study the past
• Knowledge of how political, social, economic, and cultural change occurs
• Understanding of the relationship between history and current events
• Oral and written communication – communicate ideas through writing and present research to a group
• Analytical skills - make judgments based on available historical evidence
• Research skills – synthesize large amounts of material and identify relevant information
• Attention to detail – analyze texts and historical arguments
• Problem solving – develop systematic procedures for investigating a problem
• 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.