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 with approximately 100 students 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 employment in the marketplace.

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 is 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.

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

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). 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 chance to work with our advisors and faculty to uncover where your real interests and opportunities for success are. 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 at Queen’s will be a great experience.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in History, Liberal Studies, Medieval Studies
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

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

In first year take one of HIST 121, HIST 122, HIST 124, or HIST 125 (or BISC 100 and 101 at Herstmonceux Castle)

If interested in the Medieval Studies minor, take ENGL 100 and one of LATN 110, GREK 112 or ARAB 100.

Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen's Debating Union (QDU) and Queen's International Affairs Association. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

Volunteer at organizations like the Queen's Archives.

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. Check out Kingston Museums for more ideas.

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).

Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Queen's Model Parliament.

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. Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

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.

If interested, take European History courses (HIST 273 and HIST 287) at the BISC castle in England.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUIC's resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

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.

Build your transferable skills in time management, organization, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books 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.

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

We suggest you take one full and one half upper level seminar (HIST 333–499) in third year. Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

Consider joining professional associations like the Heritage Canada Association and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
History

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying HISTORY?

- 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 to communicate ideas through writing and present research to a group
- Analytical skills to make judgements based on available historical evidence
- Research skills to synthesize large amounts of material and identify relevant information
- Attention to detail to analyze texts and historical arguments
- Problem solving to develop systematic procedures for investigating a problem
- Resource and time management