Get to know ART HISTORY

The Department of 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 our 15th Century 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. These writing and presentations skills will prepare them for careers in museums and archives, heritage preservation and tourism, art business, and art law and policy.

Degree OPTIONS
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Art History / Specialization in Computing and the Creative Arts
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

"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 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 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 at Queen’s will be a great experience.

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, Latin America and Modern and Contemporary art as well as Arts of the Arctic; 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 program in Art Conservation, the only one of its kind in Canada.
## 1st Year

- In first year take ARTH 120: Art in the West from Antiquity to Modernity (or ARTH 116 and 117 at Henstmonceux Castle).
- 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.

## 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.
- Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.
- Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in International Studies or explore other certificates available.

## 3rd 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 12.0 of your 21.0 units will be satisfied by the end of your third year.
- Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

## Get Relevant Experience

- 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 SWEW or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QCSI).

## Get Connected with the Community

- Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Best Buddies or Muse Magazine.

## Get Thinking Globally

- The Queen’s University International Centre is your first step 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.

## Get Ready for Life After Graduation

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

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### 4th or Final Year

- Register for 9.0 units of 400-level seminar courses and the remainder of your 300-level courses.
- By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.
- Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

### Consider a 12-16 Month QUIP Internship

- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

### Where could I go after graduation?

- Advertising
- 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
- Fundraising
- 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

Some careers may require additional training.

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**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 ART HISTORY AND ART CONSERVATION?**

- Visual literacy to look carefully and think critically about visual images and material objects of all kinds
- Knowledge of artistic movements, ways of interpreting art, art theory, and historical trends in art
- Understanding of the relationships between art, history and culture
- Oral and written communication to present information in writing and give presentations based on research
- Attention to detail to notice and interpret visual patterns and symbols
- Research skills to select relevant information from large amounts of information
- Analytical skills to analyze an argument and evaluate its validity
- Resource and time management

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.