Get to know GENDER STUDIES

The undergraduate program in Gender Studies at Queen’s offers courses in politics, feminist, queer and gender theory, anti-racism, transgender studies, settler-colonial studies, social justice, popular culture and the critical analysis of everyday events. From theatre and presentations to essays and blogs, we work with students on high-quality public speaking, meticulous research and clear, thoughtful writing. We work across the arts and social sciences to produce a truly interdisciplinary program, one that prepares students for a broad range of careers, including law, academia, medicine, public service, media and activism.

Whether in our international exchange program in Oslo, Norway, or in our local community-based activism practicum, we prepare our students to be global citizens. With a strong core and over 35 cross-appointed faculty from 21 different departments, Gender Studies provides breadth, depth and challenge. GNDS also administers a Certificate Program in Sexual and Gender Diversity (SXGD) open to students in all degree plans.

“Combining arts, social sciences and activism, Gender Studies is a degree program with depth and a critical edge.”

Degree OPTIONS
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Certificate in Sexual and Gender Diversity
Internship option available

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.

Course HIGHLIGHTS
Niqab Bans, #blacklivesmatter, GamerGate—what are the realities behind the hashtags and headlines? Gender, Race and Popular Culture explores what’s happening right now. Histories matter too, examined from many angles. Study LGBTQ+ representation and politics in Introductory or Advanced SXGD courses. Discover how we wear our histories in Gender, Dress and Fashion, and Racism, Colonialism and Resistance.

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.
Gender Studies MAJOR MAP

1ST YEAR

In first year take GNDS 120, 125, although you can take them later than first year.
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 THE COURSES YOU NEED

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Sexual Health Resource Centre (SHRC), the AMS Commission of Social Issues, Queen's Black Academic Society and the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre.
See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as the Leena Gender Advocacy Centre, Chipped Off Theatre, and Queen's InviaAbilities

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.

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.
Consider adding the Certificate in Sexual and Gender Diversity to your degree.

2ND YEAR

There are six core courses in Gender Studies (including GNDS 212 and 215); a minimum of two should be taken in second year.
Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

3RD YEAR

Try to complete all 200 and 300 level program requirements/core courses, plus GNDS 311 and 345. Investigate the possibility of doing an independent research project in your fourth 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.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Select fourth-year courses including the options of a community-based practicum and/or independent research options.
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.

WHERE COULD I GO AFTER GRADUATION?

- Activism (including anti-racist, trans-inclusive, & feminist)
- Advertising
- Arts administration
- Arts and theatre
- Communications and media
- Community organizing
- Counselling
- Cultural affairs
- Editing
- Education
- Ethics
- Events and festival management
- Health and medicine
- Human resources
- Immigration services
- International development
- Labour and industrial relations
- Law
- Marketing and promotions
- Media and film
- Museum studies and curation
- NGOs
- Patient advocacy
- Planning
- Politics
- Public health
- Public relations
- Public service and public policy
- Social work
- Student affairs
- Some careers may require additional training.
Gender Studies
MAJOR MAP

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 GENDER STUDIES?

- Understand differences and the intersections between forms of oppression
- Make connections between gender, race, nation, ability, sexuality and how they are affected by oppression and resistance
- Engage with creative texts, films, performance
- Active rather than passive responses to popular culture
- Analytical skills to form and defend positions with clarity and accuracy in diverse formats
- Critical thinking to recognize and assess the assumptions behind arguments
- Methodology to compare and combine methodologies from the arts, social sciences, and health sciences
- Close reading to carefully interpret primary and secondary sources, examine how they are put together from the smallest elements to the overall structure
- Oral and written communication to write research papers, make group and solo presentations

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.