

# Gender Studies MA Map

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS →

### Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GENDER STUDIES?

Gender Studies opens doors for students to address growing concerns about inequity, equity, and justice across national and global societies. Gender affects everyone, making Gender Studies a space where our theory and our practice attend to the differences and connections among diverse peoples worldwide.

As an interdisciplinary field, Gender Studies helps students connect social science, humanities, arts, and natural science methods to produce innovative new knowledge. Graduates of the MA in Gender Studies at Queen's pursue advanced degrees in American studies, English, environmental studies, gender studies, legal studies, and medicine, and work in such fields as education, health, law, public policy, social research, social work, media, art, and community organizing. Gender Studies prepares students for both academic and nonacademic careers.

### Why QUEEN'S?

The one-year Gender Studies MA trains students in critical race, gender, sexuality studies and social justice.

Gender Studies at Queen's distinctively foregrounds critical race conceptual frameworks at all levels of our undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Students examine gender, our key category of analysis, in terms of its interdependence with race, class, nation, sexuality, disability, age, religion, colonialism, and globalization. Students conduct research in Canada and internationally and articulate their scholarship with local and global action for social justice. Students produce scholarship that is directly applicable to work for social change and to a wide variety of academic and nonacademic careers.



### Program STRUCTURE

The MA in Gender Studies is a one-year program. Full-time students take seven courses -- two (3.0 credit) required courses, four (3.0 credit) elective courses, and one (0.0 credit) Proseminar course in fall and winter semesters -- and complete a Major Research Paper (50 pages) during spring and summer. The elective courses may be selected from Gender Studies graduate courses (including GNDS 850/3.0, a practicum option), graduate courses in other departments, and independently organized directed readings.

### RESEARCH Areas

- Activism and Alliance Building
- Anti-Colonial Thought
- Anti-Racist Feminisms
- Black Geographies
- Colonialisms
- Creative Emancipatory Work
- Critical History
- Diaspora
- Ethnography
- Gender and Poverty
- Globalization, Work and Social Justice
- Health Studies
- Indigenous Studies
- Memory and Trauma

- Popular Culture
- Queer Studies
- Trans Studies
- Transnationalism and Diaspora

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

*"The first time I heard about the Gender Studies department at Queen's [...] someone referred to it as 'friendly and supportive'. During my time studying Gender Studies, I discovered the truth of those words on a frequent, if not daily, basis."*

– Bilan Hashi, MA

Visit the Gender Studies Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest, and related experience.

# Gender Studies MA Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)



## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development workshops.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your Major Research Paper. The MRP should be composed of two parts: (1) a paper written in one of the student's fall or winter term graduate courses; and (2) a new work prepared during spring and summer.

- Complete your Major Research Paper.

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- Start to contact potential doctoral supervisors or professional programs.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.

- Consider publication options for your research, such as Canadian Women's Studies, Gender, Place and Culture, and Atlantis.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as Congress, the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, or the Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference.

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Chair for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from SGSPA professional development and the Gender Studies Department.

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop skills in research, teaching, journal editing, and conference planning.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Reelout Arts Project, Transfamily Kingston, and Queen's Students for Literacy.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queens Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes, Sexuality Studies Association, or the Northern Initiative for Social Action.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

## Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Gender Studies can equip you with:

- **Knowledge and technical skills**
- **Effective communication skills** in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- **Information management:** prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- **Time management:** meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- **Project management:** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Creativity and innovation**
- **Perseverance**
- **Independence** and experience as a **collaborative worker**
- **Awareness**, an understanding of sound **ethical practices, social responsibility,** responsible research and **cultural sensitivity**
- **Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership:** initiative and vision leading people and discussion

## Career Possibilities

A Master's degree in Gender Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Advocacy
- Arts
- Community Organizing
- Education
- Equity
- Human Resources
- Immigration Services
- Journalism and Media
- Law
- Mediation and Labour Relations
- Politics and Government
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Social Research
- Social Services
- Social Work

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

### 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. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: [careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps](https://careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps).

# Graduate Studies FAQs

## How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

## Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGSPA website for available resources.

## What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's Discover Kingston page.

 DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

Graduate Program Office  
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queensu.ca/gnds

# Application FAQs

## What do I need to know to APPLY?

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A four-year undergraduate degree (BAH) from a recognized university in Gender Studies or cognate fields (women's studies, feminist studies, sexuality studies) or in another field with evidence of a prior focus on gender.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ (75%) average in the last 2 years of university study.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Potential Faculty Supervisor
- Statement of Research Interests
- Current CV
- Writing sample (8-10 pages)
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** December 1st for early consideration; Final application deadline is February 1st.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Offers of admission will be made following the early consideration deadline and final application deadline.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process, and feel free to contact us at [gndsgrad@queensu.ca](mailto:gndsgrad@queensu.ca) or visit our website.

## What about FUNDING?

Full-time domestic MA students are guaranteed funding of \$16,000. Funding package may be delivered in one or more of the following ways: internal awards and fellowships, external funding (if available), Teaching assistantships, and Research assistantships.

Apply for external funding from the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, SSHRC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government Tri-Council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.

