Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GENDER STUDIES?

Gender Studies opens doors for students to address growing concerns for inequity, equity, and justice across national and global society. Gender Studies is a space where our theories and our practices pay attention to the differences and connections between diverse peoples worldwide.

As an interdisciplinary field, Gender Studies helps students take up social science, humanities, arts, and natural science methods and connect them to produce innovative new knowledge. Graduates of the PhD in Gender Studies at Queen’s 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 four-year Gender Studies PhD program sustains our program focus on critical race, gender, and sexuality studies while offering advanced training in applications of Gender Studies research within work for social change.

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 PhD in Gender Studies is a four-year program. Full-time PhD students complete three (3.0 credit) required courses, one (3.0 credit) elective course, one (0.0 credit) Proseminar course, and the (3.0 credit) PhD Practicum. Students advance to candidacy for the PhD after completing all coursework, syllabus, and practicum requirements and having successfully defended their dissertation proposal.

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.

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 PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

2023-2024

YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and coursework.
- Meet early with your supervisor to discuss expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete COR@ online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Visual Culture Association for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Cubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Reelout Arts Project and Queen's Students for Literacy.
- Join the Department's Fundraising or Social Committee, or participate in organizing Context and Meaning.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive exam, practicum, and research proposal.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Use your way through the academic process with the help of School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development and the SGSPA website.
- Consider publication options for your research, such as Canadian Women's Studies, Gender, Place and Culture, and Atlantis.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

YEAR III

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camps, such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- Consider publication options for your research, such as Gender, Place and Culture, and Atlantis.
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- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes or Sexuality Studies Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest.

YEAR IV

- Continue to attend conferences such as Congress, the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, or the Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference, and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Gender Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple and 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 initiatives and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

A PhD in Gender Studies can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Advocacy
- Advertising
- Arts administration
- Community/social services
- Education
- Ethics
- Healthcare
- Human resources
- Immigration Services
- International Development
- Journalism/media
- Labour/Industrial Relations
- Law
- Legislation and Labour Relations
- Public Policy
- Research
- Social Work
- Student Affairs

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

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- An MA degree 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.
- A minimum of B+ in the last two years of university study.
- Consideration will be given to practitioners of gender studies in the public or private sectors who hold a BAH/BA and who demonstrate exceptional and relevant professional experience and achievement in an appropriate field.

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.

What about FUNDING?

Full-time PhD students in Gender Studies receive a guaranteed minimum of $20,000 for their first four years of study. Funding package may be delivered in one or more of the following ways: internal awards and fellowships, external funding (if available), Teaching fellowships, 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 $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government Tri-Council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships.