

Art Conservation MAC Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR MAC STUDENTS 

WHERE ART MEETS SCIENCE

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART CONSERVATION?

Art conservation is an exciting and challenging multidisciplinary field involving the examination, interpretation, analysis and conservation of cultural, historic, and artistic objects.

"The instruction and education I received at Queen's has given me unique treatment and research experience that allows me to be confident when challenging myself as a conservator. The co-operations and deep understanding between all the students and the instructors created a supportive and irreplaceable learning environment that I am very thankful to have been a part of."

– Kaslyne O'Connor, MAC



Professional conservators and conservation scientists must rely on their knowledge of both the humanities and the sciences to understand the creation and production of material culture in past and present contexts to ensure its preservation for the future.

Why QUEEN'S?

Queen's University offers Canada's only Master's degree program in Art Conservation. Projects and research topics are individually designed to suit the background and interests of students and faculty. Students have opportunities to work with humanities, science, and engineering departments at Queen's, and may undertake projects with museums, galleries, archives, the Canadian Conservation Institute, and industrial partners.

Program STRUCTURE

There are two possible streams within the Art Conservation Program:

- **Treatment stream:** A four-term program of theoretical and practical study on campus, advanced lecture courses, lab work in conservation of heritage objects, a research project, and two 12-week off-campus summer internships.

- **Research stream:** A two-year, full-time research program is offered to science and engineering graduates, leading to a career in conservation science. A one-year, mid-career research stream is also available to practicing conservators with at least five years of experience.

TREATMENT Streams

- Conservation of paintings
- Conservation of artifacts
- Conservation of paper, photographic materials, and new media

RESEARCH Areas

- Degradation and conservation of materials
- History of technology
- Other conservation-related areas
- Imaging Science

Treatment-stream students need to apply to one of the three treatment streams. Research students should visit the [Art Conservation Program website](#) to learn more about faculty members and their research areas. We encourage you to contact a potential supervisor before applying.



GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Art Conservation MAC Map

MASTER OF ART CONSERVATION (MAC)



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework and labwork.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for support.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about your research interests and the audiences for the research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC, NSERC, and OGS funding.
- Be aware of application deadlines as most external awards applications (SSHRC, etc) are due in December 1st.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Visual Culture Association for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from SGSPA Professional development.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Please visit and, if possible, get experience in a conservation laboratory.
- Consider joining groups like the Emerging Conservators Committee in the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC), and accessing online resources such as conservation online (CoOL).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, etc., such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Kingston Museum of Healthcare, and the Queen's Archives.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services 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.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your research project or thesis.
- Look into taking a 12-week summer internship in Canada or abroad.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles impeding timely completion.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Context and Meaning.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Works in Progress.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Begin compiling an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Undertake projects with museums, galleries, archives, the Canadian Conservation Institute, and industrial partners.

- 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 Direction.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

- Explore different careers of interest by using 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.

- Complete your coursework, Master's Research Project, or Thesis.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend and participate in a major conference in the field, such as the Association of North American Graduate Programs in the Conservation of Cultural Property (ANAGPIC).
- Consider being interviewed on the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

- 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.
- Browse webinars, courses, and other programs offered online by the American Institute for Conservation.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- 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.
- Find impactful work that aligns with your values using the Queen's Career Guide to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Art Conservation 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 and analyze information, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Creativity and innovation**
- **Perseverance**
- **Independence** and experience as a **collaborative** worker
- **Awareness** and 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 Art Conservation can take your career in many directions. Some of our MAC students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Archives
- Art galleries
- Conservation research institutions
- Museums
- Other cultural institutions

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.

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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Four-year Honours Bachelor's degree in humanities, sciences or engineering.
- One full-year, post-secondary course in fine art studio or workshop practice.
- Three terms of chemistry lectures and labs at the university level, including organic chemistry.
- Applicants with a humanities background must have a minimum of five full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.
- Applicants with a science background must have a minimum of two full-year courses in art history, ethnology, archaeology, or equivalent.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ average (3.3 GPA).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Good visual sensitivity and manual skills.
- Experience in conservation is highly recommended.
- 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, AND ACCEPTANCES

- **Application due:** January 15th.
- **Interviews:** Held in March.
- **Number Admitted:** Approximately 12 students are admitted for the Treatment Stream and 1-2 admitted for the Research Stream per year.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

Funding is available through Queen's Graduate Awards and other internal awards. Some students may qualify for teaching assistantships in their second year. See the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
**ART HISTORY AND
ART CONSERVATION**

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