

Art History MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

The MA in Art History offers advanced training in the study of visual and material culture. The Queen's Art History program is strongly committed to mentoring and to the training of graduate students in a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, methodologies, and issues, including the technical examination of art, gender studies, critical theory, cultural representation, curatorial studies, and the relationships among art, literature, and science.

The program offers a wide range of courses that delve into case studies relating to broader issues.



Why QUEEN'S?

The Art History program at Queen's maintains close ties with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on campus, which features innovative exhibitions, programs, and high-quality collections. The Queen's Art History program shares a department with Canada's only Master's in Art Conservation program, and our graduate students have the opportunity to take lecture courses in Art Conservation and work with Art Conservation Faculty. Graduate students in Art History carry out internships locally and abroad, recently at such institutions as the National Gallery of



Canada, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Louvre in Paris. The program offers opportunities to teach, has an outstanding record of supporting students to win major grants, and offers opportunities to participate in a student-organized peer-reviewed interdisciplinary international conference.

"Choosing Art History at Queen's was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Attending Queen's was a positive and nurturing experience, made possible because of an advisor and faculty members who were active scholars, thoughtful pedagogues and caring mentors."

– John Potvin, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master of Art History is offered in 2 patterns:

- Pattern I: Four term-length courses in Art History, and a Master's Thesis of 20-25,000 words, which can follow a traditional format or project or portfolio format.
- Pattern II: Six term-length courses in Art History, and a Major Research Paper of 10-12,000 words, which can be in a traditional, project, or portfolio format.

For both patterns, the student normally chooses a potential supervisor and pattern by the end of the second term.

GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS →

RESEARCH Areas

- Medieval art and architecture, neo-Medievalism
- 14th to 18th-century Southern and Central European arts
- 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art
- 19th to 20th-century Scandinavian art
- History of photography
- Modernism
- Global contemporary art
- Indigenous cultures
- Art and Visual Cultures of Africa and its diaspora
- Canadian visual culture
- Global cultural contact
- Technical art history
- History of conservation and cultural heritage preservation
- History of collecting and museums
- Curatorial studies
- Art and medicine
- Design and material culture in a globalizing world

Visit the [Art History 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 and related experience.



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Art History 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.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA major research paper or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and the SGSPA website.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

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 Visual Culture Association for tips on getting involved.

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, cultural studies groups, and museums, such as the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, the Union Galley, or Modern Fuel.

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.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your major research paper or thesis.

- 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 like LinkedIn, a blog or podcast.

- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- 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 Indigenous Student Centre.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGSPA website, and LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Complete your major research paper or thesis.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Universities Art Association of Canada or College Art Association conferences.
- Consider being interviewed on the 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Society of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

- 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.
- Consider joining professional associations such as the Universities Art Association of Canada or College Art Association.

- 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, or 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 History 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** 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 discussions

Career Possibilities

A Master's degree in Art History 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:

- Academia and teaching
- Archives
- Auction houses
- Commercial galleries
- Museum, curatorial and cultural policy positions
- Writing and publishing

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

- Honours BA in Art History or related discipline.
- A minimum second-class standing in an undergraduate degree is required, with preference for students with an overall A- average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Writing sample
- Statement of Research Interest
- 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:** January 10th.
- **Notification of acceptance:** early March.

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

What about FUNDING?

Currently, MA students in Art History receive funding for each of the two years of the program. The amount varies each year, but will be approximately \$12,000-\$15,000 per year for students who do not hold major external awards. Depending on the needs of the Department, a portion of a Master's student's funding may be allocated as a Teaching Assistantship.

Queen's Art History is proud to have an extraordinary track record of success with SSHRC and other major external awards. MA students will be offered a series of workshops to help with these award applications. For more information on external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
ART HISTORY

Stefanie Killen (she/her)
Graduate Assistant

Department of Art History and Art Conservation
(613) 533-6000 x76181
grad.arthist@queensu.ca
queensu.ca/art/