

# History MA Map

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

### Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HISTORY?

Consider a graduate degree in History for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical reading, writing, and research and, perhaps even more importantly, engagement with oneself and the world we all inhabit.

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social, and technological phenomena.

Today's employment marketplace seeks people who are critically informed, culturally literate, capable of synthesizing information, and adept at creating and managing knowledge-based projects. Study History and you will acquire such skills.



### Why QUEEN'S?

The Department of History at Queen's offers a challenging and innovative graduate program, in established and new fields of historical inquiry.

Our students are taught primarily in small all-graduate seminars, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of historical writing, and delve into their own research. We are a mid-sized university and department, and are therefore able to create for our students a rich, supportive learning community. Our Graduate History Students' Association fosters a vibrant community through a variety of social events and professional development workshops.

GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS 



*Students participate in the departmental seminar series and host the biannual McGill-Queen's Graduate History conference that draws students from across Canada and the US.*

### Program STRUCTURE

We have two MA program patterns. All incoming full-time students must complete in their first year of study 6 term-length graduate courses or the equivalent.

**Pattern I (Thesis):** Students may apply in December of their first year if they wish to complete a thesis. The recommended length of the thesis is 100 pp., maximum length 150 pp. The Pattern I MA is designed to be completed within 12-20 months from initial registration.

**Pattern II (Cognate):** Students not in Pattern I complete a cognate essay instead. The recommended length of the cognate is 40-50 pp., maximum length 50 pp. The Pattern II MA is designed to be completed within 12 months from initial registration.

### RESEARCH Areas

Besides its traditional strengths in Canadian and European history, the department has strengths in several geographically-defined areas including Asia, Africa and Latin America, the British Imperial and Transatlantic worlds, as well as the following thematic fields:

- Childhood and Youth
- Cultural History
- Economic History
- Environmental History
- Gender, Sexuality, and Women
- Global and Transnational History
- Historiography
- Imperial, Colonial, and Postcolonial
- Indigenous History
- Intellectual History
- Legal History
- Migration and Diasporas
- Politics and the State
- Public Policy
- Race
- Religion
- Science, Medicine, and Technology
- Social History
- War and Conflict

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

Visit the [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.



**GRADUATE STUDIES AND  
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**

[queensu.ca/grad-postdoc](https://queensu.ca/grad-postdoc)

# 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 cognate essay 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 history department Grad Chair, and the SGSPA website.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your cognate essay or thesis.

- Complete your cognate essay or thesis.

### 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.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as McGill-Queen's.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media like LinkedIn, a blog or podcast.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

### 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 History Student Association for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from SGSPA and the history department.

- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- 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.

- 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.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, SGSPA 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, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Kingston Museum of Healthcare and the Queen's Archives.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha's Table, or Loving Spoonful.

- 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.
- 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 LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Heritage Canada Association and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).

### 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. Check out the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- 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 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.
- 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 History can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- **Project management:** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Knowledge and technical skills**
- **Effective communication skills** in multiple forms such as writing, editing, and presenting for diverse audiences
- **Information management:** prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- **Time management:** meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- **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 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:

- Documentary Filmmaking
- Education
- Government
- Journalism
- Law
- Military
- Museums and Public History
- Public Service
- Social Policy Research

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.

# Application FAQs

## What do I need to know to APPLY?

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum second-class standing in final two years of an Honours BA program in History from a recognized university (76-79%, 3.3/4.3 GPA).

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Writing sample and two page proposal.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application due: Third week of January.

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

## What about FUNDING?

The Department of History at Queen's provides funding for all MA students. Students receive financial support from a variety of sources including Queen's Graduate and Academic Excellence Awards, external awards, and Teaching Assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships and the Department of History's External Awards information page.



## MA Career Outcomes in the Humanities

Council of Graduate Schools and Educational Testing Service. (2012). Pathways Through Graduate School and Into Careers. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.