

English MPhil Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in English?

The English Department at Queen's University is a professionally-oriented research department whose faculty members are distinguished by both scholarly prowess and teaching excellence.

The Master of Philosophy program is unique among Ontario Universities and features intensive field-specific study, broad coursework, a Publishing Practicum, and guaranteed entry into the Queen's English Doctoral Program upon successful completion of MPhil degree requirements. This program will be of particular interest to undergraduate students considering doctoral research.

Why Queen's?

The graduate programs in English at Queen's are among the oldest and most prestigious in the country, combining commitment to historical breadth with promotion of methodological and disciplinary innovation.

The department's vibrant intellectual community is developed and sustained by the synergies between the knowledge and passion of our distinguished faculty and the ideas and inspirations of our outstanding graduate students.

Our Master's students consistently demonstrate high rates of success in national awards competitions, in achieving entry into doctoral programs, and in securing employment in fields as varied as editing, publishing, teaching, law, civil service, business, NGO work, and information technologies.



"The faculty are both accomplished and approachable at the same time." – Robyn Carruthers, PhD

Fields of Study

- American Literature
- Canadian Literature
- Gender Studies
- Indigenous Studies
- Literary Theory
- Medieval Literature
- Modernist Literature
- Modern Popular Culture
- Postcolonial Studies
- Renaissance Literature
- Restoration & 18th-Century Literature
- Romantic Literature
- Victorian Literature

MPhil students choosing to move directly into the workforce upon graduation will have attained field-specific expertise, advanced professionalization, and evidence of research and writing skills through the Publishing Practicum. MPhil

students choosing to move on into doctoral studies here accelerate their dissertation work by three full terms.

Program Structure

The MPhil is a 24-month program that features coursework, field exams, and a Publishing Practicum. MPhil students pursuing Doctoral studies will receive advanced standing into our PhD program.



2026-2027

English MPhil Map

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil)

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.



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

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

- Business
- Civil service
- Editing
- Information technologies
- Law
- NGO work
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Writing

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

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?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on 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 Bachelor of Arts degree.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum average of A- (3.7/4.3 GPA) and a cumulative minimum average of A- (3.7/4.3 GPA) in 10 full-year English Literature courses (or equivalent).
- Applicants are expected to have taken courses in most major areas of English literature from the medieval period to the present, and in literary theory.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Two official transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Statement of interest: Outline of research interests and goals
- Writing sample: 8 pages max (including bibliography).
- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 15 for all documentation and application.
- **Notification of acceptance:** March and April.

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

What about Funding?

Students are usually funded through a combination of internal fellowships, teaching assistantships, bursaries, and scholarships as part of the basic funding package.

Because funding packages are not expected to cover all study and living costs, we strongly encourage all students to 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.

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