

English MA 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.

Students in the MA, MPhil, and the PhD programs take courses that involve a wide range of critical methodologies, historical periods, and literary genres; they also take a pedagogical and professional skills course that ranges from academic counseling to grant applications to mentoring undergraduate students.

Why Queen's?

The Master's and Doctoral 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.



"I have been at Queen's for both my MA & PhD, and I can say it's an outstanding program. The library collections are among the best in the country. The size of the program is ideal [...] and, probably most importantly, 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

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying, should you be interested in the MA thesis option.

Visit the English 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.

Program Structure

The 12-month Master of English is offered in 2 patterns:

- **Pattern I:** Course work. (Recommended standard for an MA in English.)
- **Pattern II:** Course work and thesis of approximately 15,000 words. (Application required.)



English MA Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

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.



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like determining a course pattern that builds on your passions while covering your historical requirements.
- Consider how your courses might prepare you for eventual doctoral work or other educational and career goals beyond the MA.

- Continue your coursework, being alert to final essays that might be revised into publishable papers.
- For thesis-based MA students, produce the thesis proposal and initial research and writing for the thesis.

- Complete your coursework.
- For thesis-based MA students, complete your 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.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) or [GRADflix](#) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media or a blog.
- Consider being interviewed on the [SGSPA radio show Grad chat](#) to talk about your research.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) or the [Modern Language Association Convention](#).
- 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 English Society for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [SGSPA professional development](#).

- 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.
- Discover what skills you already have and figure out what ones you want to grow by using the [Queen's Skills Cards](#).

- 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](#), [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Professional development](#), [Mitacs](#), or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider whether you wish to take the "Literary Internship" as one of your courses.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as [Literacy Kingston](#), [Kingston WritersFest](#).

- 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 [Volunteering with QUIC](#) for the English Conversation program.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking 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 [ACCUTE](#), the [Modern Language Association](#), and more.

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.

- 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 English can equip you with:

- **Knowledge and technical 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 MA students 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 B+ over all 4 years of undergraduate study, with a cumulative minimum average of A- in 10 full-year English Literature courses (or equivalent).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest
- 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 on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.



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