

History PhD 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 PhD 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.



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

PhD (4 years): 5 seminar courses, including historical theories and methods, two field requirements, one language requirement, thesis proposal, thesis, and defence.

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](https://www.queensu.ca/history) 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, area of research interest, and related experience.



History PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

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 History can equip you with:

- **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 PhD in History can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits in fields such as:

- Documentary Filmmaking
- Education
- Government
- Journalism
- Law
- Military
- Museums and Public History
- Publishing
- 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.

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

- MA in History or equivalent from a recognized university with first-class standing (minimum A- average).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Writing sample.
- Extended 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: Third week of January.

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

What about Funding?

Currently, doctoral students are guaranteed minimum funding of \$25,000 per year for years 1-4. The Department of History at Queen's offers numerous internal awards that students are automatically considered for. PhD students receive financial support from a variety of sources including Queen's Academic Excellence Awards, Teaching Assistantships and Teaching Fellowships, and travel scholarships.

We 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.



PhD 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.