Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

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. All Art History courses emphasize visual literacy and the contextual relevance of the discipline within culture and history.

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 encompassing European paintings of the Baroque era, smaller concentrations of the art of Indigenous peoples of North America, decorative arts, costume and heritage quilts of the region. In addition, the gallery holds a fine collection of the art of West and Central Africa.

“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

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. Queen's Art History Ph.D. students have access to generous funding to travel and carry out onsite research.

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 him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, demonstration of a reading knowledge of language(s) (depending on the topic), field essays and field exams, thesis proposal, thesis.

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
- “New Design Field” to:

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.
The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My My Experience tool.
Graduate Studies FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- MA in Art History or a related discipline with an A average in the primary courses.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Curriculum vitae
- 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).
- Reading proficiency in a second language is required in addition to English language proficiency.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 10th.
- Notification of acceptance: mid-March.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Art History PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. In recent years, doctoral students who do not hold a major external grant have received $20,000-$24,000/year for 4 years. The funding package may be comprised of Queen's Graduate Awards, Teaching Assistantships, and named internal Fellowships. Many doctoral students in their 3rd year are eligible for a Bader Fellowship, worth up to $30,000.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships.