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.

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.

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.

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:
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

WHERE CAN I GO?
The 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 make 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 Individual Development Plan (IDP) 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. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $5,000 award to incoming Masters 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 and the Department of History’s External Awards information page.

MA Career Outcomes in the Humanities