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 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.
WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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 issues, 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?

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:

- Law
- Government
- Social Policy Research
- Museums and Public History
- Documentary Filmmaking
- Military
- Journalism
- Education
- Publishing
- Public Service

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

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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 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 minimum funding guarantee for History PhD students is $18,000 per year, and is frequently substantially more throughout 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. 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' information on awards and scholarships.

PhD Career Outcomes in the Humanities