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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR I</th>
<th>YEAR II</th>
<th>YEAR III</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT</strong></td>
<td><strong>BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHERE CAN I GO?</strong></td>
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<td>Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exams.</td>
<td>Write and defend your thesis proposal.</td>
<td>Think about audiences for your research.</td>
<td>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:</td>
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<td>Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.</td>
<td>Embark on your substantive research.</td>
<td>Complete ROMED online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.</td>
<td>Law</td>
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<td>Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.</td>
<td>Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.</td>
<td>Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.</td>
<td>Social Policy Research</td>
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<td><strong>ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yield your research experience</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Documentary Filmmaking</strong></td>
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<td>Consider volunteering with community organizations, museums, or cultural studies groups, such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Kingston Museum of Health Care, and the Queen’s Archives.</td>
<td><strong>Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow</strong></td>
<td>For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSS02 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.</td>
<td><strong>Law</strong></td>
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<td>Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as your graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.</td>
<td>Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.</td>
<td>Find your way through the academic process with the help of School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development and the SGSS website.</td>
<td><strong>Social Policy Research</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAUNCH YOUR CAREER</strong></td>
<td><strong>Present your research through social media such as Twitter or a blog.</strong></td>
<td>Seek experiential/professional development opportunities. Attend or present at a graduate conference such as McGill-Queen’s.</td>
<td><strong>Documentary Filmmaking</strong></td>
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<td>Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a Career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resources Area for advice on various career options.</td>
<td><strong>Complete your first year of teaching.</strong></td>
<td>Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Development.</td>
<td><strong>Military</strong></td>
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<td><em>Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.</em></td>
<td><strong>Consider attending conferences, such as those listed by the Graduate Students’ Committee or the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
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<td><em>Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.</em></td>
<td><strong>Continue to attend conferences, such as those listed by the Graduate Students’ Committee or the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).</strong></td>
<td><strong>Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions or apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<td><strong>WHAT WILL I LEARN?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plan your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Apply to jobs or make plans for other opportunities related to careers of interest, through Queens Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Publishing</strong></td>
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<td>A graduate degree in History can equip you with:</td>
<td><strong>Review submission and examination guidelines.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue to attend conferences, such as those listed by the Graduate Students’ Committee or the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).</strong></td>
<td><strong>Public Service</strong></td>
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<td>Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions.</td>
<td><strong>Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.</strong></td>
<td>Taking time to explore career options, build experiences, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.</td>
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<td>Knowledge and technical skills: Effective communication skills in multiple forms such as writing, editing, and presenting for diverse audiences.</td>
<td><strong>Embark on your substantive research.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meet early with your supervisor to set coursework, field exams, and language exams.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taking time to explore career options, build experiences, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.</strong></td>
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**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](#).

**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 and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on [awards and scholarships](#).

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**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.