Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ENGLISH?

The English Department at Queen’s University is a professionally-oriented research department whose faculty members are distinguished by both scholarly prowess and teaching excellence. Students in the MA and the PhD programs take courses that involve a wide range of critical methodologies, historical periods, and literary genres; they also take a pedagogical and professional skills course that ranges from academic counselling to grant applications to mentoring undergraduate students.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Master’s and Doctoral programs in English at Queen’s are among the oldest and most prestigious in the country, combining commitment to historical breadth with promotion of methodological and disciplinary innovation. The department’s vibrant intellectual community is developed and sustained by the synergies between the knowledge and passion of our distinguished faculty and the ideas and inspirations of our outstanding graduate students.

Our Master’s students consistently demonstrate high rates of success in national awards competitions, in achieving entry into doctoral programs, and in securing employment in fields as varied as editing, publishing, teaching, law, civil service, business, NGO work, and information technologies.

Fields of STUDY

• Medieval Literature
• Modern Popular Culture
• Renaissance Literature
• Restoration & 18th-Century Literature
• Romantic Literature
• Victorian Literature
• Modernist Literature
• American Literature
• Canadian Literature
• Indigenous Studies
• Gender Studies
• Postcolonial Studies
• Literary Theory

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying, should you be interested in the MA thesis option.

Program STRUCTURE

The 12-month Master of English is offered in 2 patterns:

• Pattern I: Course work. (Recommended standard for an M.A. in English.)
• Pattern II: Course work and thesis of approximately 15,000 words.

“I have been at Queen’s for both my MA & PhD, and I can say it’s an outstanding program. The library collections are among the best in the country. The size of the program is ideal […] and, probably most importantly, the faculty are both accomplished and approachable at the same time.”

– Robyn Carruthers, PhD

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS

English MA Map
The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

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. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

2022-2023
English MA Map
MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

GETTING STARTED

• Start with key priorities like determining a course pattern that builds on your passions while covering your historical requirements.

• Consider how your courses might prepare you for eventual doctoral work or other educational and career goals beyond the MA.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

• Continue your coursework, being alert to final essays that might be re-edited for publishable papers.

• For thesis-based MA students, produce the thesis proposal and initial research and writing for the thesis.

WRAPPING UP

• Complete your coursework.

• For thesis-based MA students, complete your thesis.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in English can equip you with:

• Knowledge and technical skills

• Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences

• Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information

• Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands

• Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions

• 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?

A Master's degree in English 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:

• Writing

• Editing

• Publishing

• Teaching

• Law

• Civil service

• Business

• NGO work

• Information technologies

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

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours Bachelor of Arts degree.
- Grade requirements: minimum average of B+ over all 4 years of undergraduate study, with a cumulative minimum average of A- in 10 full-year English Literature courses (or equivalent).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- 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. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: (1) TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.5 (academic module overall band score). These tests must have been taken within a year of the date of pre-application.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 15 for all documentation and application.
- Notification of acceptance: March and April.

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

What about FUNDING?

Master of English students receive minimum funding of $12,000 for the one-year program. Students are usually funded through a combination of internal fellowships, teaching assistantships, bursaries, and scholarships as part of the basic funding package.

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.

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