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, MPhil, 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 counseling to grant applications to mentoring undergraduate students.

"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

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.

Offered by Queen’s since 1942, the PhD in English is designed to foster the scholarly development of our students; we prioritize mentorship, professionalization, and intellectual exchange while maintaining an abiding excitement about our students’ autonomous programs of research. The department is small enough that students get to know our faculty, yet large enough to boast faculty expertise in all major historical periods and a wide array of critical methodologies for literary study.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, two-part comprehensive examination (Field Examination and Special Topic Presentation), and dissertation.

Students entering the PhD from MPhil program will have completed the first part of the comprehensive exams and can go directly to pursuing more independent research in the Special Topic Presentation and the dissertation.

Fields of STUDY

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

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the English 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. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.
Achieve your Academic Goals

**Year I**
- Key priorities include developing relationships with members of your cohort and pursuing courses in your field of study while fulfilling historical breadth requirements.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

**Year II**
- Complete field exams in your area of specialization in the fall.
- Assemble your supervisory committee (including supervisor and second reader). Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion. Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**Year III**
- Continue researching and begin writing your dissertation. Year III is the one in which students often find it the most difficult to be productive.
- Ensure you have completed language requirements and the upper-year elements of ENGL 900.
- Check out the SGSPA writing camps such as Dissertation on the Lake, for writing help.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.

**Year IV**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines, if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

Maximize Research Impact

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

Build Skills and Experience

- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Graduate English Society for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, Career Cruising, or connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Nineteenth Century Studies.
- Attend conferences in your field.

Engage with Your Community

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Literacy Kingston, Kingston Writers'Fest, or the Wolfe Island Writer's Festival.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGSPA.

Launch Your Career

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning, workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Gradve Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.

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 Grad Map tool.
Graduate Studies FAQs

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- MA degree with minimum average of A- (3.7/4.3 GPA), or successful completion of the MPhil program.
- Cumulative minimum average of A- (80%) in 10 full-year English Literature courses (or equivalent).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Intent
- Writing sample to be sent directly to English Department
- 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: 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. (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.
- Notification of acceptance: March and April.

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

What about FUNDING?

PhD students receive guaranteed funding for four years. There are some additional funding sources available in the fifth year, if necessary. The funding package may be comprised of Queen's Graduate Awards, Teaching Assistantships, or named internal Fellowships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to Doctoral 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.

Lovorka Fabek-Fischer, Graduate Assistant
(613) 533-2153
lf34@queensu.ca
queensu.ca/english