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.

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs
2021-2022

History PhD Map *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exams.
• Meet regularly with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
• Find your way through the academic process with the help of the Graduate History History History Direction and the SGS website.
• Seek experiential/professional development opportunities. Attend or present at a conference such as McGill-Queen's.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

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

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate History History History History and the Career Services team for tips on getting involved.
• Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFCR, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
• Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

• 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.
• Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

• Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
• 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 Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Write and defend your thesis proposal.
• Embark on your substantive research.
• Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
• Attend and participate in graduate seminars.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
• Apply for the Graduate Dears Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

YEAR III

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps, such as Dissertation Boot Camp.
• Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.
• Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
• Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Continue to present at conferences.
• Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
• Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking in news outlets about your work.
• List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
• Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
• Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Plan your job search with supervision.
• Write your CV and cover letter for upcoming opportunities.
• Complete a comprehensive career search.

YEAR IV

WHO 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 sound ethical practices, professional, and personal responsibility.
• Research and social work.
• Leadership and vision building skills.

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 experience, 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!

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* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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](#).

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**PhD Career Outcomes in the Humanities**