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.

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.
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.

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics.

How to use this map

CAREER
- Launch your career
- Skills and research
- Goals
- Engage with your community
- Communication
- Launch your career
- Leadership
- Management
- Social service
- Academia
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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.

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 and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.

PhD Career Outcomes in the Humanities