English

When you study English at Queen’s, you’ll learn to read perceptively, analyze clearly, and above all, communicate effectively. Students will explore the literary canon, including writers such as Shakespeare, Austen, and Brontë, but will also engage with cutting edge texts and literary forms, such as graphic novels and works by contemporary writers. Queen’s English encourages an eclectic approach to the subject, combining attention to methodology and core knowledge with the flexibility to support individual passions.

5 Reasons to study English Language

1. To learn to read and think more actively and creatively.
2. To develop your ability to write with greater clarity and precision.
3. To explore an exciting diversity of literary works written in English.
4. To build a vocabulary for responding critically and incisively to the written word.
5. To broaden your aptitudes in expressing complex ideas and formulating persuasive arguments.

Alumni Story

“I am so thankful to have studied English at Queen’s University. The department has top-notch professors who both inspire and challenge your thinking. I learned to apply myriad lenses when examining literature, which deepened my understanding and appreciation of the human condition and universally shared experiences.”

- Brett Copeland, BAH ’07

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

5% of alumni work in LAW

6% of alumni work in WRITING & PUBLISHING

9% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT

44% of alumni work in EDUCATION

Add a Certificate

- Data Analytics
- Disability and Physical Activity
- Employment Relations
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
- French for Professionals
- Geographic Information Science
- Global Action and Engagement
- Indigenous Languages and Cultures
- International Studies
- Media Studies
- Sexual and Gender Diversity
- Urban Planning Studies

2022-23 Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection

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That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/english
English Major Map

Bachelor of Arts (Honours): Major, Joint Honours, Minor

2022-2023

1ST YEAR

Get The Courses You Need

In first year, you will have the chance to explore the foundations of English along with some electives. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS Student Academic Support Services and the Writing Centre for some help.

Get Relevant Experience

Get involved in student publications, such as the Queen’s Journal MUSE, or Ultraviolet Magazine. Explore broadcasting opportunities at CFRC and QTV. If you are interested in creative writing courses, work on your portfolio.

See the AMT Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

Get Connected With the Community

Volunteer on- or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Frontier College/QSPA Students for Literacy or Kingston WritersFest.

Get Thinking Globally

Prepare for work or study in a multicultural environment by taking QUE Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Speak to a QUE advisor to get involved in their major and/or certificate(s).

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Great Jobs for English Majors. For more information, check out Career Counseling or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

2ND YEAR

Delve more deeply into the discipline of English, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as International Studies. Attend Degree x in the Fall term to learn more about Certificate and Internship options.

Get Relevant Experience

Look into summer jobs by talking to Career Services about work through SWEP or Work Study. Think about applying to positions in Student services or the Alma Mater Society.

If interested, apply to work at an on-campus library or the Queen’s Learning Commons.

Get Thinking Globally

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third-year exchange through the International Programs Office, and consult with the UG Chair regarding transfer credits. If interested, take English courses for a summer or a term at our Partner in England.

3RD YEAR

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of English. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

Get Relevant Experience

If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (QUE). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICS).

Get Thinking Globally

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

In fourth year, you will have the chance to participate in seminar-sized courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

Get Relevant Experience

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

Get Thinking Globally

Consider joining professional associations like the Modern Languages Association (MLA) or Queen’s Connects.

Where can I go?

A degree in English can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Advertising
- Archives
- Business writing
- Copywriting
- Editing
- Human resources
- Journalism
- Public relations
- Publishing
- Technical writing

Taking time to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation. Some careers may require additional training.

What will I learn?

A degree in English can equip you with:

- Communication skills to present ideas clearly and persuasively, orally and in writing
- Problem solving to approach a complex topic systematically
- Textual analysis to understand how texts create meaning and emotional impact
- Critical thinking to construct an argument for maximum persuasiveness, and to use evidence appropriately
- Research to gain the knowledge you need to support your argument
- History of ideas to understand how cultural forms and notions of value change in time
- Literary theory to explore some of the ways in which literature has been defined, evaluated, and used by different thinkers
- Cultural study to understand the differences between high and low cultural forms, and their function in society throughout history
- Resource and time management

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.
Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research-intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often identified as the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. At a university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and in a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America, you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

For more information, contact quip@queensu.ca or visit the Program Website.