History

The History Department offers a wide range of courses that span from the pre-modern past to the contemporary era and geographically circle the globe. Courses build on a number of disciplinary vantage points and explore various themes, including cultural, economic, environmental, gender, global and transnational, Indigenous, intellectual, labour, legal, political, and religious history. In addition, students have the opportunity to undertake a variety of independent research, community projects, experiential learning, and internship opportunities. The emphasis on analysis, critical thinking, research, communication, and writing skills prepare history students for careers in law, education, public policy, business, museum and archives, publishing, research, and media.

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

32% of alumni work in EDUCATION
15% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT
9% of alumni work in LAW
7% of alumni work in BANKING, INVESTMENT & INSURANCE

Our alumni also work in fields such as media, libraries and archives, management, museums, and as researchers and consultants for industry. Listen to our Alumni Archives Podcast to learn more.

Alumni Story

“Studying in the Queen's History department taught me a number of great things, including that I know a small fraction of what there is to know, but that I have the capacity to learn a lot through discussion, analysis and hard work.”

- Christine Platt, BAH '07


That is a degree from Queen's.

queensu.ca/history
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.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about Career options from Career Services.

EXPERIENCE
Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. of Career Services about work through WEEF or Work-Study. Explore History’s internship opportunities through MHT 212, Experiential Learning in Historical Practice.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the AMS Social Issues Commission and the Kingston Museum of Healthcare. Check out Queen’s Model Parliament.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking an International Competency Certificate and research possible immigration regulations. Speak to a QC advisor to get involved with their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen’s Debating Union (RDU) and Queens International Affairs Association. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of History along with some electives. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

Questions about the History program? Meet with a peer advisor (PATH) or contact the Department’s Academic Advising Team.

MAJOR MAP
BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

2022-2023
History

1ST YEAR
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of History along with some electives. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

2ND YEAR
Start going deeper into the discipline of History and consider a minor to diversify your learning experience. Attend Degree 3 in the Fall term to learn more about Certificate and internship options.

3RD YEAR
A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of History. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research based 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).

What will I learn?
A degree in History can equip you with:

• Knowledge of a broad spectrum of historical events and trends
• Understanding of how historians study the past
• Knowledge of how political, social, economic, and cultural change occurs
• Understanding of the relationship between history and current events

Oral and written communication to communicate ideas through writing and present research to a group

• Analytical skills to make judgements based on available historical evidence

• Research skills to synthesize large amounts of material and identify relevant information

• Attention to detail to analyze texts and historical arguments

• Problem solving to develop systematic procedures for investigating a problem

What can I go? A degree in History 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:

• Anthropology
• Archival science
• Genealogical research
• Intelligence analysis
• Library science
• Museum curator
• Policy analyst
• Public administration
• 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.
History

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.

Why study in Kingston?

For 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 awarded 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. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and 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.

We’re closer than you think.

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