

Art History

A rewarding career in the arts industries, heritage management, or museum sector begins with an art history degree. An art history degree also prepares you for a wide array of other career possibilities which require strong intercultural skills, visual literacy, and research strengths. Students in art history explore and understand key topics in global arts and material culture, and critically examine the role of museums and galleries in our contemporary world. Our students have first-hand engagements with art outside the classroom—such as through internships, field trips, or our Venice Biennale Summer School—and gain valuable learning experiences that prepare them to be innovative thinkers and leaders in the arts and cultural sector. The department is home to an array of distinguished scholars and curators in the fields of global arts, architecture, and museum studies, and offers students the opportunity to be creative, rigorous, and socially engaged.

TOP 5 Reasons to study Art History

- 1 Develop a strong visual literacy with the images and material objects that surround us.
- 2 Take field trips to important exhibitions of art in the region.
- 3 Study in our international programs, including the Venice Summer School.
- 4 Engage in first-hand classroom study at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.
- 5 Learn from faculty members with international reputations, who have a variety of experiences and perspectives to share.

Alumni Story

"My art history graduate education at Queen's provided me with excellent training as an art historian. I had the opportunity to study and work directly with historic drawings in the Queen's Archives, and learn how to research and catalogue them while producing a finding aid for a newly acquired collection."

-Christine O'Malley Queen's BA and MA

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

17% of alumni work in
CURATION & CONSERVATION

40% of alumni work in
EDUCATION

Example Alumni Jobs

Dayna Obbema (MA '22), Associate Museum Sustainability Consultant, Rute Collaborative.

Emma Landis (BAH '13), Founder and Principal of art consultancy firm, Richan Art.

Eleanore Mackie (MA '20), Registrar of Loans and Art Transit, National Gallery of Canada.

Jessica Insley (BAH '13), Collections Curator, Mount Stuart Trust, Scotland.

Jeff Taylor (BAH), Senior Client Partner, Meta (Facebook)

Tash Perrin (BAH), Deputy Chairwoman, Christie's Auction House, New York.

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

[QUartsci.com/certs](https://quartsci.com/certs)

2023-24 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

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Learn what opportunities and resources are available for you on the [Experiential Learning website](#). You can also reach out to the team directly at asc.el@queensu.ca.

Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global.

That is a degree from Queen's.

queensu.ca/art

Art History MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, MINOR



1ST YEAR

2ND YEAR

3RD YEAR

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Art History along with some electives. Those considering a future in Art Conservation may want to take Chemistry and Biology as part of your first-year electives.

Attend [Majors Night](#) in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take [ASCX 150](#) and develop future-ready skills!

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as [Vogue Charity Fashion Show](#) or [Ultraviolet Magazine](#).

See the [AMS 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 [Best Buddies](#) or [Muse Magazine](#).

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking [QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate](#), and research possible immigration regulations.

Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help considering career options from [Career Services](#).

Start going deeper into the discipline of Art History, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Global Action and Engagement. Learn more about [certificate](#) and internship 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.

Develop your entrepreneurial skills by participating in the [Dean's Changemaker Challenge](#) (ASCX 200/300).

Volunteer at places like the [Queen's Archives](#) or the [Union Gallery](#). Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the [Queen's Innovation Connector Summer Initiative \(QICSI\)](#).

Get involved with the Art History Departmental Student Council (DSC).

Volunteer at the [Agnes Etherington Art Centre](#), where student docents lead school programs, family programs, and assist with children's art classes.

Start thinking about if you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the [International Programs Office](#). Start studying a foreign language: this is key for graduate study or a career in Art History. German, Italian, and Spanish are popular choices. Consider spending May and June in Venice studying [Art and Architecture \(ARTH 245\)](#).

Explore different careers of interest in the Career Services Information Area. For information check out [Career Cruising](#).

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

Apply to [ARTH 395](#) to get academic credit for a hands-on internship. Apply for upper-year volunteer positions at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. If interested, apply for an [Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship \(USSRF\)](#). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month [QUIP internship](#) between your third and fourth year.

Attend the Queen's annual Art History graduate student conference, [Context and Meaning](#), in February.

Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group [Queen's Connects](#). Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

In alternate years, [ARTH 380 Venice and Its Biennale: The Display of Contemporary Art and Culture in a Historic City](#) is offered as a summer course in Italy.

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the GRE or LSAT) and get help thinking about Grad School from Career Services.

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 degree.

Interested in working on a real-world problem with an actual client? Take [ASCX 400](#) and develop your consulting and project-management skills.

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

Assess what experience you're lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

Consider joining professional associations like [Universities Art Association of Canada \(UAAC-AAUC\)](#), [Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada \(SSAC\)](#), and the [College Art Association](#).

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Art History.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an [International Student Advisor](#).

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions. Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to Grad School in Ontario.

Apply for the [Queen's Career Apprenticeship: Kingston \(QCA:K\)](#).

CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

CONSIDER A 12 MONTH QCA:K APPRENTICESHIP

What will I learn?

A degree in Art History can equip you with:

- Visual literacy: know how to look carefully and think critically about visual images and material objects
- Knowledge of artistic movements, ways of interpreting art, art theory, and historical trends in art
- Understanding of the relationships between art, history, and culture
- Oral and written communication: express your ideas effectively in spoken and written form
- Research skills and critical thinking to find, interpret, and apply information
- Analytical skills to analyze an argument and evaluate its validity
- Resource and time management

Where can I go?

A degree in Art 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:

- Architecture
- Architectural preservation
- Archives and archival science
- Art auctioning
- Art education
- Art journalism
- Art therapy
- Design
- Gallery administration
- Heritage policy
- Marketing and promotions
- Museology
- Museum curating
- Tourism & Travel
- University research, college, and museum education

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

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.

Art 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.



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QUIP QUEEN'S UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

START DATES

in May, September,
or January

POSITIONS

are paid and
full-time

WORK TERMS

are 12-16 months
long

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Graduate with a "Professional Internship" degree
- Learn about current advances, practices and technologies in business and industry.
- Test drive a career, earn a competitive salary, and get real world experience.

ELIGIBILITY

- 2nd or 3rd Year Students
- Minimum GPA of 1.9

WHY QUIP?

- Gain a year of career-related work experience.
- Build network connections.
- Receive support from Queen's staff in job search and during internship.

SAMPLE PAST INTERNSHIPS



For more information, contact quip@queensu.ca or visit the [Program Website](#).

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.

