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 5 Reasons to study History

1. A History degree provides essential skills for a variety of career options, including education, law, policy, public service, media, and business.

2. History offers a range of small-sized seminars, which allow students to interact with professors individually and provides an enriching learning experience.

3. The range of courses spans the globe. History lecture and seminar courses cover every continent, and many courses examine the interconnected nature of human experience.

4. History helps us to critically examine how the world we inhabit came to be.

5. A history degree offers opportunities for innovative independent research projects and a number of real-world experiential learning and public history internships.

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

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.

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.


That is a degree from Queen's.

queensu.ca/history
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of History along with some electives. Enrol in one or two first-year History courses of your choosing to meet prerequisites for History courses in years 2 and above. Meet with an upper-year peer advisor (PATH) or contact the Department’s Academic Advisor Team. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about your major options. Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take ASCX 150 and develop future-ready skills!

Look into summer jobs by visiting the department’s Careers webpage or talking to Career Services about work through SWEP or Work Study. Explore History’s internship opportunities through HIST 219: Experiential Learning in Historical Practice. Consider taking more responsibility within different extracurriculars. Think about applying to positions in student services, the AMS media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, undergraduate journals like Living Histories, CHRC, and Studio Q.

Dive deeper into the discipline of History by completing the second-year foundational core seminar course, while considering a minor to diversify your learning experience. Want to make sure your academic skills are where you want them to be? Visit QASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help. Develop your entrepreneurial skills by participating in the Dean’s Changemaker Challenge (ASCY 4000/4500).

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with the International Programs Office and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA). Consider completing an independent research paper in History (HIST 516/615) and submit your work at the Inquiry @ Queen’s Undergraduate Conference. Publish your work with peer-reviewed journals like Young Histories, The Observer, or Politeia.

Explore experiential learning opportunities and apply to the Department of History’s internships program. Consider joining professional associations like the International Commission on the History of Medicine and the American Historical Association (AHA). Become involved as a Peer Advisor in our Peer Advising Team in History (PATH) and apply for the Queen’s Career Advising Team (QCAT) internship.

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 Career Services’ skills workshop for help. Consider completing an independent research paper in History (HIST 516/615) and submit your work at the Inquiry @ Queen’s Undergraduate Conference. Publish your work with peer-reviewed journals like Young Histories, The Observer, or Politeia.

International students interested in staying in Canada may want to talk with an International Student Advisor. Consider applying for a M.A. in History to specialize in fields such as Global History, Postcolonial and Decolonial Thought, and Environmental History. Get involved with the Global History Initiative. OPT for a Master’s and get some help thinking about career options from Career Services.

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. Consider applying for HIST 450: Experiential Study Project and submit your work at the Inquiry @ Queen’s Undergraduate Conference. Explore experiential learning opportunities and apply to the Department of History's internships program.

Get involved with the Department Student Council, check out the AMS Social Development and Student Union (AMS), or get some help networking with faculty and fellow students. Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Queen’s Model Parliament. Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills, perhaps through an Indigenous Languages and Cultures certificate. Look for History courses that offer you the opportunity to broaden your global knowledge and learn about geographic and thematic areas that are new to you.

Consider joining with professional associations like the Heritage Canada Association and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA). Become involved as a Peer Advisor in our Peer Advising Team in History (PATH). Consider applying for a M.A. in History to specialize in fields such as Global History, Postcolonial and Decolonial Thought, and Environmental History. Get involved with the Global History Initiative.

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Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen’s Debating Union (QDU) and Queen’s International Affairs Association. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Yet Involved page for more ideas. Consider getting involved with the History Department’s Student Council to help shape the experience of all History students at Queen’s.

Prepare for work or study in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QUIP’s Intercultural Competency Certificate and research possible immigration regulations. Speak to a QUIP advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

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

Where 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 experiences, and network can help you make 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.
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.