Developing Our Cultural Leaders

Why graduate studies in arts leadership?

Ours is a laddered program where students can receive a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management with the successful completion of the first term, or choose to complete the MA in Arts Leadership with the successful completion of second and third terms. Students receive a 360° view of the arts industry with courses in arts philanthropy and major gifts, arts marketing, cultural policy, strategic thinking and planning, contract negotiation, industrial relations, and an introduction to financial and management accounting. They are exposed to, and taught by, top practitioners in the arts industry who provide a focus on experiential learning through live site research assignments and a final term practicum placement in an arts organization to serve as a capstone project. 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.

Why Queen’s?

Queen’s offers its students a perfect balance of engagement with rigorous academic programs and access to first class practitioners and arts facilities. Both the diploma and ARTSL MA programs are cross-disciplinary -- taught by a combination of instructors from the Dan School of Drama and Music, the Master of Industrial Relations program, and the Smith School of Business. In addition, the campus boasts world class facilities including a major Performing Arts Centre, Art Gallery, and Library – all with senior staff whose management experience adds to the practical teaching environment. 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.

Program outcomes

- Acquire institutional management skills
- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the tenets of the nonprofit sector
- Receive guidelines for strategic thinking and implementing organizational missions
- Benefit from advanced marketing and development training
- Learn integrated approaches to arts advocacy and cultural policy
- Discern the special nature of negotiating Arts-related contracts and collective agreements
- Plan for capital development projects and related community integration
- Understand and serve as an advocate for the Creative Economy

Program structure

The five core courses needed to complete the Graduate Diploma in Arts Management are offered during a single summer session studying at Queen’s. After successful completion of the Graduate Diploma program, a student may continue on to pursue the MA program in Arts Leadership through the completion of one additional term of coursework in the Fall followed by a second “capstone” term involving a practicum placement in the arts industry.
2019-2020
Arts Leadership MA / Arts Management
GRADUATE DIPLOMA *

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- Develop relationships with a mixture of emerging and established practitioners who are joined in a common pursuit of professional innovation.
- Engage in the academic and professional training process with help from departmental supervisors, the Program’s Grad Coordinators and the 5G3 Habitat.

MAXIMIZE YOUR PROFESSIONAL ARTS TRAINING
- With the help of the program’s five core courses, enhance your current skills and pursue new ones within the Arts management field.
- Learn through interactive projects led by senior management professionals and get learning support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Work on collective projects with peers who bring an international perspective to your field of interest.
- Take advantage of professional development workshops and simulated on-the-job budget negotiations.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
- Interact with students and outside professionals from a full range of Arts disciplines - expanding your knowledge base and connections.
- Enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with practitioners and students from other communities and organizations throughout the world.

EXPAND YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
- Let your enhanced skill set lead you to new opportunities within or beyond your current workplace.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons or the School of Graduate Studies' Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.

DIPLOMA PHASE
- Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Maximize Your Professional Arts Training
- Build Skills and Experience
- Engage With Your Community
- Expand Your Career Opportunities

MA STUDY PHASE
- Complete your coursework (either on campus or at a distance).
- Finalize your plans for your practicum.
- In addition to studies in negotiation and cultural policy, expand your knowledge base by choosing from a menu of administration courses.
- Create your own advanced study experience on or off campus.

MA PRACTICUM
- Complete your Master's program with a professional placement while looking forward to exploring future applications for your new training and connections.
- Learn by doing: with program support and supervision, work within an accredited Arts Organization.
- Applied learning opportunities involve a term-long placement working with industry professionals as you study and assess management structure from the inside.
- Develop relationships with top practitioners and build further connections within the industry.
- Opportunities for sponsored internships within your field.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Arts Leadership or Arts Management can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: Meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision, leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?
A Graduate Diploma in Arts Management and/or Master's degree in Arts Leadership can take your career in many directions.
Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Arts Administration
- Production Management
- Not-for-Profit Advocacy
- Cultural Sector Marketing
- Arts Facility Management
- Community Outreach and Education
- Development and Advancement
- HR Management for the Arts
- Business Management
- Director for Performing Arts Organization
- Advocate for the Arts and for the value systems at their workplace or look beyond it to new challenges.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.html for the online version with links!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
Graduate Studies FAQs

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- A minimum B+ average in the last two years of an Honours (4-year) Bachelor's program.
- Students with humanities-based backgrounds or from traditionally unrelated fields may also be considered for admission if they can demonstrate professional equivalency through prior experience in Arts administration.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest: Applicants can submit a statement of interest of up to 4000 characters.
- Two reference letters, either academic or professional.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Applications will be processed as they are received.
- Final application due: January 15
- Notification of acceptance: By March 20th
- Classes start: May 14

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

There is no guaranteed funding for students. However, students may apply for Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant positions.

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 SGS HABITAT 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, 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.