**Graduate Studies FAQs**

**How do I use this map?**

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use the map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the [My Grad Map tool](#).

**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 HANDBOOK](#) 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, excellent funding packages 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 city of the coast, the 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.

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**Application FAQs**

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

- 4-year Honours Bachelor’s degree (BAHon.) in Women’s Studies, Gender Studies, or related field.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ (75%) average in the last 2 years of undergraduate study.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Statement of Interest.
- Writing sample (maximum 12 pages).
- 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**

- Application due: December 15th for early admission; Final application deadline is February 1st.
- Notification of acceptance: 4 weeks after the full application has been received.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

**What about FUNDING?**

MA students in Gender Studies generally receive minimum funding of $13,000/year, which consists of graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $15,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government to council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on [awards and scholarships](#).

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**Gender Studies MA Map**

**Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies**

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GENDER STUDIES?**

Gender studies opens doors for students to address growing concerns about equity, justice and inequality across national and global societies. Gender affects everyone, making gender studies a space where our theory and practice attend to the differences and connections among diverse peoples worldwide.

As an interdisciplinary field, gender studies helps students connect social science, humanities, arts, and natural science methods to produce innovative new knowledge. Graduates of the MA in Gender Studies at Queen’s pursue advanced degrees in American studies, English, environmental studies, gender studies, legal studies, and medicine, and work in such fields as education, health, law, public policy, social research, social work, media, art and community organizing. Gender studies prepares students for both academic and nonacademic careers.

**Why QUEEN’S?**

Gender Studies at Queen’s teaches critical race, gender and sexuality studies and their applications to work for social change. Students examine gender, our key category of analysis, in terms of its connections to race, class, nation, sexuality, disability, age, religion, colonialism and globalization. Our program emphasizes critical race conceptual frameworks at all levels of instruction. Our students conduct research in Canada and internationally and connect their scholarship to local and global work for social justice.

Our world-class faculty hold SSHRC grants, supervise active research programs, serve as editors of peer-reviewed journals, and publish widely in Canadian and international presses. Faculty research and teaching are advancing feminist, queer, and trans studies by centering anti-racist, anti-colonial and transnational theories and methods.

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**Program STRUCTURE**

The MA in Gender Studies is a one-year program. Full-time students take six courses – two (3.0 credit) required courses and four (3.0 credit) elective courses in fall and winter semesters – and complete a Major Research Paper (50 pages) during spring and summer. Elective courses may consist of GNDS graduate seminars, GNDS Directed Readings (up to a maximum of two), the GNDS practicum or courses hosted by other departments.

**RESEARCH Areas**

- Activism and Alliance Building
- Anti-Colonial Thought
- Anti-Racist Feminisms
- Black Geographies
- Colonialisms
- Diaspora
- Creative Emancipatory Work
- Critical History
- Ethnography
- Gender and Poverty
- Globalization, Work and Social Justice
- Health Studies
- Indigenous Studies
- Memory and Trauma
- Popular Culture
- Queer Studies
- Diaspora
- Trans Studies
- Transnationalism and Diaspora

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.
- Visit the [Gender Studies department website](#) to read [faculty profiles](#) and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience.

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**The first time I heard about the Gender Studies department at Queen’s […] someone referred to it as ‘friendly and supportive’. During my time studying Gender Studies, I discovered the truth of those words on a frequent, if not daily, basis.”  
– Bilan Hashi, MA
GETTING STARTED

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from Expanding Horizons professional development workshops.
- Participate in GNDS Graduate Orientation.
- Attend the GNDS Brown Bag series.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- Start to contact potential doctoral supervisors or professional programs.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Chair for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Gender Studies Department.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Reelout! Arts Project, Transfamily Kingston, and Queen's Students for Literacy.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career councillor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic, Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your Major Research Paper. The MRP should be composed of two parts: (1) a paper written in one of the student's fall or winter term graduate courses; and (2) a new work prepared during spring and summer.
- Complete the academic process with help from Expanding Horizons professional development workshops.
- Attend the GNDS Brown Bag series.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your Major Research Paper.
- Consider publication options for your research, such as Canadian Women's Studies, Gender, Place and Culture, and Atlantis.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as Congress; the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, or the Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Gender Studies can equip you with:

- 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, an 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 Master's degree in Gender Studies 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:

- Advocacy
- Arts
- Community Organizing
- Education
- Equity
- Human Resources
- Immigration Services
- Journalism and Media
- Law
- Meditation and Labour Relations
- Politics and Government
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Social Research
- Social Services
- Social Work

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

* 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.