

Art History MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

The MA in Art History offers advanced training in the study of visual and material culture from the Middle Ages to the present. The Queen's Art History program is strongly committed to mentoring and to the training of graduate students in a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, methodologies, and issues, including the technical examination of art, gender studies, critical theory, cultural representation, curatorial studies, and the relationships among art, literature, and science.

The program offers a wide range of courses that delve into case studies relating to broader issues. All Art History courses emphasize visual literacy and the contextual relevance of the discipline within culture and history.

Why QUEEN'S?

The Art History program at Queen's maintains close ties with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on campus, which features innovative exhibitions, programs, and high-quality collections.

"Choosing Art History at Queen's was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Attending Queen's was a positive and nurturing experience, made possible because of an advisor and faculty members who were active scholars, thoughtful pedagogues and caring mentors."

– John Potvin, PhD

The Queen's Art History program shares a department with Canada's only Master's in Art Conservation programme, and our graduate students have the opportunity to take lecture courses in Art Conservation and work with Art Conservation Faculty. Graduate students in Art History carry out internships locally and abroad, recently at such institutions as the National Gallery of Canada, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Louvre in Paris. The program offers opportunities to teach, has an outstanding record of supporting students to win major grants, and offers opportunities to participate in a student-organized peer-reviewed interdisciplinary international conference.



Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master of Art History is offered in 2 patterns:

- Pattern I: Four term-length courses in Art History, and a Master's Thesis of 20-25,000 words.
- Pattern II: Six term-length courses in Art History, and an Advanced Research Paper.

For both patterns, the student shall choose a potential supervisor and pattern by the end of the second term.

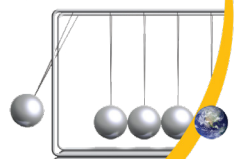


RESEARCH Areas

- Medieval art and architecture, neo-Medievalism
- 14th to 18th-century Southern and Central European arts
- 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art
- 19th to 20th century European and Scandinavian art
- History of photography
- Modernism
- Global contemporary art
- Indigenous cultures
- Canadian visual culture
- Global cultural contact
- Technical art history
- History of conservation and cultural heritage reservation
- History of collecting and museums
- Curatorial studies
- Art and medicine

Visit the [Art History 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 him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

School of
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GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA cognate essay or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the [SGS Habitat](#).

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- 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 [SGS Blog](#). Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#) for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the [Graduate Visual Culture Association](#) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [Expanding Horizons](#).

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, cultural studies groups, and museums, such as the [Agnes Etherington Art Centre](#).

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 counsellor. 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 Graduate Student [Career Forum](#) to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your cognate essay or thesis.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as [Context and Meaning](#).
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as [Works in Progress](#).
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the [Professional and Academic Development Program \(PADP\)](#).
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL certificate](#) for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the [QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate](#).
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](#) on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "[Ask an Alum](#)".
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Complete your cognate essay or thesis.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [Universities Art Association of Canada](#) or [College Art Association](#) conferences.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a [Grad Chat](#) to discuss your research interests
- Consider putting an article in [The Conversation](#).

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from [Mitacs](#) and [other sources](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Universities Art Association of Canada](#) or [College Art Association](#).

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with [job searching, resumes, or interviews](#).

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Art History 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**, 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 Art History 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:

- Academia and teaching
- Museum, curatorial and cultural policy positions
- Writing and publishing
- Commercial galleries
- Auction houses
- Archives

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

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this 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 online [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 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, 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 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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Honours BA in Art History or related discipline.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+/A- average over all 4 years of undergrad study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A reading knowledge of a language other than English, usually chosen from French, German, or Italian, is required. (The language competency can be gained while carrying out graduate studies.)
- Writing sample
- Statement of Research Interest
- 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:** January 10th.
- **Notification of acceptance:** early March.

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

What about FUNDING?

M.A. students in Art History receive funding for each of the two years of the program. The amount varies each year, but will be approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per year for students who do not hold major external awards. Depending on the needs of the Department, a portion of a Master's student's funding may be allocated as a Teaching Assistantship.

Queen's Art History is proud to have an extraordinary record of success with SSHRC and other major external awards. The program offers a series of workshops to help with these applications. Queen's will automatically issue a \$5,000 top-up to Master's winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#).



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