Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

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 encompassing European paintings of the Baroque era, smaller concentrations of the art of Indigenous peoples of North America, decorative arts, costume and heritage quilts of the region. In addition, the gallery holds a fine collection of the art of West and Central Africa.

“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

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, demonstration of a reading knowledge of language(s) (depending on the topic), field essays and field exams, thesis proposal, thesis.

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 Scandinavian art
- History of photography
- Modernism
- Global contemporary art
- Indigenous cultures
- Art and Visual Cultures of Africa and its diaspora
- Canadian visual culture
- Global cultural contact
- Technical art history
- History of conservation and cultural heritage preservation
- History of collecting and museums
- Curatorial studies
- Art and medicine
- New design field

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

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, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.
YEAR I
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exams.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Works in Progress. Look to Student Academic Success Support for a variety of supports.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFCR, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Student Culture Association for tips on getting involved.
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if needed.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as causal conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
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YEAR II
- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Key skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSS02 or the Puti Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PAPD).
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Complete the Effective Speaking Skills workshop. Consider giving a talk at a conference, or put together a short presentation for a class or group.
- Meet targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Art History.
- Consider joining professional associations like the University Art Association (CAA) or College Art Association (CAA).
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
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YEAR III
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSS writing camps, such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Continue building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Continue to build your skills and experience.
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Plan your career in many directions. Our PhD degree in Art History can take your career in many directions. Our PhD students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
  - Academia and teaching
  - Museums, curatorial and cultural policy positions
  - Writing and publishing
  - Commercial galleries
  - Auction houses
  - Archives
  - Take time to explore career options, build experience, and network to help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

WHERE CAN I GO?
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WHAT WILL I LEARN?
- A graduate degree in Art History 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 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

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WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?
- Art History is a diverse field, with opportunities in academia, museums, and other cultural institutions.
- Consider your career goals and interests to tailor your program to your needs.
- Stay connected with alumni and professional associations to learn about job opportunities and career development.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?
- Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• MA in Art History or a related discipline with an A average in the primary courses.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Curriculum vitae
• 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.
• Reading proficiency in a second language is required in addition to English language proficiency.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application due: January 10th.
• Notification of acceptance: mid-March.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Art History PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. In recent years, doctoral students who do not hold a major external grant have received $20,000-$24,000/year for 4 years. The funding package may be comprised of Queen’s Graduate Awards, Teaching Assistantships, and named internal Fellowships. Many doctoral students in their 3rd year are eligible for a Bader Fellowship, worth up to $30,000.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.