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

The Queen’s Art History program shares a department with Canada’s only Master of Art Conservation program, 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. Queen’s Art History Ph.D. students have access to generous funding to travel and carry out onsite research.

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 European and Scandinavian art and design
• 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

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.
2020-2021
Art History PhD MAP *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exams.
- Meet regularly with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Works in Progress. Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Visual Culture Association for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFCR, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with community organizations, museums, or cultural studies groups, such as the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.
- Join the Department's Fundraising and Social Committees.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. 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.

YEAR I

- 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.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons and the SGS Habitat.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities. Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Context and Meaning.

YEAR II

- Hone 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 SG509 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).

YEAR III

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps, such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- If you are eligible, travel to Europe as a Badger Fellow.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

WHERE CAN I GO?

- PhD students are equipped with a range of skills to work, research, and interact in multiple sectors.
- Museums, auction houses, and policy positions.
- Museum, curatorial and cultural studies.
- Academia and teaching.
- Associations.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Universitas Art Association of Canada or College Art Association.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A graduate degree in Art History can equip you with:
  - Knowledge and technical skills
  - Effective communication skills in various formats 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?

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

- Take time to explore career options, build experience, and network so you can 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.

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.