Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GENDER STUDIES?

Gender studies opens doors for students to address growing concerns for inequity, equity and justice across national and global society. Gender studies is a space where our theories and our practices pay attention to the differences and connections between diverse peoples worldwide.

As an interdisciplinary field, gender studies helps students take up social science, humanities, arts, and natural science methods and connect them to produce innovative new knowledge. Graduates of the PhD 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 while offering advanced training in applications of gender studies research within 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 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. Our students conduct research in Canada and internationally and connect their scholarship to local and global work for social justice.

Program STRUCTURE

The PhD in Gender Studies is a four-year program. Full-time PhD students complete three (3.0 credit) required courses and one (3.0 credit) elective course in fall and winter semesters of the first year, and the (3.0 credit) PhD Practicum in fall of the second year. PhD students advance to candidacy in spring/summer of the second year after they complete a Syllabus and a Research Proposal. In fall semester of the third year, PhD candidates present their research in-progress at the Gender Studies Graduate Symposium.

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
• Trans Studies
• Transnationalism and Diaspora

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.
YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee and coursework.
- 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. 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, CPRI, 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 different community organizations, such as the Reelout Arts Project and the Queen’s Journal.
- Join the Department’s Fundraising or Social Committee, or participate in organizing Context and Meaning.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With Yourself?
- 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.
- Supervise a work-study for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive exam, practicum, and research proposal.
- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- 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.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider publication options for your research, such as Canadian Women’s Studies, Gender Place and Culture, and Atlantis.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
- 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 GS002: the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Start putting together your resume and begin your job search plan.

YEAR III

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Continue to attend conferences such as Congress, the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, or the Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference, and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
- 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider joining professional associations like the Women’s and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes or Sexualities Studies Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Art History.

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LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive exam, practicum, and research proposal.
- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- 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.
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WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Gender Studies 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
- Persistence
- 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 PhD in Gender Studies can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Advocacy
- Public Policy
- Community/social services
- International Development
- Research
- Advertising
- Arts administration
- Education
- Ethics
- Healthcare
- Human resources
- Immigration Services
- Journalism/Media
- Labour/Industrial Relations
- Law
- Media/Communication
- Social Work
- Student Affairs

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

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Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- An MA degree from a recognized university in Gender Studies or cognate fields (women’s studies, feminist studies, sexuality studies) or in another field with evidence of a prior focus on gender.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ (75%) average in the last 2 years of university study.
- Consideration will be given to practitioners of gender studies in the public or private sectors who hold a BAHon/BA and who demonstrate exceptional and relevant professional experience and achievement in an appropriate field.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of interest (200-300 words).
- Statement of fit (200-300 words).
- Writing sample (maximum 12 pages).
- Two copies of official transcript.
- 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?

Ph.D. students in Gender Studies generally receive minimum funding of $18,000/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 $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.