

# Art History PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

## 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 program in Art Conservation, 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.



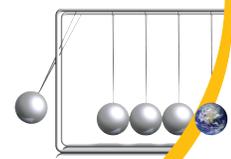
Visit the [Art History Department website](#) to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.

## 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.

School of  
Graduate  
Studies  
Create an impact  
[www.queensu.ca/sgs](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs)



The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2020-2021. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

## YEAR I

## YEAR II

## YEAR III

YEAR IV  
& TRANSITIONINGACHIEVE YOUR  
ACADEMIC  
GOALS

- 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 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, CFRC, 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 counsellor 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.

- 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](#).

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- 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 or a Bader Fellowship.

- 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 SG902 or 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 (PAPD).

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

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queens 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.

- 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 Bader Fellow.

- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Contact the [Queen's Media Centre](#) for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the [Arts and Science University Research website](#).

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- Start putting together your resume and begin your job search plan.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

- 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.

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- 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](#).

- Consider joining professional associations like the [Universities Art Association of Canada](#) or [College Art 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.

- 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. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- 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](#).

## 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

## WHERE CAN I GO?

A 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
- 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

- 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](#).



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF  
ART HISTORY

**Anna Fischer**, Graduate Assistant  
(613) 533-2517  
alj@queensu.ca  
queensu.ca/art