

History MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HISTORY?

Consider a graduate degree in History for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical reading, writing, and research and, perhaps even more importantly, engagement with oneself and the world we all inhabit.

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social and technological phenomena.

Today's employment marketplace seeks people who are critically informed, culturally literate, capable of synthesizing information and adept at creating and managing knowledge-based projects. Study History and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEEN'S?

The Department of History at Queen's offers a challenging and innovative graduate program in established and new fields of historical inquiry.

Our students are taught primarily in small all-graduate seminars, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of historical writing, and delve into their own research. We are a mid-sized university and department, and are therefore able to create for our students a rich, supportive learning community. Our Graduate History Students' Association fosters a vibrant community through a variety of social events and professional development workshops.



Students participate in the departmental seminar series and host the biannual McGill-Queen's Graduate History conference that draws students from across Canada and the US.

Program STRUCTURE

We offer two MA program patterns. Pattern I (12-20 months) requires students to complete 4 seminar courses and write a thesis of about 100 pages.

Pattern II (1-year) requires students to complete 6 seminar courses and write a short thesis or cognate essay of about 50 pages.

RESEARCH Areas

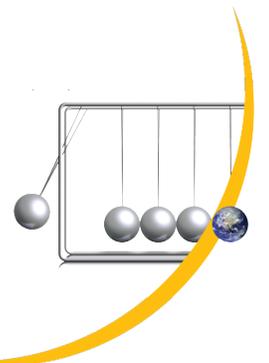
- Canada
- United States
- Atlantic World
- Modern Europe
- Intellectual
- Mediterranean World
- Medieval and Early Modern Worlds
- Africa
- Middle East
- "Race": Historical International Perspectives
- Global, World, and Transnational History
- Britain
- South Asia
- Islam
- East Asia

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

Visit the [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 Graduate Studies
Create an impact
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.

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 history department Grad Chair and the [SGS Habitat](#).

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

- Complete your cognate essay or thesis.

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.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as McGill-Queen's.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [Canadian Historical Association](#) (CHA).
- 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](#).

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 History Student Association](#) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the history department.

- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- 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.
- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

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, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the [Kingston Association of Museums](#), the [Kingston Museum of Healthcare](#) and the [Queen's Archives](#).
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as [Martha's Table](#), or [Loving Spoonful](#).

- 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 Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- 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.
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Heritage Canada Association](#) and the [Canadian Historical Association \(CHA\)](#).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a [Career Services 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 Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queen's Connects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out [Career Cruising](#) for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- 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, and interviews.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in History can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- **Project management:** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Knowledge and technical skills**
- **Effective communication skills** in multiple forms such as writing, editing, and presenting for diverse audiences
- **Information management:** prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- **Time management:** meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- **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 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:

- Law
- Government
- Social Policy Research
- Museums and Public History
- Documentary Filmmaking
- Military
- Journalism
- Education
- Public Service

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

- Minimum second-class standing in final two years of an Honours BA program in History from a recognized university (76-79%, 3.3/4.3 GPA).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Writing sample and an Extended Statement of 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

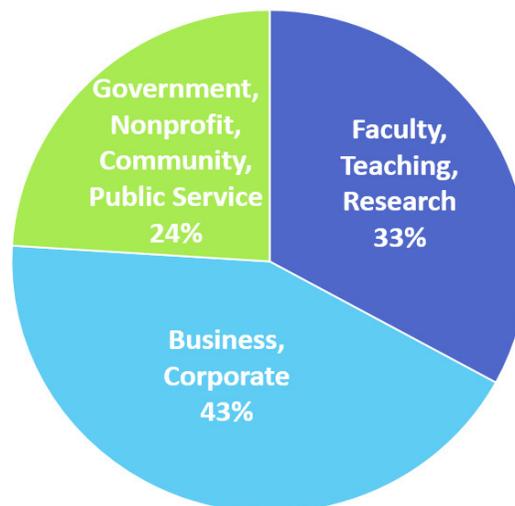
- Application due: Third week of January.
- Notification of acceptance: 4 weeks after we receive your full application.

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

What about FUNDING?

The Department of History at Queen's provides funding for all MA students. Students receive financial support from a variety of sources including Queen's Graduate and Academic Excellence Awards, external awards, and Teaching Assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 award to incoming Masters students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#) and the Department of History's [External Awards information page](#).



MA Career Outcomes in the Humanities

Council of Graduate Schools and Educational Testing Service. (2012). Pathways Through Graduate School and Into Careers. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.



DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY

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