Graduate Studies FAQs

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours Bachelor of Arts degree
- Grade requirements: minimum average of B+ over all 4 years of undergraduate study, with a cumulative minimum average of A- in 10 full-year English Literature courses (or equivalent).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- 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 86/120 (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: January 15 for all documentation and application.
- Notification of acceptance: March and April.

What about FUNDING?

Master of English students receive minimum funding of $12,000 for the one-year program. Students are usually funded through a combination of internal fellowships, teaching assistantships, bursaries, and scholarships as part of the basic funding package.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically consider your applications for any external funding for which you are eligible.

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Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN ENGLISH?

The English Department at Queen’s University is a professionally-oriented research department whose faculty members are distinguished by both scholarly prowess and teaching excellence. Students in the MA and the PhD programs take courses that involve a wide range of critical methodologies, historical periods, and literary genres; they also take a pedagogical and professional skills course that ranges from academic counselling to grant applications to mentoring undergraduate students.

Why QUEEN’S?

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. Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Where can I get help?

Queen 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 academic and career, 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 SGSS HABITAT for available resources.

What is the community like?

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I have been at Queen’s for both my MA & PhD, and I can say it’s an outstanding program. The library collections are among the best in the country. The size of the program is ideal […] and, probably most importantly, the faculty are both accomplished and approachable at the same time.”

– Robyn Carruthers, PhD

Fields of STUDY

- Medieval Literature
- Renaissance Literature
- Restoration & 18th-Century Literature
- Romantic Literature
- Victorian Literature
- Modernist Literature
- American Literature
- Canadian Literature
- Indigenous Studies
- Gender Studies
- Postcolonial Studies
- Literary Theory

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying, should you be interested in the MA thesis option. Visit the English 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.

Program STRUCTURE

The 12-month Master of English is offered in 2 patterns:
- Pattern I: Course work. (Recommended standard for an MA in English.)
- Pattern II: Course work and thesis of approximately 15,000 words.
GETTING STARTED

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like determining a course pattern that builds on your passions while covering your historical requirements.
- Consider how your courses might prepare you for eventual doctoral work or other educational and career goals beyond the MA.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Graduate Chair and the SGS Habitat.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal CFRG and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate English Society for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the history department.

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, such as Literary Kingston, Kingston WritersFest.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. 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 Forum to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Continue your coursework, being alert to final essays that might be revised into publishable papers.
- For thesis-based MA students, produce the thesis proposal and initial research and writing for the thesis.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 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 SGS991 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- 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 QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, get help from a Career Services workshop.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Explore different careers of interest by reading Queen’s Profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Complete your coursework.
- For thesis-based MA students, complete your thesis.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies or the Modern Language Association Convention.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connect 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 ACCUTE, the Modern Language Association, and more.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- 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, or interviews.
- Taking time to explore career options, build experiences, and network can help you make a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in English 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
- 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 English 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:

- Writing
- Editing
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Law
- Civil service
- Business
- NGO work
- Information technologies

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

* 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.