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?

The graduate programs in English at Queen's are among the oldest and most prestigious in the country, combining commitment to historical breadth with promotion of methodological and disciplinary innovation. The department’s vibrant intellectual community is developed and sustained by the synergies between the knowledge and passion of our distinguished faculty and the ideas and inspirations of our outstanding graduate students.

Offered by Queen's since 1942, the PhD in English is designed to foster the scholarly development of our students; we prioritize mentorship, professionalization, and intellectual exchange while maintaining an abiding excitement about our students’ autonomous programs of research. The department is small enough that students get to know our faculty, yet large enough to boast faculty expertise in all major historical periods and a wide array of critical methodologies for literary study.

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.

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. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, Special Topic Presentation, and dissertation. Students entering the PhD from the MPhil program will have already completed the first part of the comprehensive exams and can go directly to pursuing more independent research in the Special Topic Presentation and the dissertation.
**YEAR I**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans. Look to [Student Academic Success Services](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/student-academic-success-services) and [Expanding Horizons](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/expanding-horizons) for a variety of supports.
- Assemble your supervisory committee (including supervisor and second reader). Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion. Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete [ROMEO online module](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/romeo/) on research ethics if engaged in research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and [other funding](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/externalfunding/).
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the [Graduate English Society](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/engsoc/) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the [SGPS](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/sgps/), or media outlets like the [Queen’s Journal](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/onlinesources/), [SGS Blog](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/onlinesources/), or [Queen’s Media Centre](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/onlinesources/).
- 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 [Literacy Kingston](https://www.literacykingston.on.ca/), [Kingston WritersFest](https://www.kingstonwritersfest.com/), and the [Creative Writing Centre](https://www.queensu.ca/literacyservices/creativewritingcentre/).
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a [Career Services career planning workshop](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/) 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](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerresourcearea/) for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like [University Affairs](https://www.queensu.ca/universityaffairs), the [Chronicle of Higher Education](https://www.chroniclehighereducation.com/), and [the Queen’s University Alumni Association](https://www.queensu.ca/alumni/).
- Stay on the lookout for special events like [Graduate Student Career Forum](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerforum/) to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Continue researching and begin writing your dissertation. Year II is the one in which students often find it the most difficult to be productive.
- Check out the [SGS Dissertations Boot Camp](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/dissbootcamp/) or [Dissertation on the Lake](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/dl/) for writing help.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the [Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/romeo/).

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the [Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/graduatedean/travelgrant/).
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a [Grad Chat](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/gradchat/) to discuss your research interests.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Begin working as a tutorial leader for ENGL 100.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/ctl/) or the [PUTL](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/putl/) certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as [Literacy Kingston](https://www.literacykingston.on.ca/), [Kingston WritersFest](https://www.kingstonwritersfest.com/), and the [Creative Writing Centre](https://www.queensu.ca/literacyservices/creativewritingcentre/).
- 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 reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](https://www.queensu.ca/alumni/queensconnects/) to connect with Queen’s alumni or find alumni in various careers through [Ask an Alumni](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/). For more information check out [Career Cruising](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/).
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**YEAR III**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Continue working on your dissertation.
- Consult your supervisor and Grad Chair about strategic professionalizing, including publications, conference papers, book reviews, and other modes of research dissemination.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Attend or present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis (3MT)](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/3mt/) competition.
- Contact the [Queen’s Media Centre](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/qmc/) for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the [Arts and Sciences Website](https://artsandsciences.queensu.ca/).

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Continue working as a tutorial leader for ENGL 100.
- Apply and prepare for a Teaching Fellowship in your fourth year.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, [MITACS](https://www.mitacs.ca/), or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the [QSIC and Four Directions](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/qsic/) workshop.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider joining professional associations like the [ACCUTE](https://www.accu-te.org/), the [Modern Language Association](https://www.mla.org/), and more.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn to connect with alumni or find alumni in various careers through [Ask an Alumni](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/). For more information check out [Career Cruising](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/).

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**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research 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**
- Attend graduate and professional association meetings.
- Attend and present at conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the [Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society For Eighteenth-Century Studies](https://www.acsces.ca/).
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Teach a one-term course as a Departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/studentresources/workshops/).
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the [Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society For Eighteenth-Century Studies](https://www.acsces.ca/).

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider joining professional associations like the [ACCUTE](https://www.accu-te.org/), the [Modern Language Association](https://www.mla.org/), and more.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn to connect with alumni or find alumni in various careers through [Ask an Alumni](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/). For more information check out [Career Cruising](https://www.queensu.ca/gradsuccess/students/careerplanning/).

**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. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or 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](https://www.queensu.ca/alumni/queensconnects/).

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

A PhD in English 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.

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

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you find 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.*
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Successful completion of the MPhil program

What about FUNDING?

Minimum funding guarantee for PhD students: $20,000/year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package may be comprised of Queen’s Graduate Awards, Teaching Assistantships, or named internal Fellowships.

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.

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.