

# Gender Studies MA Map

*Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies*



GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS →

## Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GENDER STUDIES?

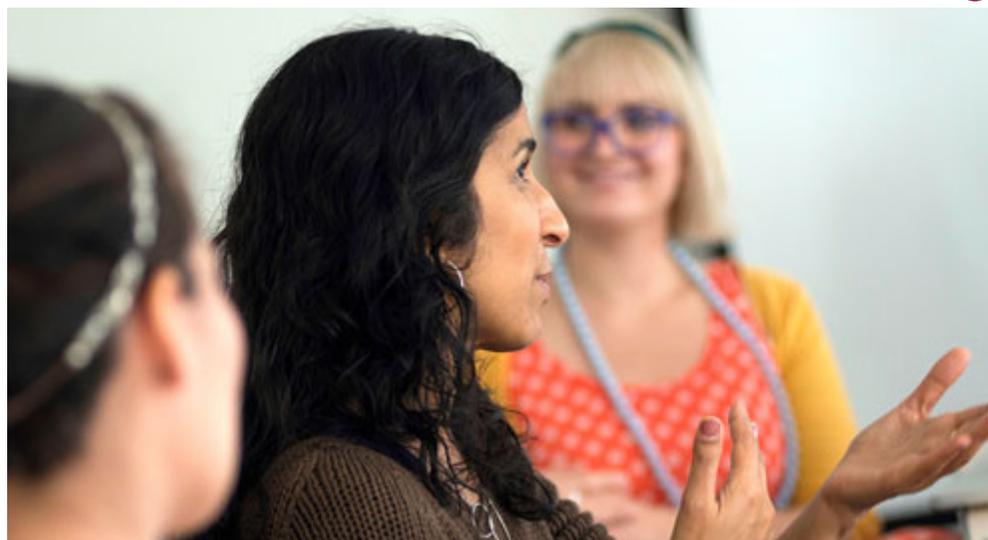
Gender studies opens doors for students to address growing concerns for inequity, equity and justice across national and global society. Gender affects everyone, making gender studies a space where our theory and our practice pay attention to the differences and connections among diverse peoples worldwide.

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 MA 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 and their applications to 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 MA in Gender Studies is a one-year program. Full-time students take six courses -- two (3.0 credit) required courses and four (3.0 credit) elective courses in fall and winter semesters -- and complete a Major Research Paper (50 pages) during spring and summer. Elective courses may consist of GNDS graduate seminars, GNDS Directed Readings (up to a maximum of two), the GNDS practicum or courses hosted by other departments.

## 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
- Indigenous Studies
- Memory and Trauma
- Popular Culture
- Queer Studies
- Trans Studies
- Transnationalism and Diaspora

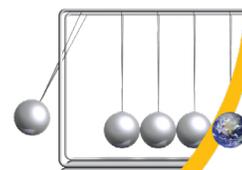
*"The first time I heard about the Gender Studies department at Queen's [...] someone referred to it as 'friendly and supportive'. During my time studying Gender Studies, I discovered the truth of those words on a frequent, if not daily, basis."*

*– Bilan Hashi, MA*

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.

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# Gender Studies MA MAP\*

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)



## 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.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops.
- Participate in GNDS Graduate Orientation.
- Attend the GNDS Brown Bag series.

### 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.

### 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 Chair for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [Expanding Horizons](#) and the Gender Studies 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 [The Other Kingston Project](#), [Reelout Arts Project](#), [Transfamily Kingston](#), and [Queen's Students for Literacy](#).

### 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 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 Forum](#) to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your Major Research Paper. The MRP should be composed of two parts: (1) a paper written in one of the student's fall or winter term graduate courses; and (2) a new work prepared during spring and summer.

- 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.

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop skills in research, teaching, journal editing, and conference planning.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL certificate](#) for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- 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 [QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate](#).
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](#) on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](#) 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.

- Complete your Major Research Paper.

- Consider publication options for your research, such as [Canadian Women's Studies](#), [Gender, Place and Culture](#), and [Atlantis](#).
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as [Congress](#), the [National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference](#), or the [Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference](#).
- 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, 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](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#) 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 [Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes, Sexuality Studies Association](#), or the [Northern Initiative for Social Action](#).

- 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](#).

## 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**
- **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 Gender Studies 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:

- Advocacy
- Arts
- Community Organizing
- Education
- Equity
- Human Resources
- Immigration Services
- Journalism and Media
- Law
- Mediation and Labour Relations
- Politics and Government
- Public Health
- Public Policy
- Social Research
- Social Services
- Social Work

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

- 4-year Honours Bachelor's degree (BAHon.) in Women's Studies, Gender Studies, or related field.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ (75%) average in the last 2 years of undergraduate study.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest.
- Writing sample (maximum 12 pages).
- 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?

MA students in Gender Studies generally receive minimum funding of \$13,000/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 \$5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#).



DEPARTMENT OF  
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