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. Study History and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Department of History at Queen’s offers a challenging and innovative PhD 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

PhD (4 years): 5 seminar courses, including historical theories and methods, two field requirements, one language requirement, thesis proposal, thesis and defence.

RESEARCH Areas

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

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, area of research interest and related experience.
**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in History 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**
- **Independence**
- **Perseverance**
- **Project management**
- **Time management**
- **Effective communication skills**
- **Leadership**
- **Professionalism**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Creativity and innovation**
- **Perseverance**
- **Uncertainty**
- **Creativity and innovation**
- **Cultural awareness**
- **Ethical research**

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A PhD in History 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 in fields such as:

- **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.

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**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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.
  - Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
  - Attend and participate in graduate seminars.

- **YEAR II**
  - Write and defend your thesis proposal.
  - Embark on your 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 McGill-Queen's.

- **YEAR III**
  - Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
  - Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop.
  - Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - 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.

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**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- **YEAR I**
  - Think about audiences for your research.
  - Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
  - Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
  - Attend conferences in your field.

- **YEAR II**
  - 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 Dears Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.

- **YEAR IV**
  - Continue to attend conferences, such as those listed by the Graduate Students' Committee or the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting.
  - 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.

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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- **YEAR I**
  - Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Graduate History Student Association for tips on getting involved.
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, FRG, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
  - Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- **YEAR II**
  - 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 SGS901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- **YEAR III**
  - Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
  - Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QCIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centres Training Certificate.

- **YEAR IV**
  - 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.

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**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- **YEAR I**
  - Consider volunteering with community organizations, museums, or cultural studies groups, such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Kingston Museum of Health Care and the Queen's Archives.

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

- **YEAR III**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- **YEAR IV**
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Heritage Canada Association and the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).
  - Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in History.

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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- **YEAR I**
  - Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning 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 Graduate Student Career Forums to explore your career pathways.

- **YEAR II**
  - 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 Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through ‘Ask an Alum’. For more information check out Career Cruising.
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.

- **YEAR IV**
  - 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.
Graduate Studies FAQs

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- MA in History or equivalent from a recognized university with first-class standing (minimum A- average).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing sample.
- 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 minimum funding guarantee for History PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. The Department of History at Queen’s offers numerous internal awards that students are automatically considered for. PhD students receive financial support from a variety of sources including Queen’s Academic Excellence Awards, Teaching Assistantships and Teaching Fellowships, and travel scholarships.

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.

PhD Career Outcomes in the Humanities