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
ACQUIRE 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.

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 History Student Association for tips on getting involved.
• Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the history department.

Get Involved 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 faculty/departmental research groups, such as the Kingston Association of Museums, the Kingston Museum of Healthcare, or the Queen’s Archives.
• Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, or Leaving Spoonful.

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.

Getting Started

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

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

• Attend or present at a 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.

• Complete your cognate essay or thesis.

W RAPPING UP

• Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
• Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Historical Association.
• Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
• Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Historical Association (CHA).

• 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.
• Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
• Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

• Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s 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).

• 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 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.

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.
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.