Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ART HISTORY?

The MA in Art History offers advanced training in the study of visual and material culture from the Middles Ages to the present. The Queen's Art History program is strongly committed to mentoring and to the training of graduate students in a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, methodologies, and issues, including the technical examination of art, gender studies, critical theory, cultural representation, curatorial studies, and the relationships among art, literature, and science. The program offers a wide range of courses that delve into case studies relating to broader issues. All Art History courses emphasize visual literacy and the contextual relevance of the discipline within culture and history.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Art History program at Queen’s maintains close ties with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on campus, which features innovative exhibitions, programs, and high-quality collections.

“Choosing Art History at Queen’s was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Attending Queen’s was a positive and nurturing experience, made possible because of an advisor and faculty members who were active scholars, thoughtful pedagogues and caring mentors.”

– John Potvin, PhD

The Queen’s Art History program shares a department with Canada’s only Master’s in Art Conservation program, and our graduate students have the opportunity to take lecture courses in Art Conservation and work with Art Conservation Faculty. Graduate students in Art History carry out internships locally and abroad, recently at such institutions as the National Gallery of Canada, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Louvre in Paris. The program offers opportunities to teach, has an outstanding record of supporting students to win major grants, and offers opportunities to participate in a student-organized peer-reviewed interdisciplinary international conference.

Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master of Art History is offered in 2 patterns:

- Pattern I: Four term-length courses in Art History, and a Master’s Thesis of 20-25,000 words.
- Pattern II: Six term-length courses in Art History, and an Advanced Research Paper.

For both patterns, the student shall choose a potential supervisor and pattern by the end of the second term.

RESEARCH Areas

- Medieval art and architecture, neo-Medievalism
- 14th to 18th-century Southern and Central European arts
- 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art
- 19th to 20th-century Scandinavian art
- History of photography
- Modernism
- Global contemporary art
- Indigenous cultures
- Art and Visual Cultures of Africa and its diaspora
- Canadian visual culture
- Global cultural contact
- Technical art history
- History of conservation and cultural heritage preservation
- History of collecting and museums
- Curatorial studies
- Art and medicine
- New design field

Visit the Art 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 and related experience.
2020-2021

Art History MA Map

Master of Arts (MA)

Achieve Your Academic Goals

Interim Stage

- 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 the Department and the Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

Maximize Research Impact

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Context and Meaning.
- Consider participating in the 2 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS902 or the UTFL 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 Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- If you are an international student interested in studying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

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 Resources 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 School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

Intermediate Stage

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your cognate essay or thesis.

Wrap Up

- Complete your cognate essay or thesis.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Universities Art Association of Canada or College Art Association conferences.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- 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.
- 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.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QUIC or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Context and Meaning.
- Attend graduate seminars such as Works in Progress.
- Consider participating in the 2 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).
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What Will I Learn? A graduate degree in Art History can equip you with:

- 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 and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and ethical sensibility
- 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 Art 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:

- Academia and teaching
- Museums, curatorial and cultural policy positions
- Writing and publishing
- Commercial galleries
- Auction houses
- Archives
- Art history

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours BA in Art History or related discipline.
- Grade requirements: minimum A- average over all 4 years of undergrad study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- A reading knowledge of a language other than English, usually chosen from French, German, or Italian, is required. (The language competency can be gained while carrying out graduate studies.)
- Writing sample
- Statement of Research 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: January 10th.
- Notification of acceptance: early March.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

MA students in Art History receive funding for each of the two years of the program. The amount varies each year, but will be approximately $10,000-$15,000 per year for students who do not hold major external awards. Depending on the needs of the Department, a portion of a Master's student's funding may be allocated as a Teaching Assistantship.

Queen's Art History is proud to have an extraordinary track record of success with SSHRC and other major external awards. MA students will be offered a series of workshops to help with these award applications. 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 on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships.