Get to know

COMMERCCE

From your first day in the Commerce program, you will become immersed in a program that features small class sizes, a team approach, state-of-the-art technologies, and a focus on personal academic development. The first two years of your program provide a strong business foundation. In third and fourth year, you can focus on areas of interest such as accounting, finance or marketing, or you can remain a generalist by choosing courses from various fields of study. The Commerce experience extends well beyond the classroom. You will enjoy unparalleled extracurricular opportunities, including a wide range of conferences and competitions, and a tremendous sense of community.

The Commerce program includes students from across Canada and around the world. You will have the opportunity to study business abroad through international exchange opportunities at over 100 universities worldwide, or Queen’s own Bader International Study Centre in East Sussex, England. Over 85% of Commerce students go on international exchange.

The Career Advancement Centre (CAC) plays a critical role in preparing you for a career in your chosen field. The CAC’s Career Coaches support you throughout your time at Queen’s to explore career options, define objectives, and shape a job-search strategy. The coaches help you with the full range of job search and professional development topics including building a strong personal brand, writing resumes and cover letters, developing interview skills, networking and evaluating job offers.

The CAC’s Corporate Relations team coordinates on-campus recruiting, and an online student resume book to connect students and employers. You also have 24/7 access to QUEST, our career management platform which includes job postings, and a database containing salary information and job interview questions as experienced by past Smith students.

97% of Commerce students have acquired jobs within six months of graduation. *based on graduate records provided

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Commerce (4 Year Honours)

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Students apply to Queen’s Commerce (QC) through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Students must have a minimum average of 87%. The average is composed of six courses, including three required courses, English 4U, Calculus and Vectors 4U, and one additional 4U course in Math, as well as the best three 4U or 4M courses (no more than two 4M courses from any discipline will be used in the calculation). A minimum grade of 80% is required in English and Math. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

After you submit your application to OUAC, you are required to complete two separate documents that allow you to tell us your story.

Queen’s Personal Statement of Experience (PSE) document has questions for all applicants to complete. The Supplementary Essay (SE) is a separate document that has additional questions for Commerce applicants. These two documents create your personal portfolio that will be reviewed by two members of the Commerce admission team. It is very important that you take the time and effort to plan and compose both documents as well-written essays that tell your story.

Flexible CHOICES

Queen’s Commerce students often choose to stream in a field of study; others choose to take a variety of courses from different areas. Such fields of study include accounting, business economics, entrepreneurship, finance, general management, international business, management information systems, marketing, operations management and management science, organizational behaviour, and strategy and organization.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Commerce students have a wide range of courses available to help prepare them for an international business environment, such as Negotiation Theory & Behaviour, Doing Business in Asia-Pacific Rim, Managing Across Cultures, Organizational Fraud, International Business Strategy, and Investments & Portfolio Management. Courses like these will expand your perception of the business world as you know it, introduce you to new ideas and practices, and develop the skills needed to succeed.
GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

1ST YEAR
First year of Commerce will cover many of the fundamentals of business and introduce the different areas of business, such as management, accounting, and marketing.
Take core courses COMM 103, 105, 111, 112, 131, 151, 153, 161, 162, ECON 110.

2ND YEAR
Second year continues to cover the fundamentals of business, such as finance and human resources management, and expands on the courses from first year.
Take COMM 104, 121, 122, 132, 163, 172, 173, 181, 190. Take 6.0 units of Non-Commerce electives.

3RD YEAR
Take electives and specialize in a field of interest if desired. Take COMM 341, 12.0-18.0 units of COMM electives, and 9.0-15.0 units of Non-Commerce electives.
Students on exchange will have access to a wider range of courses: one semester of credit units will transfer back.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Take COMM 401, 12.0-18.0 units of COMM electives, and 9.0-15.0 units of Non-Commerce electives.
Enroll in a research-based course such as COMM S01, S02 or S03. Students work on a problem or project under the supervision of a faculty member of the School either through an independent study or small-group project. The chosen topic should be in a particular specialized area not available in the regular course offerings.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as Commerce Kids, Enactus Queen's, and the Queen's Non-Profit Gateway.
Enroll in the Certificate in Social Impact Program.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Queen’s Commerce Performing Arts, and the Commerce Society. Be a fresh rep on a ComSoc committee. Participate in case competitions such as DECA Queen’s and the Commerce Corporate Challenge (QICC). Meet with a career coach in the Career Advancement Centre to explore your career options and to get assistance with your resume, cover letter and interview skills.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

The Centre for International Management at Smith School of Business is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
Attend conferences like the Queen’s Conference on International Business and the Queen’s Commerce Leadership Summit.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grappling with program decisions? Attend various Career Fairs during the year. Get some help deciding by visiting the Career Advancement Centre.
Participate in office tours and open house events for firms of interest and learn more about the firms and industries.

Where could I go 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 Major Map using our online My Major Map tool.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps for the online version with links!
How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified us as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and is often awarded the safest city in Canada. We are a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.