The Department of History offers the degree Doctorate of Philosophy in History. Within the limits imposed by the availability of qualified staff, students may pursue their studies in English or in French.

At the doctoral level, the department has five areas of strength:

• Canada and North America
• Europe
• Women, Gender and the Family
• Empire, Colonization and Decolonization
• War, Conflict and Diplomacy

Candidates may be accepted in other areas depending upon the availability of qualified supervisors.

The department participates in the collaborative program in Canadian Studies at the PhD level. For more information on this program, see “Admission Requirements” section of the doctoral program.

Because of its strength in relevant areas, its bilingual character and its location in the national capital, the University of Ottawa is uniquely positioned to offer a collaborative program leading to a specialization in Canadian Studies at the doctoral level. The program is especially designed for doctoral students in selected programs in the humanities and the social sciences who wish to enrich their training in a particular discipline by including an interdisciplinary component.

The programs are governed by the general regulations (http://www.grad.uottawa.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=1807) in effect for graduate studies.

Admission Requirements

For the most accurate and up to date information on application deadlines, language tests and other admission requirements, please visit the specific requirements (https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/specific-requirements) webpage.

Students must have an MA in history (or the equivalent) with a minimum average of 75 per cent (B+) before they can be considered for admission. The department may require a written or oral entrance examination.

Advisers

On admission, students are assigned an adviser to assist in the choice of courses and fields.

Collaborative Program

Admission to the collaborative program in Canadian Studies at the doctoral level is determined by the coordination committee and will normally take place before the end of the first year of enrollment in the doctoral program. Students must meet the following conditions to be accepted:

• Completion of the collaborative program in Canadian Studies requires enrollment in, or successful completion of, at least one course with Canadian content, and selection of the thesis topic with Canadian content.
• The coordination committee will determine, in consultation with the thesis director, if the Canadian content of the thesis meets the requirements of the collaborative program.
• The title of the degree will in each case specify the discipline of the participating unit with specialization in Canadian Studies.

Students should be able to understand and read both official languages of Canada in order to participate in the bilingual interdisciplinary seminar CDN 6910.

Language Requirements

All applicants must be able to understand speak and write either English or French proficiently. Applicants whose first language is neither English nor French must provide proof of proficiency in one or the other. The list of acceptable tests is indicated in the “Admission” section of the general regulations in effect for graduate studies.

In accordance with the University of Ottawa regulation, students have a right to produce their work, their thesis, and to answer examination questions in French or in English.

Program Requirements

Doctorate with Collaborative Specialization

The Department of History is a participating unit in the collaborative program in Canadian Studies at the doctoral level. This program has been established for students wishing to enrich their training in history by including an interdisciplinary component in Canadian Studies. In addition to the 12 units required for the PhD program in History, the collaborative program requires completion of either CDN 6910 or CDN 6520.

Students must meet the following requirements:

Compulsory Courses (HIS):

9 course units from three fields of study in history (HIS) at the graduate level 1

HIS 8900 Doctoral Research Seminar 3 Units

Language Requirement:

HIS 5599 Exigence de langue française en histoire

Compulsory Courses (CDN):

3 course units from:

CDN 6520 Séminaire sur la francophonie canadienne
CDN 6910 Seminar in Canadian Studies

Oral Examination:

HIS 9998 Doctoral Oral Examination 2

Thesis:

THD 9999 Doctoral Thesis 3

Note(s)
Each doctoral field entails independent reading and written work under the guidance of a director. An outline of the work to be undertaken in each field must be approved by the relevant field director and submitted for approval to the graduate studies committee before the end of the student’s first term of enrollment in the program. The field director is responsible for monitoring the student’s progress and for grading the student’s written work and overall performance. Students may not enroll in any doctoral field for more than four terms.

The oral examination, combining all three doctoral fields, is held before a jury presided over by the chairperson of the departmental graduate studies committee, or his representative. Students are required to take the oral examination by the end of their fourth term.

The research, writing and defence of the thesis generally require two full years after the oral examination. The thesis must be an original contribution to historical knowledge. It should be 250-350 pages in length excluding notes and bibliography and appendices. It must be defended before a jury normally composed of four examiners.

Transfer from Master’s to PhD

However, applicants with an 80 per cent (A-) average in the honours BA may also be accepted after completion of the course work of the non-thesis master’s program, provided they have performed at the same level in their master’s courses. Please note that the minimal admission average requirements for the doctoral program must also be met. The department may require a written or oral entrance examination.

Language Requirements

Students in both the master’s and doctoral programs must understand, speak and write either English or French fluently. In addition, students in both programs must demonstrate their reading competence in Canada’s other official language, French or English, at the earliest opportunity, by passing a language examination administered by the department in the fall or winter term. To this end, enrollment in HIS 5599 is compulsory.

Students who take a graduate course in history in the other language may be exempted from this examination, given a favourable report from the professor concerned.

Students working in a field of history where a language other than English or French is necessary may also be required to demonstrate their grasp of that language.

Duration of Program

Students are expected to fulfill all requirements within four years. The maximum time permitted is six years from the date of initial enrollment in the program, or seven years in the case of the students transferring from the master’s to the doctorate.

Minimum Standards

The passing grade in all courses is C+. Students who fail two courses (equivalent to 6 units), the thesis proposal, or the comprehensive exam or whose research progress is deemed unsatisfactory are required to withdraw.

Research

Research Fields & Facilities

Located in the heart of Canada’s capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa is among Canada’s top 10 research universities.

uOttawa focuses research strengths and efforts in four Strategic Areas of Development in Research (SADRs):

- Canada and the World
- Health
- e-Society
- Molecular and Environmental Sciences

With cutting-edge research, our graduate students, researchers and educators strongly influence national and international priorities.

Research at the Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts is proud of the state of the art research conducted by its professors. In the spirit of showcasing its research to the university community as well as to the general public, the Faculty has created three activities: Dean’s Lecture Series, Treasures of the Library, and Excellence Lectures.

Facilities, Research Centres and Institutes at the Faculty of Arts


For more information, refer to the list of faculty members and their research fields on Uniweb.

IMPORTANT: Candidates and students looking for professors to supervise their thesis or research project can also consult the website of the faculty or department (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/academic-unit-contact-information) of their program of choice. Uniweb does not list all professors authorized to supervise research projects at the University of Ottawa.

Courses

- All the 9000-level courses are reserved for Ph.D. students.
- Up to six units in 9000-level fields may be counted towards the master’s program course requirements. HIS 5122 or HIS 5522 is obligatory.
- Students in the master’s program may take, at the discretion of the departmental graduate studies committee, one three-unit directed studies course (either HIS 7399 or HIS 7799).
- Master’s students may also take, with the approval of the departmental graduate studies committee, three units from among fourth-year seminars.
- All of the 5000-, 6000- and 7000-level courses listed below are for three units each (except for HIS 5199, HIS 5599, HIS 6999 and THM 7999). They are not necessarily offered every year.
Students should check with the Department or the departmental Web site for annual course offerings.

All the 9900-level doctoral fields listed below are for three units (except HIS 9998 and THD 9999). Subject to availability of professors, students are responsible for determining their fields and field directors. The language of instruction is decided on mutually between the student and the professor.

- HIS 5103 Seminar in Canadian History I (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 5111 Seminar in New Frances (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 5122 Research Seminar (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 5125 Seminar on History of Quebec (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 5129 Seminar on British North America (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 5199 English Language Requirement in History
  Course Component: Research
- HIS 5503 Séminaire en histoire du Canada I (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 5511 Séminaire en histoire de la Nouvelle-France (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 5522 Séminaire de recherche (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 5525 Séminaire en histoire du Québec I (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 5529 Séminaire sur le Canada sous le régime britannique (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 5599 Exigence de langue française en histoire
  Volet : Recherche
- HIS 6103 Seminar in American History I (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 6332 Seminar on the History of Technology (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 6334 History of Francophones in North America, Outside of Quebec (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 6336 Seminar on Immigrants and Ethnic Groups in North America (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 6503 Séminaire en histoire américaine I (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 6532 Séminaire en histoire de la technologie (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 6536 Séminaire en histoire des immigrants et des communautés ethnoculturelles en Amérique du Nord (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 6734 Histoire des francophones en Amérique du Nord, hors Québec (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 6999 Mémoire de maîtrise / Research Paper
  Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research
- HIS 7103 Seminar in European History I (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7304 Seminar in Medieval History (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7330 Seminar on Comparative History (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7331 Seminar on the History of Women and Gender (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7333 Seminar on International Relations (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7335 Seminar on War and Society (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7336 Slovaks in Europe, Canada and the United States Since 1870 (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7337 Seminar on History of Medicine (3 units)
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7338 Seminar on the History of Colonialism and Post Colonialism (3 units)
  In-depth examination of issues relating to the history of colonialism and postcolonialism.
  Course Component: Seminar
- HIS 7339 Directed Studies in History (3 units)
  Course Component: Research
- HIS 7503 Séminaire en histoire européenne I (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7504 Séminaire en histoire européenne II (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7530 Séminaire en histoire comparée (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7535 Séminaire sur la guerre et la société (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7705 Méthodes de recherche en histoire (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7731 Séminaire en histoire des femmes et du genre (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7733 Séminaire en relations internationales (3 crédits)
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7738 Séminaire en histoire du colonialisme et du postcolonialisme (3 crédits)
  Études approfondies sur des questions liées à l'histoire du colonialisme et du postcolonialisme.
  Volet : Séminaire
- HIS 7799 Études dirigées en histoire (3 crédits)
  Volet : Recherche
- HIS 8900 Séminaire de recherche doctorale / Doctoral Research Seminar (3 crédits / 3 units)
  Séminaire sur des sujets se rapportant aux débats historiographiques et aux méthodologies de recherche en histoire. / Seminar on topics relating to the historiographical debates and research methodologies in history.
  Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar
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HIS 9901 Le Canada français / French Canada (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9902 L’Amérique coloniale / Colonial America (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9903 L’Amérique britannique du nord jusqu’à 1873 / British North America to 1873 (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9904 Le Canada après la confédération / Post-Confederation Canada (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9905 La Nouvelle-France / New France (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9910 Québec / Quebec (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9920 L’Amérique latine / Latin America (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9930 Histoire de l’Asie / Asian History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9940 Histoire du Moyen-Orient et de l’Afrique du Nord / Middle Eastern and North African History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9950 Histoire de l’Afrique / History of Africa (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9954 Histoire des États-Unis / U.S. History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9980 Histoire économique / Economic History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9981 Histoire socioculturelle / Social-Cultural History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9982 Histoire intellectuelle / Intellectual History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9983 Histoire politique / Political History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9984 Relations internationales / International Relations (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9985 Histoire de la médecine, des techniques et des sciences / History of Medicine, Technology and Sciences (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9986 Histoire des Autochtones du Canada / History of Canada’s Native Peoples (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9987 Histoire des immigrants et des communautés ethnoculturelles en Amérique du Nord / History of Immigrants and Ethnic Groups in North America (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9988 Histoire des femmes / Women’s History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9989 Histoire militaire et diplomatique / Military and Diplomatic History (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9990 L’Europe médiévale / Medieval Europe (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9991 L’Europe moderne / Early Modern Europe (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9992 La Grande-Bretagne / Great Britain (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9993 L’Europe des 19e et 20e siècles / 19th and 20th Century Europe (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9994 La France depuis la révolution / France Since the Revolution (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9995 La France de l’ancien régime / France of the Ancient Regime (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

HIS 9996 Relations internationales / International Relations (3 crédits / 3 units)
Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research

CDN 6520 Séminaire sur la francophonie canadienne (3 crédits)
Séminaire sur des thèmes se rapportant à la francophonie canadienne, particulièrement les francophones vivant en situation minoritaire.
Volet : Séminaire

CDN 6910 Séminaire en études canadiennes / Seminar in Canadian Studies (3 crédits / 3 units)
Séminaire interdisciplinaire bilingue sur des sujets se rapportant au Canada. Les thèmes seront choisis en consultation avec les unités participantes, en tenant compte du nombre d’étudiants, de l’orientation de leur recherches et celles des unités participantes. / Bilingual interdisciplinary seminar on issues related to the study of Canada. Tips to be selected in consultation with participating units, taking into consideration the number of students, their research interests and those of the participating units.
Volet / Course Component: Séminaire / Seminar