Why Give to Queen’s History?

Queen’s has one of the most highly regarded departments of History in Canada, with particular strengths in Canadian history, European history, and global history. With more than 500 majors and minors, we are one of the largest undergraduate programs at Queen’s, and with approximately 100 MA and PhD students, one of the university’s most successful graduate programs. Our undergraduates go on to a wide array of graduate programs and careers: in education, business, law, public service, journalism, and the cultural sector. Our Master’s degree students enter similar careers or, when they decide to pursue doctoral degrees, enjoy a high placement rate in programs across Canada, the United States, and Europe. Many of our PhDs have been placed in teaching and administrative positions at universities. Others have pursued rewarding non-academic careers in the public and private sectors.

History is a core discipline bridging the humanities and the social sciences. The History Department is committed to the mission of keeping historical education and research relevant to modern Canadian society. In an increasingly technocratic and utilitarian world, knowledge of the past – and a general capacity to think historically – remain essential skills. Our department is motivated by a sense of engagement both inside and outside the university. In recent years we have augmented opportunities for our students, alongside their class work, to undertake internships and engage in experiential learning beyond Queen’s. We have encouraged students to study abroad in rising numbers. Our recent faculty hiring has responded to pressing social and political issues confronting our society: race and society, the experiences of the indigenous peoples of Canada, and the history of Canadian social welfare. Generous donations have recently allowed us to establish studentships, which fund major research projects undertaken by our best undergraduates.

The History Department has been an essential connection point for interdisciplinary work at Queen’s. Our faculty are cross-appointed with a large number of other departments (from Development Studies to Gender Studies to Philosophy), and they teach history courses not only
in Arts and Sciences but in diverse places such as the Queen’s School of Medicine and the School of Public Policy. Our faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students participate in a wide array of interdisciplinary programs: Jewish Studies, Muslim Societies and Cultures, the Russia and East European Research network, the Global History Initiative, and more. History remains a generous contributor to a wide array of intellectual projects both inside and outside our own department. Donations and endowments have allowed us to bring in internationally distinguished speakers for our Departmental Seminar Series, our Arthur Lower Workshop in Canadian History, and our annual Nugent Lecture. These events draw university-wide audiences, and serve as crucial outreach to the broader community. Every year, the department contributes funds to the Queen’s-McGill Conference, a major history conference run entirely by the graduate students of the two institutions.

All of this is made possible by the generosity of our alumni and friends, who support both specific endowments within the department and our general Departmental Trust. Specific gifts have funded our lecture series, several high profile post-doctoral fellowships, undergraduate studentships, and graduate financial awards. Continued support will enable us to preserve History’s central role in the educational landscape of Queen’s, to diversify our curriculum, and to open up new educational and professional opportunities for students of all levels. Funding priorities of include initiatives such as:

- Undergraduate studentships to fund capstone projects, experiential learning, or internships
- Funding to advance our initiative in Global History
- Endowments to fund post-doctoral fellows and support graduate students

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