



Queen's University - Arts and Science Exchange Fact Sheet

Canada's Definitive Student Experience

Founded in 1841, Queen's University is one of Canada's leading universities. Based in Kingston, Ontario, Queen's is a member of the prestigious U15 group of research-intensive universities and holds an international reputation for the outstanding academic quality of its faculty and students. In 2025, Queen's placed **#1 in Canada** and **#6 in the world** in the [*Times Higher Education Impact Rankings*](#) for its contributions to advancing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Situated on the shore of Lake Ontario, Kingston provides the perfect place to call home, while still being within easy reach of Toronto and Montreal - two of Canada's largest cities.

Our campus-based university and large number of student clubs contribute to a warm and welcoming atmosphere, making it easy to get involved, make friends and become part of the Queen's community.

Queen's University is situated on the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek.

Ne Queen's University e'tho no'we nikanónhsote tsi no'we ne Haudenosaunee tánon Anishinaabek tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa.

Gimaakwe Gchi-gkinoomaagegamig atemagad Naadowe miinwaa Anishinaabe aking.

Why do we add a land acknowledgement?

Kingston, Ontario



Founded in 1673 on a First Nation site called Katarokwi, the settlement was eventually referred to as "the King's Town" in honour of King George III, with the name shortening to "Kingston" by 1788. Kingston is also nicknamed the "Limestone City" because of the many historic buildings built with local limestone.

Kingston was chosen as the first capital of Canada on February 15, 1841, and served in that role until 1844. Kingston was also the home of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

There are 21 National Historic Sites of Canada located in Kingston, and in 2007, the Rideau Canal, along with the fortifications at Kingston, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Anywhere you go in downtown Kingston – and on campus – you're only minutes from the waterfront. Equally close to campus (about a 10-minute walk), is Kingston's bustling

downtown, which is home to many unique-to-Kingston shops, big brands you'll recognize, and some of the best restaurants in Canada.

Add to this Kingston's many community events and friendly, charming vibe and it's easy to see why the BBC named Kingston one of the top five university towns in the world!





Important Dates

Fall 2026 & Full Year 2026-27

- Nomination deadline: 1 April 2026 (remains the same every year)
- Application deadline: 30 April 2026 (remains the same every year)
- Mandatory orientation: 4 September 2026
- Classes begin: 8 September 2026
- Classes end: 8 December 2026
- Exam period: 10-23 December 2026

Winter 2027

- Nomination deadline (early): 1 April 2026 (remains the same every year)**
- Application deadline (early): 30 April 2026 (remains the same every year)
- Nomination deadline: 1 September 2026 (remains the same every year)
- Application deadline (final): 30 September 2026 (remains the same every year)
- Mandatory Orientation: January 2027*
- Classes begin: 15 January 2027
- Classes end: 5 April 2027
- Exam period: 9-23 April 2027

* Dates are not yet finalized.

** Partners are encouraged to nominate their winter term students early (by 1 April 2026) to allow them to participate in course registration in the Summer and secure spaces in classes.



Eligibility and Application Instructions



Partner exchange offices will be emailed the link to the Queen's website to nominate their students for the exchange program.

After receiving the nomination, the Queen's Admissions Office will contact the student at their home university email address, provided in the nomination, to direct the student to the Queen's exchange online application.

Please note that application instructions will not be emailed to external addresses (e.g., Gmail).

As classes are taught in English, proof of English proficiency may be required. [Please visit this page for information](#) on what types of tests are accepted.

Orientation and Student Life



At Queen's we want to make sure that you are well-supported and so we offer 3 orientations!

International Programs Office (IPO)

The IPO offers an academic orientation session at the start of each term for incoming Arts and Science exchange students. The session provides information about academic programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science, course registration, the academic culture at Queen's, opportunities outside of the classroom at Queen's, and services available to students.

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC)

QUIC runs an orientation session that covers students' rights and responsibilities, opportunities to make the most of their time at Queen's, the numerous student services available to make their sojourn successful, as well as travelling in Canada and the United States. [Find more information about the QUIC International Student Orientation.](#)

The Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS)

ASUS, the student government representing Arts and Science students at Queen's, runs the Exchange Buddies Program, which groups incoming exchange students with upper-year Arts and Science students. Incoming exchange students will receive an invitation to join the ASUS Exchange Buddies program once they have confirmed their acceptance to attend Queen's.

Student Clubs

At Queen's University, a vibrant community awaits, catering to diverse interests through over 250 student clubs. Affiliated with both The Alma Mater Society (AMS) these clubs provide an excellent opportunity for you to connect with fellow students and build a sense of community throughout your time at Queen's. Examples of the active clubs at Queen's include: ACSA – African and Caribbean Students' Association, Queen's Film Appreciation Club, and Queen's Feminist Collective. [View the clubs directory.](#)



Academic Information



Language of Instruction

- All courses at Queen's are taught in English.

Course Load

- Exchange students are recommended to take a minimum of 12.0 units and a maximum of 15.0 units per term; 24.0 units to maximum of 30.0 units for the full year. Please note that 12.0-15.0 units typically represent 4-5 courses per semester. Full-year students take a maximum of 15.0 units per semester.

Course Weight

- Full-year 6.0 unit courses extend throughout the Fall-Winter session. 3.0 unit courses are offered within the Fall or Winter terms. A 6.0 unit course normally involves 220-260 hours of learning hours (laboratories and tutorials may also be required); a 3.0 unit course involves 110-130 hours of learning hours.

Course Types

- L = Lecture; S = Seminar; T = Tutorial; P = Practical (e.g. laboratory, workshop, studio)

Grading

- Queen's has a letter-based grading system and a 4.3 scale grade point average (GPA), ranging from 4.3 (A+) to 0.0 (F). View [Queen's University Grading Scale](#).

Course Choices

- Arts and Science courses are open to exchange students provided that they have the appropriate prerequisite courses. Students may have the option to take courses from another Faculty; however, the majority of courses must be at the undergraduate level in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Students are permitted to enroll in only select courses offered by the Faculty of Law, Smith School of Business, Smith Engineering, and the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- **Please note: Enrolment in courses is not guaranteed.** The International Programs Office will contact fall, full-year, and early-nominated winter students in June to request their course selections, and only after the academic offerings for the next year have been confirmed. The IPO will contact all winter term students in November regarding course enrollment for their exchange.
- Please note, the following subjects are currently in **high demand** in the Faculty of Arts and Science at Queen's and courses have limited spaces:
 - Biology
 - Computing and Information Science
 - Economics
 - English and Creative Writing
 - Film and Media
 - Kinesiology and Health Studies (all levels)
 - Life Sciences (Microbiology, Neuroscience, Physiology)
 - Sociology (all levels)
 - Psychology
-  **As of the 2026/2027 academic year, the following subjects are not available to incoming exchange students. The restrictions may apply to the entire subject or specific levels:**
 - History (at the 300-level and above)
 - Political Studies (at the 300-level and above)
- While every effort is made to place students in the courses requested, it is not always possible to fulfill all requests. **To maximize entry to courses, partners should continue to select students who may have greater flexibility in their academic**

program while on exchange. Students are encouraged to explore all options in the creative arts, humanities, life and physical sciences, languages, and the social sciences when selecting courses.

Examinations

- Requirements vary for each course. An extra 30 minutes and a physical translation dictionary are permitted for exchange students whose first language is not English.
- Students are encouraged to delay booking their return travel tickets until the final examination schedules are posted. The fall term examination schedule is typically released mid-October. The winter term examination schedule is typically released mid-February.

Transcripts

- At the end of a student's exchange and after all final grades are released, their transcript will be sent directly to the partner school, free of charge
- Fall term exchanges: Transcript sent in January
- Full year and Winter term exchanges: Transcript sent in May/June
- Please note that transcripts will not be released if students have any charges (\$) owing on their account (UHIP, etc).

OnQ Exchange Course

- OnQ is a Learning Management System used at Queen's across all faculties to deliver course content. All exchange students will be enrolled in a special OnQ course where they will be able to access all relevant information related to their exchange including academic services, support services, course enrollment, housing tips, and many other resources. It is crucial that students access this course frequently throughout the duration of their time at Queen's to ensure a successful and informed exchange.

Departments in Arts and Science

Learn about the [various departments within the Faculty of Arts & Science.](#)

Computing

Computing & Information Science

Social Sciences

Black Studies || Economics || Employment Relations || Entrepreneurship & Innovation ||
Gender Studies || Geography || Global Development Studies || Health Studies ||
Indigenous Knowledges & Perspectives || Political Studies || Psychology || Sociology

Humanities

Anishinaabe // Arabic Language // Art History // Chinese // Classical Studies // Creative Writing // English Language & Literature // French Language & Literature // French Studies // German // Greek // Hebrew // History // Inuktitut // Italian // Japanese // Jewish Studies // Languages, Literatures, and Cultures // Latin // Linguistics // Mohawk // Philosophy // Portuguese // Religious Studies // Spanish // Writing

Creative Arts

Animation // Drama // Film & Media // Media & Performance Production // Music // Visual Art

Life & Physical Sciences

Anatomy & Cell Biology || Astronomy || Biochemistry || Biology || Cancer Research || Cardiorespiratory Science || Chemistry || Cognitive Science || Community Health & Epidemiology || Drug Development & Human Toxicology || Environmental Science || Geology || Kinesiology & Physical Education || Life Sciences || Mathematics || Microbiology & Immunology || Neuroscience || Pathology & Molecular Medicine || Pharmacology & Toxicology || Physics || Physiology || Reproduction & Development || Statistics

[Join the Conversation](#)

Queen's University celebrates intercultural dialogue around equity, diversity, inclusion, and indigeneity in the Queen's and broader Kingston community. Intercultural conversation makes our community remarkable both within and outside the classroom. Here are some academic courses that we invite you to explore as you continue to research a potential exchange at Queen's University. All members of the Queen's community are encouraged to participate in the intercultural conversation and we hope you will join us.

Courses listed below are one-term courses (either Fall or Winter) and have a cultural focus and minimal prerequisites. Please note course offerings are subject to change each year.

- ANSH 101: Beginning Anishinaabe Language and Culture I
- ARTH 248: Introduction to the Indigenous Arts of North America
- BIOL 319: Introduction to Ethnobotany BLCK 200: Introduction to Black Studies
- DEVS 220: Introduction to Indigenous Studies
- EMPR 260: Advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Workplace
- ENGL 218: Introduction to Indigenous Literature in Canada
- ENSC 103: Environment and Sustainability
- GNDS 212: Racism, Colonialism and Resistance

- GNDS 125: Gender, Race and Popular Culture
- GNDS 215: Introduction to Sexual and Gender Diversity
- GPHY 351: Geographies of Indigenous and Settler Relations
- HIST 254: Women and Gender in 20th Century Canada
- INDG 301: Indigenous Ways of Knowing
- LLCU 110: Linguistic Diversity and Identity
- LLCU 111: Introduction to Cultures
- LLCU 270: Contemporary Events and Indigenous Cultural Politics
- LLCU 302: Unsettling: Indigenous Peoples & Canadian Settler Colonialism
- LLCU 370: Indigenous Women and Power
- MOHK 101: Beginning Mohawk Language & Culture
- POLS 313: Mass Media and Politics in Canada

[Check out our website](#) for more information about these courses.

Housing



On-campus residence is not available.

For more information on finding off-campus accommodations, students can use the following resources:

- [Off-Campus Living Advisor Housing Resources](#)
- [Queen's University International Centre \(QUIC\)'s Housing Resources](#)

Once you find a rental that you're interested in, you can contact the [Off-Campus Living Advisor](#) for help reviewing lease documents and for individual advising on rental and landlord issues

Visa and Study Permits



The International Programs Office is unable to advise on study permits and visas. Refer to [Queen's University International Centre \(QUIC\) for more information](#).

If studying in Canada for 6 months or more, a study permit is required.

If studying in Canada for less than 6 months, you can do so as a visitor (i.e., no study permit is required, but you may need a TRV or eTA to enter Canada as a visitor).

Questions? Contact an International Student Advisor (ISA) at the Queen's University International Centre (QUIC): isa@queensu.ca.

Campus



On-Campus Facilities

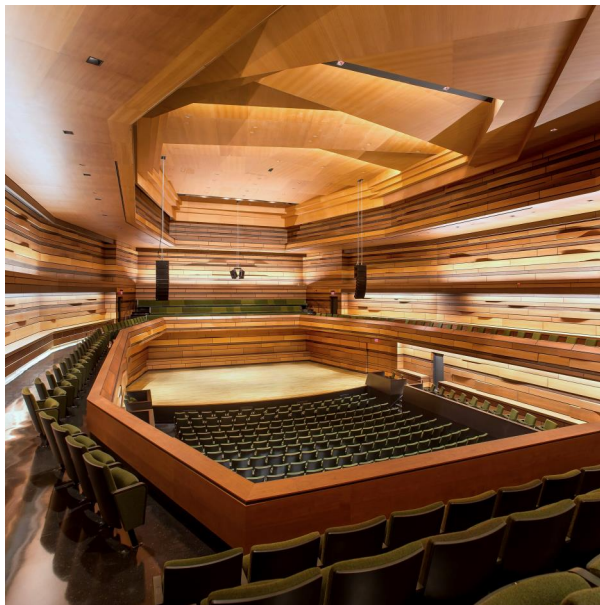
Queen's offers a range of on-campus facilities including:

- [Athletics and Recreation Services](#)
- [Campus Bookstore](#)
- [Libraries](#)
- [Student Wellness Services](#) (Supports the personal, academic, and social health development of students at Queen's University)
- [Student Academic Success Services](#) (Offers academic support to all students)
- [Dining Halls and Eateries](#)
- [Queen's University International Centre \(QUIC\)](#)

Queen's University is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory.



1 - Richardson Stadium



2 - Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts

Living Costs and Health Insurance

Living Costs

The Office of the University Registrar provides [a list of estimated living and educational expenses](#) on their website. All costs are in Canadian Dollars (CAD\$). Please note the expenses quoted are a guide only. They will vary depending on location, lifestyle and personal choices.

You can also find out more about costs and budgeting [on our website](#).

Health Insurance

All exchange students will be automatically enrolled in the mandatory University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). See the [UHIP website](#) for more information.

Student Services



Student Card

Exchange students receive a Queen's student card and have the same rights and privileges using this card as a full-time, domestic Queen's student. This includes access to the facilities listed above and access to the [Kingston Transit system](#).

Student Guidebook

Looking for more information, including life on campus, health insurance, working and living in Kingston? [Check out the International Student Guidebook](#) created by the Queen's University International Centre (QUIC).

If you are looking for tips for adjusting to Canadian academics, the Queen's Student Academic Success Services has provided **a guide to support your transition**.

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frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media;
gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Contact Details



International Programs Office

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Visit us on the web at www.queensu.ca/ipo

[Instagram](#) : @queensuipo

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INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS OFFICE

