



Guelph □ Laurier □ Waterloo

Master's Program Regulations

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1. THE PROGRAM

The Tri-University Graduate Program in History combines the faculty and resources of three of Canada's premier universities. Since 1994, our program has been educating students in innovative ways while providing them with a solid grounding in traditional historical methods. With over 70 graduate faculty in the program, we are able to provide courses and to supervise research across the widest possible range of areas. At the same time, through small seminars, close student-professor relationships, and teaching assistantships and scholarships held at one of the three participating campuses, the program is able to maintain the atmosphere of a smaller, more intimate, educational institution. In our program, students benefit from combining placement in one of three departments with the resources of one of Canada's largest graduate history programs. For information on areas of specialization and current faculty, please consult the Tri-University web site (www.triuhistory.ca/faculty).

Central to the Tri-University concept is student mobility. MA students may take courses at any of the three campuses, greatly expanding their range of course choices. The program provides student travel subsidies to reduce the cost of inter-city travel for students travelling between Guelph and Waterloo.

MA courses in the Tri-University program are designed for MA students. We do not normally put Masters students in seminars with Doctoral students or undergraduates. Despite this, the Tri-University program offers one of the widest selections of MA courses in Canada. For lists of forthcoming, current, and past course offerings, please see the Tri-University web site (www.triuhistory.ca/ma/courses).

Unlike many other large programs, the Tri-University program generously supports MA students through TAs and scholarships. We regard the TA experience as a major component of MA studies, as many of our students are interested in continuing on into PhD programs or teachers' colleges.

For more than twenty years, the annual Tri-University History Conference has showcased the finest research from established and emerging scholars alike from the partner universities and around the world. In the Conference's collegial atmosphere, many historians have had their first experiences of presenting papers and developing ideas later appearing in published papers and books.

2. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In order to complete a Master's degree, students are required to enrol in and complete the degree requirements for one of three possible streams of study.

- 1. The Thesis Stream:** Four seminar courses and a research requirement of a thesis with an oral defence. The thesis stream is only available to students with the permission of the Graduate Officer in the department in which the student is registered. This stream is normally completed in four terms of study.
- 2. The Major Research Paper Stream (MRP):** Six seminar courses and a research requirement of a MRP with an oral defence. This stream normally takes three terms to complete.
- 3. The Course-Only Stream:** Eight seminar courses. At least three of the seminar courses must be "Research" courses in which a Research Paper is written. The course-only stream is only open to students by permission of the Graduate Officer in the department in which the student is registered. Course-only stream students may not normally complete their degree in three consecutive terms.

3. DEFINITIONS

The M.A. Thesis involves a formal and extended treatment of a historical topic or problem grounded in the relevant historiography. Primary source materials must form the basis of thesis research, the goal of which is to contribute to original analysis either by consulting new material or by applying new historiographical insights or methods. A thesis carries the weight of four 0.5 credit courses, and its normal length is approximately 100 pages of double-spaced type. It is defended in front of a committee consisting of an examiner external to the program and the advisory committee (see Section 7, below). In order to complete a Thesis satisfactorily, students must receive a minimum passing grade of B- (70%). Completed theses are public documents that are uploaded to the home university's institutional repository.

The Major Research Paper (MRP) is a research project on a historical or historiographical topic designed to explore a body of sources, demonstrate a thorough grasp of primary sources and secondary literature on the topic and permit the author to arrive at an independent conclusion and make an original contribution to the field. The MRP carries the weight of two 0.5 credit courses and the normal length is approximately 50 pages of double-spaced type. It is defended in front of the advisory committee (see Section 7, below). In order to complete an MRP satisfactorily, student must receive a minimum passing grade of B- (70%).

The Research Paper is developed as part of the requirements of a seminar course. The research paper normally explores a historical topic in such a way as to demonstrate the author's thorough grasp of the secondary literature on the topic and permit the author to arrive at an independent conclusion utilizing primary sources. It differs from the MRP primarily in depth of research and in length and use of primary sources. The normal length of a Research Paper is approximately 20 to 25 pages.

Courses or Seminars in the Master's Program are organized as seminars of 0.5 credit-weight. In order to complete a course satisfactorily, students must complete all course requirements as specified by the instructor and receive a minimum passing grade of B- (70%).

4. COURSE TYPES

A variety of approaches to the study of history may be followed in the Tri-University Graduate Program:

- i) Seminars devoted to the broader historiographical study of the history, development, and divergent forms of the discipline as a whole.
- ii) Seminars devoted to the study of selected secondary readings from the historiography or microhistories of a specific geographical region, time period, or thematic subject.
- iii) Seminars which require students to read and discuss a mixture of secondary historiographical and primary documentary materials.
- iv) Seminars devoted largely to the methodology, preparation, and presentation of research papers based on primary research, which may require a specific, or one of several, historiographical courses as a prerequisite.
- v) Individual Directed Studies Courses in which students work one-on-one with an instructor. Note: Students normally may not take more than one Directed Studies course (0.5) in their program. Students may only register for Directed Studies courses with the approval of the Graduate Officer in their home department.

Students may enrol in any of the MA seminars offered by the history departments of the three universities.

5. Second Language Proficiency

Students will be expected to be proficient in the language or languages needed for their research. No language examination will be required for students in the course-only stream. A student writing a Thesis or Major Research Paper will be required to pass a language examination if the Director and the Advisory Committee determine that this is warranted by the nature of the student's research topic.

6. PROGRESS THROUGH THE STREAMS

The Choice of Stream of study for any individual student is made in consultation with the Graduate Officer in the department in which they are enrolled at the commencement of their program. The final decision rests with the department concerned.

Expected Progress through the Streams

Master's students will normally register for up to three seminar courses per semester.

- i) **Full-time Thesis Stream:** Students will take two seminars in each of their first and second terms. The thesis should be completed no later than the student's fourth term of full-time registration in the program.
- ii) **Full-time Major Research Paper Stream:** Students will take three seminar courses in each of their first and second terms. The Major Research Paper should be completed by the end of the student's third term of full-time registration in the program.
- iii) **Full-time Course-only stream:** Students will normally take three seminar courses in each of the Fall and Winter terms. They will normally enrol in their two remaining courses in the subsequent Fall or Winter term.
- iv) **Part-time:** Students will usually register in one or two seminar courses in each of the Fall and Winter terms. The minimum residency requirement for Part-time degrees is six terms.

7. THESIS AND MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER PROCEDURES

Once a faculty member (who must be a member of the Graduate Faculty at the student's home department) has agreed to act as a **Supervisor/Advisor**, the student will inform the Graduate Officer in the student's home department. The student, in consultation with the Supervisor/Advisor, will define the research topic and a viable body of primary sources.

Advisory Committees

Students in the **Thesis** stream will submit their research proposals and undertake their research projects in consultation with an **Advisory Committee** consisting of their **Supervisor/Advisor and at least two other members of the graduate faculty**.

Students in the **MRP** stream will submit their research proposals and undertake their research projects in consultation with an **Advisory Committee** consisting of their **Supervisor/Advisor and at least one other member of the graduate faculty**.

Research Proposal

Students who register in either the Thesis or the Major Research Paper stream must write a **proposal**, which includes the tentative title, a rationale for the proposed research project and a list of sources to be used. This proposal is to be **submitted no later than the end of their second term of registration**. The Advisory Committee will assess the student's research proposal to recommend its acceptance, modification, or rejection.

Thesis and Major Research Paper Defence Procedures

The Advisory Committee will review the final draft of the Thesis or MRP and indicate whether it is ready for oral defence by completing the requisite examination request/release form. The regulations of the university at which the student is enrolled will be invoked for the format of a Thesis or Major Research Paper defence.

For specific dates and requirements, students should consult the Graduate Officer in their home department.