



Guelph □ Laurier □ Waterloo

Doctoral Program Regulations

The Tri-University Graduate Program in History

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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).

The Tri-University doctoral program is designed to be completed in four years of full-time study. Students enter our doctoral program for a variety of reasons, but we believe all of them are motivated by a strong desire to pursue the most advanced education for history research and teaching. We strive to move students through the field completion phase of their program in one year, so that they can devote the majority of their studies to their own research, teaching, and writing. The research phase of the dissertation can, however, be an isolating experience and so the program has created a sequence of post-field work milestones – a substantial thesis proposal that is submitted in the fifth term of study and a colloquium paper in the third year – to sustain intimate contact between the student and his or her advisory committee. Other innovative features of the program include: a professional development seminar, taken in the first year, which prepares students for success in the program and in academic and other professional careers; a guaranteed funding formula which ensures that all eligible students are supported during their four years of study; a teaching practicum, which gives students the opportunity to teach a course of their own with an academic mentor; a system of fields designed to provide students with the background they need for their research, writing, and teaching; and the annual Tri-University History Conference, which for more than twenty years has been giving emerging historians their first opportunities to present papers and develop ideas that have later been published as books and articles.

The Tri-University program offers an ideal balance between research and teaching preparation. It combines the benefits of one of the most accomplished graduate teaching faculty in Canada with the advantages of registration on an individual campus. By uniting research intensity and opportunities for teacher training with close interaction between student and faculty members, the Tri-University program provides superlative preparation for the non-academic and academic job markets alike, as demonstrated by the post-degree success of our graduates.

Program Regulations

1. The Program

The program consists of a mixture of seminar courses, presentations, examinations and student instructional opportunities. Each component of the program is itemized in the section which follows. A schematic representation of the complete program can be found in article 2.2 below.

Each year the program offers major field seminars taught by individual faculty members at each of the three campuses:

Canadian History
Cold War History
Early Modern European History
Indigenous Histories of Turtle Island
Medieval History
Modern European History
Scottish History
War and Society
World History

In addition, each year the program offers a wide range of minor field seminars appropriate to the interests of the students who are admitted.

1.1 Program Milestone: The Professional Development Seminar

All doctoral students must attend the professional development seminar in their first year of the program. The seminar is designed to prepare students for success as PhD students and for their future careers in academic and professional fields of employment.

- The seminar will consist of eight sessions covering a range of topic areas, such as – the historian’s craft (researching, conferencing, and publishing), keys to success as a graduate student (applying for grants, and success as a teaching assistant), and careers beyond the academy. Seminars will rotate across each of the three campuses.
- Students will be assigned written and oral assignments as appropriate with the final grade of a Pass/Fail. Attendance is mandatory.

1.2 Major Field

The major field is the student's primary area of concentration; it provides the background and context for thesis research and will, in all likelihood, serve as the area in which graduates apply for academic jobs. The basis of the major field is the major field reading list, which consists of 100 books or equivalent. The major field instructor and the student's supervisor/advisor will each provide one half of the field readings list. Students are examined on their knowledge of their field list through participation in the field seminar, written work, and the major field/qualifying exam milestone.

- The **major field seminar** is taken in the first two terms of the program. It is led by a major field supervisor, and comprises half of the field list (50 books or equivalent). The minimum requirement in a major field seminar will be the preparation of one historiographical assignment and participation and/or presentations. The historiographical paper will normally be no more than 6500 words in length including citations.
 - The seminar is a 1.0 credit course, and a grade of B+ constitutes the minimum passing grade. A student who fails to pass the major field seminar will be required to withdraw from the PhD program.
 - The second half of the field list (50 books or equivalent) is determined by the dissertation supervisor/advisor, and discussed by the supervisor/advisor and the student in meetings that usually take place in the third term.
 - The **major field/qualifying exam** is normally set for late September of the second year (4th term) of a student's full-time registration. Students must have completed their field seminars before sitting the exam. They will be examined on their knowledge of the entire major field-reading list (100 books or equivalent). The exam will consist of a written and an oral portion (each weighted as a 0.5 credit course) with a separate grade assigned for each part. The three-hour written portion of the exam consists of two equally-weighted halves, with one half set by the field seminar instructor in relation to the first fifty books and the other set by the supervisor in relation to the second fifty. The oral portion of the exam will normally be held within three weeks of the successful completion of the written portion. A grade of B+ constitutes the minimum passing grade in each component of the major field/qualifying exam. Students may not complete the oral portion if they fail to pass the written, and they must pass the oral to successfully complete the examination process.
 - Each student's examination committee consists of at least three members, including the major field supervisor, the dissertation supervisor/advisor and one other faculty member in the field under examination (see also article 3.2). Each member of the committee will grade the written component independently and will forward their grade to the major field supervisor for

averaging within one week of the writing of the exam. Final examination grades will be submitted to the director, who will notify the students of their grades and proceed with the scheduling of the oral component of the major field examination.

- Students unable to write the major field/qualifying exam during the Tri-University Graduate Program examination period in the fall may petition to write in the deferred exam period. The deferred examination period will normally be held in the last week of February following the examination period from which the student seeks deferral. Students seeking a deferral due to extenuating circumstances must submit a written petition to their advisory committee at least eight weeks prior to the Tri-University Graduate Program examination period in which they would normally be expected to write. The advisory committee will forward the petition together with its recommendation of acceptance or refusal to the director within two weeks of receipt of the petition. A final decision as to whether to accept or refuse a petition to defer will be made by the Tri-University Program Coordinating Committee no less than one month prior to the examination period. The time-table for deferrals may be changed in cases where the petition involves a sudden and unforeseen emergency.
- Students are normally permitted only one deferral.
- Students failing the written component of the major field/qualifying exam are permitted a second attempt. Second attempts will be written during the next exam period (regular or deferred) following the first failed attempt.
- The major field reading list and outline will be deposited in the student's file prior to the completion of the field.

In all matters other than those specified in this handbook, the regulations in place at the university of the students' registration will govern procedures regarding the written and oral examinations.

1.3 Minor Fields

The minor fields represent secondary areas of concentration; they are intended to provide students with a supplementary teaching area and a comparative understanding of works in their dissertation research area. These two goals may be combined in each minor field course or the director, in consultation with the student, the thesis supervisor/advisor, and the seminar instructors, may coordinate a program in which one field is primarily geared towards a second teaching area and the other towards developing an understanding of the student's research area beyond his/her major fields. Each minor field consists of 50 books or the equivalent.

- One minor field may be in the student's specialized area of concentration/research beyond that covered in the major field.

Minor fields are completed by seminar work. A grade will be assigned by each minor field instructor upon completion of each minor field seminar. A grade of B+ constitutes the minimum passing grade.

- The minor field seminars are normally completed during the first two terms of the student's program. Other minor field seminars will meet at such intervals as are necessary to ensure that the student has a satisfactory understanding of the minor field reading lists. The minimum requirement in a minor field seminar will be the preparation of one historiographical assignment and participation and/or presentations. The historiographical paper will normally be no more than 6500 words in length including citations.
 - Minor field seminar instructors may require students to attend a one-term MA-level historiographical seminar in partial completion of their field requirement.
 - A student who fails to pass either of his/her minor field seminars will be required to withdraw from the PhD program.
 - The minor field seminar reading list is drawn up by each minor field instructor. The minor field reading lists and outline will be deposited in the student's file prior to the completion of the field.

1.4 Program Milestone: The Thesis Proposal

All doctoral students will present a thesis proposal to their advisory committee during the semester following the completion of their qualifying exams. The proposal represents the student's major assignment for the semester and should demonstrate the depth of the semester's research. Although the exact composition of the proposal will be determined by the advisory committee in consultation with the student, the proposal will normally include a statement of the research question to be addressed in their dissertation, a clear indication of the originality of the proposed dissertation's contribution to knowledge in light of existing scholarship, a review of the principal primary/archival sources and a discussion of the methodology to be used to answer the research question, and a chapter or topic outline. The expected length is approximately 3,000 words excluding notes and the bibliography.

The student will be examined orally on the proposal by the advisory committee at a meeting chaired by the director. Proposal defences normally begin with students briefly (for c. 10 minutes) speaking to their proposals, and continue with questions and comments from committee members. The proposal will be graded as a pass/fail.

1.5 Program Milestone: The Colloquium

The purpose of the colloquium is to give students an opportunity to demonstrate their research progress toward the completion of their dissertation, and to receive critical comments from their advisory committee as guidance for their continuing research and writing. The colloquium will be scheduled in the third year of the program and will consist of a public presentation of a draft of a substantive chapter of the dissertation (i.e., involving original research rather than historiography). The exact scheduling will be determined by the supervisor/advisor in consultation with the student and the advisory committee. Students are expected to consult with their advisory committee on a suitable topic for the colloquium. The entire committee will be provided with copies of the colloquium paper at a minimum of no less than one week in advance of the presentation.

The student will present the paper orally (normally no more than 20 minutes) after which committee members will examine the candidate on their draft chapter and presentation. The colloquium presentation is a public event. Time permitting, guests attending the colloquium will be invited to ask questions following the formal examination. A pass/fail grade will be assigned by the committee at the end of the examination.

1.6 Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a second language. If no specific language is required for the student's research (as authorized by the student's advisory committee), the second language will be French. The determination of the second language will be made by the student's advisory committee in the first year of the student's registration in the program.

- Language proficiency is tested through an examination administered by the home department and it is expected that a student will take the test no later than the 6th term following admission into the program.
- The language exam is intended to evaluate the candidate's reading knowledge of a second language and is not to be understood as a test of fluency.
- A student who has already fulfilled a language requirement, for example through an equivalent exam previously taken, may have credit given for that work by the supervisor and the home department and university.
- Completion of an undergraduate course is not in itself considered an equivalent.

1.7 The Teaching Practicum

PhD students may apply to the department chair to teach a one term/0.5 credit course. Student teachers will be mentored and courses will be assigned in ways consistent with the procedures for teaching assignments at each of the three universities. Ongoing feedback on teaching effectiveness, including teaching evaluations, will be provided to the student instructor.

1.8 Program Milestone: Thesis and Thesis Defence

Each student will be required to write and successfully defend a thesis of such cogency and originality as will represent a significant contribution to knowledge. The thesis will normally be between 50,000 and 90,000 words in length.

- During the preparation of their theses, students will work according to a schedule of meetings and chapter submissions determined in consultation with their supervisors/advisors.
- The thesis will be examined by the student's advisory committee and at least one reader from outside the Tri-University program. The external reader will normally be an historian from a university other than the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo, or Wilfrid Laurier University, but in special circumstances the advisory committee may authorize the inclusion of an external examiner from a program other than history either at one of the three institutions participating in the Tri-University or from another institution.
- Thesis defence procedures and regulations at the university of the student's registration will be followed and students and committee-members should consult the appropriate Graduate Studies handbook.

1.9 Progress Meetings

Students will meet with their advisory committees in January and June of their first year to receive feedback and guidance. Subsequently, progress meetings will occur coincidentally with the comprehensive oral exam defence and the milestone meetings (proposal and colloquium defences). They will also occur if a program milestone has been missed by more than one term, and annually after the colloquium defence.

2) General Regulations

2.1 Transfer Students from other History PhD programs

Students in good standing in other history PhD programs may apply for advanced standing in the Tri-University program. The terms of admission and transfer credit will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the admissions committee. Credit, however, will normally not be given for field examinations or papers completed prior to admission to the Tri-University PhD program.

2.2 Progression

Students are expected to successfully complete each component of the program according to the schedule outlined in section 1 with a minimum B+ average in each field seminar. Students failing to pass any of their field seminars will be required to withdraw from the PhD program, and they must have completed their field seminars prior to taking the major field/qualifying exam. Should students fail to pass any program milestone, after taking into account the provisions of article 2.3, and the regulations in effect at each university, they will also be required to withdraw from the program.

Schedule of completion for a four-year degree:

Year	Term	Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer
1		- Field Seminars - Professional Development Seminar	- Field Seminars (B+ average required) - Professional Development Seminar (Pass required)	Independent reading in the Major Field
2		- Major Field/Qualifying Examination (normally taken at the beginning of the term), (Pass required)	Thesis Proposal (Pass required)	- Final term to complete Language Exam (Pass required)
3		- Colloquium at some point this year (Pass required)	- <i>Colloquium</i>	- <i>Colloquium</i>
4		- <i>Colloquium</i> Research and writing	- <i>Colloquium</i> Research and writing	- Thesis defence (Pass required)

2.3 Provisional Standing

Students failing to successfully complete their language exam, professional development seminar or colloquium, or to receive approval for their thesis proposal according to the schedule outlined in section 1 by more than one term, will be assigned “provisional standing” by their advisory committee.

- Provisional standing must be applied, recorded, and authorized by the students’ advisory committee. The record of provisional standing will state the condition producing the condition and the requirement that must be met in order for provisional standing to be removed.

- Provisional standing lasts for a maximum of two terms of registered (active) study from the end of the term in which it is assigned. Students must clear provisional standing by successfully removing the condition leading to its application. The record of provisional standing is maintained by the director and will not appear on the student's official transcript. However, students are advised to consult the graduate calendars of their home universities on progression requirements and regulations.

3. Administration

3.1 Thesis Supervisor/Advisor

The thesis supervisor/advisor is responsible for supervising the student in the development, research, and writing of the dissertation. The supervisor/advisor will meet with the student over the course of his/her registration in the program as is appropriate and will provide the student with information concerning procedures, standards, and expectations as the student needs to succeed in the program. In addition, the thesis supervisor/advisor will:

- be a member of the student's advisory committee
- offer advice on drafts of the thesis proposal, dissertation, and colloquium paper
- be available to supervise summer reading and preparation for comprehensive exams
- write letters of reference for their students as requested
- contact applicants who he or she has agreed to supervise concerning the program and his/her supervision
- provide advice and feedback on professional development (e.g., regarding teaching, preparing conference papers, submitting articles for publication).

The thesis supervisor/advisor may refuse to supervise any applicant prior to admission and may request that the director transfer a student to another supervisor/advisor.

Disagreements between the supervisor/advisor and student shall be referred to the director who with the graduate officer of the home department will mediate them in consultation with the coordinating committee.

3.2 Student Advisory Committee

Each student will have an advisory committee at all times that he/she is registered in the program. The advisory committee, chaired by the director or designate, will meet at scheduled intervals to discuss and make a record of the student's progress through the program. For the first year of the program, the advisory committee consists of the supervisor, the major field seminar instructor, and the minor field seminar instructors. The major field/qualifying exam committee consists of the supervisor, the major field seminar instructor, and at least one other faculty member with expertise in the relevant field. After a successful oral defence of the major field exam, the advisory committee is reconstituted to include the supervisor and at least two other faculty members with expertise in the subject of the thesis. This committee will assess the thesis proposal and colloquium, and its members will make up the Tri-University program faculty at the thesis defence, as consistent with university regulations.

- The committee will determine at each meeting whether the student may continue "in good standing"; if the committee does not approve a student's continuing "in good standing" it must assign the student "provisional standing" as described in 2.3 and it will prescribe the steps needed for the student to restore his/her "in good standing" status.
- The advisory committee will make all recommendations regarding progression and will be responsible for making recommendations to the coordinating committee regarding required withdrawals.
- The advisory committee will make a record of the completion of such preconditions of research, such as ethics reviews, as are required by the student's university of registration.
- At least one member of the committee will normally be from a Tri-U campus other than that of the student's registration.

In all matters relating to student advisory committees, the regulations in place at the university of the students' registration will govern procedures regarding the composition of advisory and examination committees.

3.2.b Schedule of Committee Meetings

Students will meet with their advisory committees according to the following schedule.*

Year	Term	Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer
1		progress meeting	end of term meeting to assess progress	
2		Major field/qualifying exam/normally at the beginning of the term	thesis proposal	
3		Colloquium at some point this year	<i>Colloquium</i>	<i>Colloquium</i>
4		progress meeting, 3 terms after <i>Colloquium [and every other term until completion]</i>		thesis defence

* A progress meeting or milestone completion meeting must be held at least once every three terms.

3.3 General Administration

3.3.a The Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee is composed of the Tri-University Director and the Graduate Officers of the three Tri-University Program History departments.

Admissions

The Coordinating Committee is the Tri-University Admissions Committee. This committee will meet at regular intervals during the year. During peak admission periods, it will normally meet every second week to process applications. Meetings of the admissions committee will also be called by the director at any point when there are more than 10 new applications to be processed.

The initial distribution of new applicants to the campuses by the admissions committee will be governed by the following criteria:

- Indicated student preference. Preference may be shown by choice of field (as in Scottish history), choice of advisor (this shall be the primary consideration in the case of PhD students), or by a valid statement of campus preference
- The amount of funding for students available at each campus. The committee will make every effort to maximize the external funding for each applicant.
- University admission targets. The committee will make every effort to ensure that each university's graduate admission targets are filled with applicants of equivalent ability. It will seek to allocate applications as they are submitted in accordance with the relative size of each university's funded target.

Following the first round of selection, the graduate officer at each campus will contact the applicant allocated to their campus to discuss the process. The graduate officer will confirm each applicant's willingness to attend their campus and will indicate proposed funding levels and the recommended advisor.

- Applicants who during this initial contact, or at any point prior to the closure of the application process, indicate a preference for placement at another campus or who an admissions officer could not place with an advisor at their university, will have their file returned to the coordinating committee at its next meeting. The committee will then attempt to place the applicant at one of the other two campuses.

General administrative responsibilities:

- Create and amend regulations and recommend major program revisions to the departments.
- Advise the director as needed.
- Promote jointness between the faculty and students in the history departments of the three participating campuses.
- Approve all advertising for the Tri-University Graduate Program or for graduate studies in history at any of its participating history departments.
- Review all “must withdraw” recommendations from advisory committees (a review may involve an interview with the student at the discretion of the committee) and authorize all those decisions. The committee must approve or reject “must withdraw” decisions within two weeks of receipt of the recommendation from the advisory committee. Should it reject a “must withdraw” decision, the committee must set the conditions necessary for the student’s continuation in the program. All decisions made in these cases must be in accordance with the regulations of the Tri-University program and of the institution at which the student is registered. The committee will promptly inform the university at which the student is registered of all its decisions concerning progression.

3.3.b The Director

The Tri-University directorship rotates every three years. The faculty members of the three history departments that compose the program approve the appointment of the director.

Financial:

- Draft and administer the budget and supply each participating institution with an annual budget forecast and year-end closing.
- Fund-raise for the program.

Advertising and Promotion:

- Arrange for advertising on behalf of the program.
- Maintain the Tri-University website.

Admissions:

- Represent the program to potential applicants.
- Receive and make available all applications for admission and prepare summaries for the admissions committee.
- Chair the admissions committee and call its meetings.

Jointness:

- Develop initiatives for promoting links among faculty and students on the three campuses
- Organize and advertise the annual Tri-University Conference in collaboration with students from all three campuses and representatives from the hosting campus.
- Coordinate the professional development seminar and collect and submit student results.
- Coordinate course offerings and time-tabling with the department chairs to minimize conflicts.
- Work with the universities to secure space and other resources for the program.
- Maintain a file for each doctoral student enrolled in the program. The file will contain an up-to-date unofficial transcript, records of standing, the major field/qualifying exam paper and answers, the colloquium paper and thesis proposal, copies of all correspondence regarding the program and its regulations, advisory committee reports, and copies of documents regarding applications for funding.
- File all records concerning standing, progression, and withdrawal with the appropriate university graduate office.

Fields:

- Coordinate field offerings and student enrolment in the fields.
- Work with the chairs to ensure adequate rotation of fields among faculty in the three departments.
- Coordinate the scheduling of oral and written comprehensive exams
- Serve as the repository for field reading lists.
Approve new members to advisory committees or authorize new advisors of theses when necessary.

General

- Chair and call meetings of the coordinating committee and the advisory committees.
- Provide the department chairs with on-going information regarding the program and its decisions.
- Prepare material and replies to OCGS appraisal briefs and represent the program to OCGS.
- Annually submit a written report on the program to the department chairs at each university.

3.3.c The Departments

- Publicize the Tri-University program wherever possible.

- Provide office space to the director on a campus in the city other than that of the director's home university.
- Treat PhD students registered at each campus equally regarding advisory committee membership and seminar space.
- Ensure that PhD students participating in MA seminars in partial satisfaction of their minor field seminar requirements are not in classes of more than 15 students.
- Provide the Tri-University operating budget in total within one month of the start of each fiscal year.
- Support and promote student and faculty activities relating to the program.
- Provide the Director at regular intervals or upon request with reports on new faculty publications.