Bachelor of Humanities

College of the Humanities
Carleton’s GREAT BOOKS program offers a four-year adventure through some of history’s most important ideas, events and works of art.

The Bachelor of Humanities (BHum) is designed for accomplished students who have a passion for reading and discussion and who long for a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

As Canada’s most comprehensive Great Books degree, the BHum offers its students a rigorous and broad education in the liberal arts. Students follow a core curriculum consisting of the most exciting texts, ideas, works of art and religious and political movements from successive historical periods.

Graduates of the BHum program are able to understand today’s global culture, make free and well-informed judgments, and make significant contributions to civic life.

A number of the BHum’s distinctive features give students an advantage as they embark on their chosen career paths. In completing the BHum curriculum, students learn to analyze complex texts and ideas, and they work closely with faculty in acquiring high-level research and writing skills. In weekly discussion groups, students hone their communication skills, and the College organizes career-related events throughout the year—events such as Alumni Career Nights and meetings with College mentors. All these special features give BHum students the skills that are necessary for the following careers (some of which require further training or education).

**CAREERS**
- lawyer
- researcher
- teacher
- international relations officer
- writer
- journalist
- professor
- public servant
- policy analyst
- foreign service worker
- doctor
- business person

**Program of study**

**THE CURRICULUM**
The BHum curriculum invites students to think deeply about what it means to be human by guiding them through the successive conceptions of humanity that have shaped our
The Humanities program has its own teaching and study space. Professors Gregory MacIsaac and Erik Stephenson are seen here leading a class in the College’s 95-seat lecture theatre.

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culture. Students encounter perennial ideals, such as love, justice, creativity and wisdom, as well as the darker aspects of humanity, such as evil, violence, cruelty and the abuse of power.

The centerpiece of the BHum curriculum is a four-year sequence of core seminars that offers a chronological and thematic study of the world’s great books. Whereas many Great Books programs begin with Greek philosophy, the BHum first-year seminar examines religious traditions from ancient Israel, India and China. The second-year seminar then looks at the emergence of Greek philosophy and its fertile encounter with the rise of Christendom up to the Middle Ages. The third-year seminar examines the great artistic and literary works produced during the Renaissance and Enlightenment and the fourth-year seminar explores the character of modernity and the real-world ramifications of the critiques of modernity.

Each core seminar is taught by two professors, includes small discussion groups run by the professors, and is restricted to students in the Humanities program.

In addition to the core seminars, each year includes a carefully integrated set of relevant courses in a variety of subjects, including history, philosophy, literature, religion, classics, art history and the history of music. Students also choose courses from a limited set of electives and from free electives.

Degree programs
Students may choose one of five degree programs: the Honours, the Combined Honours, the Humanities with a Study Year Abroad, the Humanities and Biology degree, or the Journalism and Humanities degree.

The Bachelor of Humanities Honours is the most comprehensive and guided version of the degree. It is designed for students with the broadest interests, and as such includes the highest number of courses specified by the College.

The Bachelor of Humanities with a Combined Honours or a minor allows students to combine Humanities with another subject. Students are free to combine Humanities with any other discipline at Carleton that offers a Combined Honours or a minor, from Philosophy or English to Political Science or Human Rights. Students in this degree program may also study abroad in their third year.

The Bachelor of Humanities Honours with a Study Year Abroad is designed for students who wish to earn credits toward their degree overseas. By specifying that five of the student’s credits are to be taken abroad, this version of the degree offers the student great flexibility in their foreign course choices.

The Humanities and Biology program is designed for students who intend to apply to medical school upon graduation. This Combined Honours program consists of twelve courses in Humanities and eight courses in Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The Bachelor of Journalism and Humanities is for those students who wish to cultivate their love of ideas while training for a career. Students receive professional training in newspaper, radio, television, and new media while gaining an understanding of world culture and history.

A close-knit creative community
The small size of the Bachelor of Humanities program means that the students form an intimate, dynamic community and form lifelong friendships during their four years. Humanities students are also known personally by their professors, receiving a level of attention and personalized instruction that is hard to find elsewhere. The Humanities program has its own precinct at Carleton, consisting of a beautiful lecture hall and seminar room, and a comfortable common room solely for the use of BHum students.
### Study abroad

Many students in the Bachelor of Humanities spend their third year studying abroad. Carleton has exchange programs with universities in England, Scotland, Wales, France, Germany, Finland, Australia and many other countries. The College strongly encourages students to take advantage of the exchange opportunities offered through the International Student Services Office (ISSO). You can visit their website at [carleton.ca/isko](http://carleton.ca/isko) to learn more about cultural exchanges and study abroad programs.

In addition, the College has a special arrangement with the Institute of Philosophy at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, in Belgium, where up to ten students a year may study Philosophy in English, in most cases completing the majority of a Combined Honours degree in Philosophy.

### Cultural and mentor programs

The College also offers both a cultural and a mentor program. The cultural program is organized by a cultural director and Humanities students and includes musical evenings, art displays, poetry readings, a philosophy society, a book club, and visits to see theatre, dance and films.

### Humanities core seminars and courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Year Three</th>
<th>Year Four</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myth and Symbol</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reason and Revelation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Culture and Imagination</strong></td>
<td><strong>Politics, Modernity and the</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>Plato, The Republic</td>
<td>Shakespeare, Hamlet</td>
<td><strong>Common Good</strong></td>
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<td>The Epic of Gilgamesh</td>
<td>Augustine, Confessions</td>
<td>Diderot, Rameau’s Nephew</td>
<td>Hegel, Introduction to the **</td>
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<td>Bhagavad Gita</td>
<td>Dante, The Divine Comedy</td>
<td>Shelley, Frankenstein</td>
<td>Philosophy of History**</td>
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<td>Tao Te Ching</td>
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<td>Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil</td>
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<td>Arendt, The Human Condition</td>
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<td>Foucault, Discipline and Punish</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Classical Mythology</strong></td>
<td><strong>Judaism, Christianity, Islam</strong></td>
<td><strong>Continental European Literature</strong></td>
<td><strong>Science in the Modern World</strong></td>
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<td>Homer, The Odyssey</td>
<td>1 Enoch</td>
<td>Petrarch, The Canzoniere</td>
<td>The Big Bang</td>
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<td>Sophocles, Oedipus the King</td>
<td>Gospel of Thomas</td>
<td>Cervantes, Don Quixote</td>
<td>Plagues</td>
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<td>Virgil, The Aeneid</td>
<td>Mishnah Niddah</td>
<td>Voltaire, Candide</td>
<td>Genetically Modified Organisms</td>
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<td>Ovid, Metamorphoses</td>
<td>The History of Al-Tabari</td>
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<td>Climate Change</td>
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<td><strong>Modern Intellectual History</strong></td>
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<td>Levi, Survival in Auschwitz</td>
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<td>Sen, Identity and Violence</td>
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<td><strong>Early Human Cultures</strong></td>
<td><strong>Art from Antiquity to the Medieval World</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Music 1000-1850</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Seminars</strong></td>
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<td>Levi-Strauss, The Elementary</td>
<td>Prehistoric paintings of Altamira</td>
<td>Bach, St. Matthew Passion</td>
<td>Small research seminars in</td>
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<td>Structures of Kinship</td>
<td>Athens’s Parthenon</td>
<td>Mozart, Symphony No. 40</td>
<td>selected topics led by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan, Ancient Society</td>
<td>The church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul</td>
<td>Beethoven, Eroica Symphony</td>
<td>Humanities professors (vary from year to year)</td>
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<td><strong>Varieties of Religious Experience</strong></td>
<td><strong>Modern European Art 1527-2000</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Music 1850-2000</strong></td>
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<td>Hesse, Siddhartha</td>
<td>Michelangelo, The Sistine Chapel</td>
<td>Wagner, Tristan und Isolde</td>
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<td>The Eiffel Tower</td>
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The above chart gives you a sense of courses common to all versions of the degree, with a representative sample of the works studied in each course.
The College’s mentorship program links students with people from the community such as senior civil servants, diplomats, Members of Parliament, poets, artists and members of the academic community who not only serve as friends and advisors, but also introduce students to the world in which they work.

Language requirement
Students must have a good knowledge of a second language upon completion of the BHum program. At Carleton, students can choose to study a wide variety of languages including Ancient Greek, Latin, French, Italian, German, Arabic, Russian, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, to name a few.

Scholarships
Humanities students are eligible for Carleton scholarships available to all students, including Entrance Scholarships, which are awarded automatically according to a student’s admission average, and Prestige Scholarships, which require a separate application.

In addition, there are three awards available specifically to students in the Humanities program: the Pamela and Richard Joho Bursary; the Lee Valley Entrance Scholarship for a new student; and the Beverly Krugel Scholarship awarded annually to an outstanding student currently enrolled in the College.

Visit the Awards Office website at carleton.ca/awards for all the details.

The capital advantage
Carleton’s location in Ottawa gives students ready access to a wealth of resources. Institutions such as Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Museum of History and the National Gallery of Canada all contribute to the

“By pairing culture and science, I’ve had the chance to learn about the mechanics of the natural world with a deeper understanding. Though my program is challenging, I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

—Aleksander Godlewski, student in Humanities and Biology
cultural advantages of studying in the nation’s capital. Ottawa also has a lively and long-established artistic community offering many opportunities to attend theatrical events, literary readings and musical performances. Many nationally and internationally renowned speakers and dignitaries visit our city and students can hear them speak at public lectures, conferences and in Parliament.

Public Lectures
The College of the Humanities regularly hosts public lectures and seminars so that students can engage with some of the most distinguished thinkers of our times. In recent years, the College has sponsored public talks by the following:

- Ursula Franklin
- Charlotte Gray
- Samuel Huntington
- Mark Kingwell
- Alberto Manguel
- Seyyed Hossein Nasr
- John Ralston Saul
- Margaret Somerville
- Charles Taylor

Admission requirements
For admission to the Bachelor of Humanities program, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Those applying to the Bachelor of Humanities and Biology option must have either Biology (SBI4U) or Chemistry (SCH4U) or an acceptable equivalent. For further information, visit the BHum website at carleton.ca/bhum and click on “How to apply.”

THE PORTFOLIO
In many cases, students must also submit a portfolio to be accepted into the program. For detailed information about whether you need to submit a portfolio, please visit the BHum website.

The portfolio should include:
1) One piece of critical writing between five and eight pages long.
2) A three or four page personal statement.

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM
For information on specific dates and deadlines for the Bachelor of Humanities, visit our admissions website at admissions.carleton.ca.

Visit Carleton University
A tour of our beautiful riverside campus is the best way to get a sense of life at Carleton. You can speak with faculty, visit our teaching and athletics facilities and check out our residences.
BOOK YOUR TOUR
Online: Select a date and time and reserve your tour at carleton.ca/tours

By phone: Call us at 1-888-354-4414 (toll-free in Canada) or 613-520-3663

By email: Drop us a line at tours@carleton.ca

WATCH OUR VIDEO
Learn even more about Carleton by watching our “Discover Carleton University” video. You will get to peek in on a class or two, see some of our students and professors in action, and find out what the city and campus look like. To view this video and others, go to admissions.carleton.ca/videos.

“My Humanities education certainly contributed to where I am today. My curatorial work involves selecting artists for exhibition, both historical and contemporary, organizing those exhibitions and providing the research to back up those ideas, and assessing and growing the Gallery’s Permanent Collection.

A major part of my job is research and analytic writing, and these skills really began for me in those BHum years.”

Catherine Sinclair, BHum/01, is Senior Curator at the Ottawa Art Gallery

“Over the last 12 years, I have helped strengthen electoral processes and legislative and political institutions with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the United Nations (UN) in Croatia, Serbia, Russia, Afghanistan, the West Bank, Kenya, Algeria and Tunisia.

My Humanities degree, through rigorous analysis of primary sources and debate, trained me to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue. The format and size of core seminar courses at the College were perfectly suited to deliberate with colleagues, many of whom are still my friends, with illustrious careers of their own.”

Jean-Noé Landry, BHum/01, is Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach at Open North, a non-profit organization that creates online tools to educate and empower citizens to participate actively in democracy.
Do you want more information? Please contact us at:

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