

Making the Most of Tutorials

In addition to helping you develop your historical skills, learning with others in a tutorial group helps develop interpersonal skills. Provided that you take the trouble to get to know fellow members of your group and your tutor it can also be one of the most enjoyable learning experiences at Queen's. Fellow tutorial members can facilitate the informal exchange of information, books, and reference material. Members can also meet informally at times convenient to themselves. Fellow tutorial students can also provide support should you experience difficulties and fall behind. Many students go through a rough patch at some time, and even the most diligent students can fall behind, overwhelmed by work or family pressures or for reasons beyond their control and at its best the group setting of the tutorials can offer important support.

Tutorial work typically involves three key elements:

1. **preparation:** using the materials provided in the module handout, supplemented by additional reading (**it is anticipated that preparation should take approximately three hours per tutorial**).
2. **participation:** actively and constructively sharing your thoughts and views with others during the tutorial discussion.
3. **interaction:** listening to what others say and responding constructively to it, i.e. being willing to learn from one another.

Remember, attendance at tutorials is an integral element of the module. The more you put into your tutorial work, the more you will get out of it and the more you will enjoy the course.