

OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We recently surveyed our international alumni and asked them what they valued about their experience studying Anthropology and Irish Studies at Queen's. As you will see, their degrees have become stepping stones to some interesting careers.

Here's what they had to say



Xin Lu
China
BA Anthropology (2015)

Belfast is not a busy city like London or Beijing, and, as a result, I had a much more intense sense of belonging there. I love that the Northern Irish students helped me without reservation, whether in my life or in my studies.

My professor Lisette Josephides and my tutor Ioannis Tsioulakis became personal friends. They showed the truth of the saying that "a teacher for one day is a parent

forever." They helped me with my academic language learning in ways that my friends and my teachers in China could not.

Without the experience I gained at Queen's, I would not have received offers of admission from outstanding universities like Cambridge, the LSE and St Andrews and been able to compete against classmates from universities like Yale and Oxford.



Ioannis Tsioulakis
Greece
MA/PhD Anthropology (2006/11)

I first came to Queen's to study for an MA in ethnomusicology in 2005 because it was the only university in the UK which offered an ethnomusicology programme in an anthropology department.

The MA and PhD degrees that I obtained in Anthropology from QUB ended up shaping my career trajectory from music (which was my initial idea) to

academia. Soon after completing my doctorate I was hired as a Lecturer in Ethnomusicology at University College Cork, and two years later as a Lecturer in Anthropology at Queen's University.

I did an MA at SOAS after leaving Queen's and then worked in different positions. I started off doing some TEFL teaching in London, did some tutoring of First year social anthropology students in Darwin (Australia) as well as some anthropological consultancy work for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority there.



Astrid Berner-Rodoreda
Germany
BA Anthropology (1989)

For the last 20 years I have been working for Bread for the World, a German Development Agency, first as a project officer, then Head of the Central and Southern Africa Department and for the last 10 years as the Advisor for HIV and AIDS working closely together with partner organisations in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Anthropology has certainly helped shape the approach to my work. I would not want to miss the degrees.

My experiences at Queen's both in class and at conferences have been applicable to my career path in academia.

Upon returning from Belfast, I began working as an assistant lecturer at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where I taught classes on ethnomusicology and folklore.

I am currently a PhD student at the Freie Universität in Berlin.



Leilani Hermiasih
Indonesia
MA Anthropology (2014)



Chua Soo Pong
Singapore
PhD Anthropology (1979)

I am currently the Senior Consultant of the SIM University in Singapore. As the Founding Director of the Chinese Opera Institute (COI), I have devised, planned, managed and implemented numerous projects to promote Chinese opera in Singapore and overseas, as well as organized international conferences, showcases, and the "Opera in the Park" series.

The COI Performing Ensemble had performed overseas at 58 international festivals worldwide.

Belfast gave me three very happy years and I am proud to be a product of the Social Anthropology Department!



Claire Mason
United States
MA Irish Studies (2011)

The variety of coursework and quality of teaching was truly wonderful. I am now in my second year of coursework at the University of Wisconsin-Madison working towards a PhD in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies where my research focus is an extension of my Queen's MA dissertation.

I would not have the skill set, knowledge, or first-hand experience to feel confident in my research had I not studied at Queen's

I went to law school immediately after obtaining my M.A. from Queen's and have been a practicing attorney ever since.

My Irish Studies degree has not been directly relevant in my line of work, but I have found that, as I have acquired new jobs and new positions, it has been a surprisingly consistent source of interest and quite beneficial to my professional life.



Jill Baisinger
United States
MA Irish Studies (1995)

I enjoyed the flexibility I had in my MA Irish Studies degree and being able to pick which courses would best help me reach my academic goals. I'm now an international student advisor so while the content of my degree program hasn't always been directly applicable to my professional duties, I do find I am able to apply my experience to my job each and every day.



Kathryn J. Kvam
United States
MA Irish Studies (2011)

I frequently rely on my own experience as an international student as I help students in navigating a new education system. The skills I gained from my anthropology course and my dissertation topic on cross-community interactions has been extremely helpful for me as I work with students and faculty from all over the globe.

Why do international students come to Queen's for Anthropology or Irish Studies?

Our three-year BA degree in Social Anthropology provides students with great individual attention and the opportunity to conduct ethnographic fieldwork anywhere in the world.

Our one-year intensive MA programmes limit the time (11 months) and the financial commitment of overseas students. Students in Irish Studies combine literature, ethnography, history and politics. Students in Anthropology produce an independently researched MA Dissertation on a topic of their choosing, while gaining specialised training in one of our five theme areas:

Social Anthropology; Anthropology of Conflict; Anthropology of Ireland; Ethnomusicology; or Cognition and Culture

Every year postgraduate and undergraduate students from around the world come to participate in our exciting international summer schools in Irish Studies or Conflict Transformation.

Belfast is a safe and affordable city with a unique mix of Irish and British urban culture.

Queen's is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and on the island of Ireland. Our BA and MA degrees have proven to be effective springboards for valuable careers or for further study at Queen's and other top UK and North American universities.

For information on scholarships or application to BA, MA or PhD programs in Anthropology or Irish Studies at Queen's, please contact: