

Alumni Profile

Jason Chartrand

BA '13 History

Current Career

Organization: York University

Title: PhD student, History

Career Overview

After earning a Master's Degree in History from the University of York, I decided to continue my studies at York. I am currently working towards completing a PhD. My research focuses on the history of religion, ethnicity and human rights activism in twentieth-century Canada.

How has your King's education helped you get where you are today?

In pursuing my PhD, I continue to refine the skills that I brought with me from my Undergraduate Degree.

During my time at King's, I was a Research Assistant. This helped me get to know the faculty here. I am sure this job had significant impact in helping me win funding in grad school. Academia is competitive – good grades are not enough. You need to balance extra-curricular projects as well. For anyone considering graduate school, make sure you take that into consideration.

The King's network is so valuable. For example, I currently rent my apartment from one of Dr. Ventresca's previous students. I am living in a much better space thanks to the connections I made at King's.

What advice would you give to students who want to pursue a PhD in History?

First I'd say take a methodology course because it will help you immensely. Also avoid catchy topics or areas people are saying all the jobs will be at. Instead, find the areas that interest you the most. Try to balance your interests with some soul searching. Only choose to study an area that you will be happy spending a long time pursuing.

Further Degrees /Certifications

MA in History

York University



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