Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4-year bachelor’s degree in a related program from a recognized university.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average during undergraduate study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing sample.
- Statement of Interest.
- Video documentation of relevant work (if applicable).
- C.V.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements for TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE.

The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores:
- IELTS: 6.5 (minimum band score in each test to 6.0).
- PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 31 to qualify for funding.

What about FUNDING?

Full-time Cultural Studies MA students receive a minimum funding package of $15,000 per year, for two years.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information on external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the Cultural Studies Program.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CULTURAL STUDIES?

Cultural Studies is graduate school reinvented for the 21st century. We are a self-governing, interdisciplinary graduate program for people who want to develop the tools to critically understand the world, and change it. The complexity of contemporary culture means that more than ever before society needs people trained in multiple disciplines, theories, and practices. We work with communities throughout and beyond the university to create new forms and methods of research that could not be done in traditional departments. Our students write plays and curate exhibitions. They travel to Argentina, China and Turkey for their research. They win the highest academic accolades, including Fulbright and Vanier scholarships.

What unites all these diverse research agendas is our passion for social justice. We believe that all our research should in some way be capable of addressing real world problems. Students work with indigenous peoples, artists, students, prisoners and activist groups to bring about social transformation. They also conduct artistic research creation, and present their work in a variety of media. When they graduate, our students have superior intellectual tools and practical skills that will last them a lifetime outside the university.

“I valued the freedom to research what I wanted to research without having to appease the disciplinary sensibilities of a committee who was set in their ways.”
—Shaday Mosunjohn, PhD

Why QUEEN’S?

Comprising 100 students and 90 distinguished faculty from 22 disciplines, Cultural Studies is an innovative and growing interdisciplinary research program for MA and PhD students. Our programs include opportunities for cultural production and community-activist fieldwork as well as alongside traditional academic research. We are also committed to a diversity of students and faculty and to the global expertise that they bring to the cultural and academic fields. Students participate equally with faculty in the program’s governance.

GRADUATE PROGRAM
CULTURAL STUDIES

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Graduate assistantships are available.

Visit the Cultural Studies Program website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master’s of Cultural Studies is offered in 2 patterns:

- Pattern I: 4 full-term courses + CUST-802, and a 10,000-12,000 research essay or a major project.
- Pattern II: 6 full-term courses + CUST-802, and a 20,000-25,000 word thesis or a major project.

RESEARCH Areas

- African Studies
- Asian Studies
- Critical Canadian Studies
- Critical Race Theory
- Diaspora Studies
- Environmental Humanities
- Europe and the Mediterranean
- Film, Media and Visual Arts
- Gender and Queer Theory
- Indigenous Arts and Politics
- Intersectional Relations and the Economy of Culture
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Law, Prison, and Justice Studies
- Museum Studies and Curatorship
- Music and Sound Art
- Postcolonialism and the Global South
- Religion, Culture and Spirituality
- Science, Technology, and Society
- Theatre and Performance
- Urban Studies
**Cultural Studies MA Map**

**Master of Arts (MA)**

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### Achieve Your Academic Goals

- **Consult with your supervisor and confirm which pathway you will be following for your thesis or project.**
- **Complete further coursework if required, and gain ethics clearance for your research if required.**
- **Form your supervisory committee, get your research proposal approved, and begin to research and write your project or thesis.**
- **Consider studying abroad with a Cultural Studies exchange partner.**

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### Intermediate Stage

- **Complete your project or thesis. Submit your thesis or project to the OSPACE archive.**

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### Wrapping Up

- **Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.**
- **Consider publication options for your research.**
- **Attend a major conference in your field, such as those put on by the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies.**

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### What Will I Learn?

A graduate degree in Cultural Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze critically, appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborativeworker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of research and interactions
- Leadership, initiative and vision leading people and discussion

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### Where Can I Go?

A Master’s degree in Cultural Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiries with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and teaching
- Non-profit agencies
- Media
- Museums
- Galleries
- Civil Service
- Publishing houses
- Social policy agencies
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you smooth the transition to the world of work after graduation

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

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*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.*