Ph.D. Map FAQs

What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in Cultural Studies or a related discipline from a recognized university.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Writing sample.
- Statement of Interest.
- Video documentation of relevant work (if applicable).
- C.V.
- Demonstrated proficiency in a language other than English (if needed).
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application deadline: January 31 to qualify for funding.
- Notification of acceptance: March 31.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

How do I find a supervisor?

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

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 them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at meeting with your potential supervisor at the Graduate School of Graduate Studies’ information on PhD studies. For more information, see the FAQs.

What about funding?

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. For incoming student, Queen’s will build experience, and network can help you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

How do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CULTURAL STUDIES?

"I valued the freedom to research what I wanted how I wanted without having to appease the disciplinary sensibilities of a committee who was set in their ways." - Shardon Mosunrijohn, PhD

Why QUEENS’?

Comprising 100 students and 90 distinguished faculty from 22 disciplines, Cultural Studies is an innovative and growing interdisciplinary research program. Our programs include opportunities for cultural production and community-activist fieldwork as options 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.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both “quiet” and “eclectic,” Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Program STRUCTURE

Ph.D. (4 years): 4 full-term courses, qualifying exams, and thesis or project.

Cultural Studies

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A PhD in Cultural Studies can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- 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 have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Public Sector 11%
Health 11%
Management, Business, and Finance 15%
Sciences 17%

Other 6%
Professor 19%
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Cultural Studies PH.D. MAP

**YEAR I**
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Key priorities in the fall and winter include developing a relationship with your supervisor, completing your coursework, and attending the Cultural Studies speakers and workshop series.
  - In the summer, form your supervisory committee and prepare for your qualifying exams.
  - Consider studying abroad with an exchange partner.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Think about audiences for your research.
  - Complete ROMED online module on research ethics if doing research with human or sensitive topics.
  - Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
  - Attend conferences in your field.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Serve on the Cultural Studies steering committee, faculty or university committees. Talk to the program director for tips on getting involved.
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGPS or media outlet like the *Queen's Journal*, CFRG, CTV and the SGSS Blog, look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
  - Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position and the director for tips on getting involved.
  - Participate in the Cultural Studies Student Caucus to develop your skills and experience.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Consider volunteering with community organizations, museums, or cultural studies groups.
  - Participate in the Cultural Studies Student Caucus to give input.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to Do With That?* for advice on various career options.
  - Start reading publications like *University Affairs* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
  - Stay on the lookout for special events like *Graduate Student Career Week* to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Complete your qualifying exams in the fall. Write and defend your thesis or project proposal in the winter. Embark on your substantive research in the summer.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons or Student Academic Success Services.
  - Complete the annual Report Form for your supervisor.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Present your work through professional associations, topic conferences or at graduate conferences such as Undisciplined.
  - Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
  - Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - None for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SSHRC or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like *Material Matters*.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGGS website, and using *Queen's Connects* on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through *Ask an Alumni*. For more information check out our *Career Counseling*.
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- **YEAR III**
  - **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
    - Continue to research and write your dissertation.
    - Check out the SGS *Dissertation Boot Camp* or *Dissertation on the Lake*.
    - Use conference presentations to create and refine thesis or project material.
    - Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons *Publishing workshop*.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Present in a conference.
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
  - List yourself on the *Arts and Science University*.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow. Find opportunities for extra training through CTL.
  - Expand Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.
  - Get help with the *Skills and Experience workshop*.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueensConnects, LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services’ networking workshops.
  - Join professional associations like the *Canadian Association of Cultural Studies*.
  - Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Cultural Studies.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
    - Complete and defend your thesis or project.
    - Archive your thesis or project on QSPACE.
    - Continue to pursue publication options for your research.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholar in your field and with community partners.
  - Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.

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**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

- **Knowledge and technical skills**:
  - in area of specialization

- **Communication**:
  - effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences

- **Information management**:
  - prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information

- **Time management**:
  - meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands

- **Project management**:
  - develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions

- **Creativity and innovation**:
  - to address complex, multifaceted challenges

- **Perseverance**:
  - to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome

- **Independence**:
  - and experience as a collaborative worker

- **Awareness and understanding**:
  - of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity

- **Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions**

- **Leadership**:
  - initiative and vision leading people and discussions

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