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.” - Sharday Mosurinjohn, PhD

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 of the university.

Why QUEEN’S?

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 “quaint” 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

PhD (4 years): 4 full-term courses, qualifying exams, and thesis or project.
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

Cultural Studies

**PH.D. MAP**

**YEAR I**

- 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 ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people 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 outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC TV and the SGGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position 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.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**

- 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 - Student Academic Success Services.
- Complete the annual Report Form for your supervisor.

**YEAR III**

- Complete your research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine your research or project material.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

- Complete and defend your thesis or project.
- Archive your thesis or project on QSPACE.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.

**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

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- 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 outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC TV and the SGGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**SKILLS AND BUILD**

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by beginning to build your skills and experience.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC TV and the SGGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGE**

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

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)**

- 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.

- 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.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of "Expanding Horizons - Student Academic Success Services.
- Complete the annual Report Form for your supervisor.

**A мастерская по специализации**

- 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
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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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 him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at program events for prospective students.

What about funding?

The minimum funding guarantee for Cultural Studies PhD students is $20,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package may be comprised of Queen’s Graduate Awards, Teaching Assistantships, and named internal Fellowships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. For incoming student, Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

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.