



Cultural Studies Ph.D. Map

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

GRAD MAP FOR PH.D. STUDENTS →

How do I USE THIS MAP?

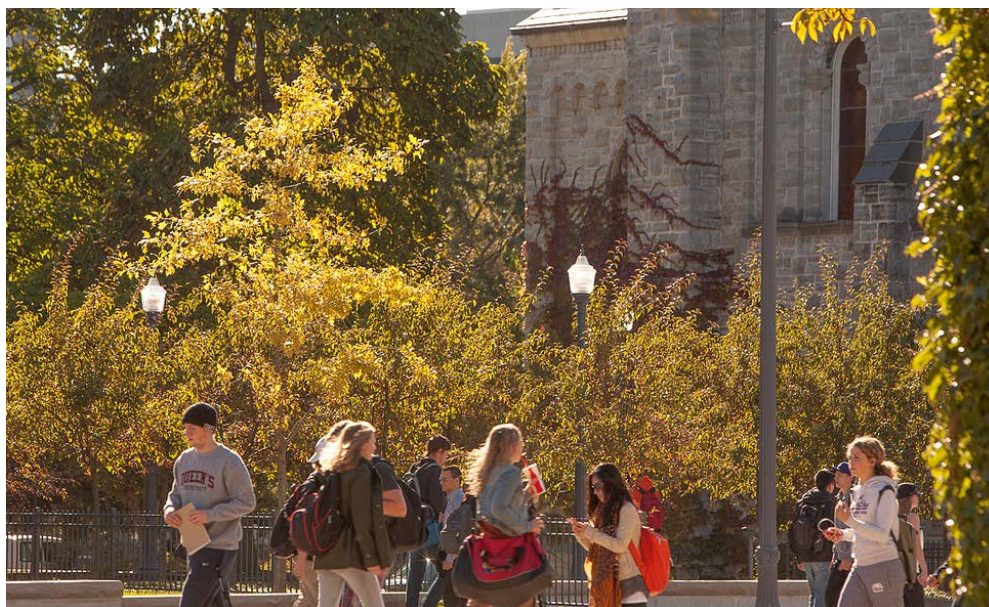
Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone's journey is different – the 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.

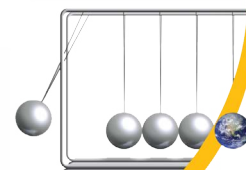
Program STRUCTURE

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

RESEARCH Areas

- Asian Studies
- Critical Race Theory
- Environmental Humanities
- Europe and the Mediterranean
- Film, Media and Visual Arts
- Gender and Queer Theory
- Indigenous Arts and Politics
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Museum Studies and Curation
- Music and Sound Art
- Postcolonialism and the Global South
- Religion, Culture and Spirituality
- Science, Technology and Society
- Theatre and Performance
- Urban Studies

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs



Cultural Studies PH.D. MAP

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

Queen's
175
YEARS

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 [ROMEEO 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](#), [QTV](#) and the [SGS 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 counsellor 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

- 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.

- 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](#).

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL certificate](#) for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like [Material Matters](#).

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](#) on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through ["Ask an Alum"](#). For more information check out [Career Cruising](#).
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR III

- 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](#).

- Continue to present at conferences.
- 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 Research website](#).

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding 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](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#), the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' [networking workshops](#).

- Start putting together your resume and begin your job search plan.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Check out the free online modules at [MyGradSkills](#) to help you plan your career.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

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.

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

- 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](#).

- 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.

- Build connections with faculty outside of your program. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with [job searching, resumes, or interviews](#).
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations.

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

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?

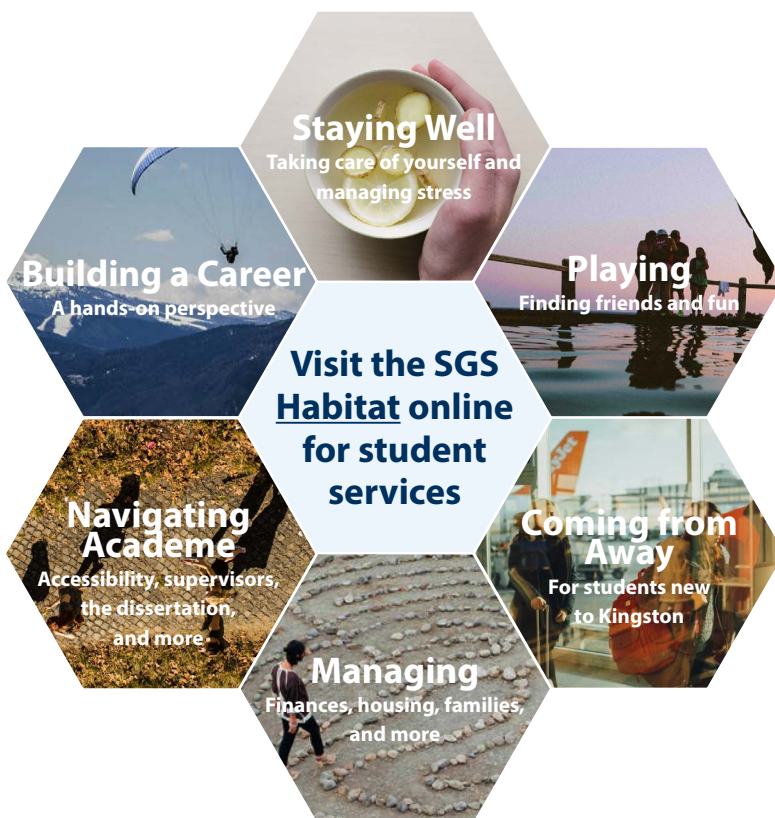
We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

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](#).

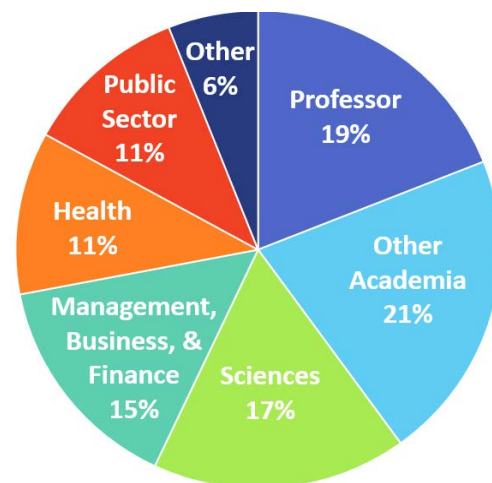


Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

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.



Ph.D. Career Outcomes in Canada

Edge, Jessica, and Daniel Munro. Inside and Outside the Academy: Valuing and Preparing PhDs for Careers. Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2015.



GRADUATE PROGRAM
CULTURAL STUDIES

Cultural Studies Interdisciplinary
Graduate Program
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