Cultural Studies PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS





Cultural Studies is an emphatically interdisciplinary area of inquiry that draws from the humanities, the social sciences, and the arts. It asks practitioners to understand and contend with the paths, places, and people they come from, and to position themselves towards just and imaginative futures.

Cultural Studies researchers investigate cultural processes and objects, technologies, economic and social relations, institutions and identities. The methods and modes of presentation of any given Cultural Studies project are developed to match its goals and to reach the audiences who need to hear it. Thus Cultural Studies scholars produce work in a variety of media and modes, from the monograph thesis to visual art projects, musical and theatrical productions, and community-engaged collaborations.

Why QUEEN'S?

Established in 2009 and comprising over 100 distinguished faculty from over 20 disciplines, Cultural Studies at Queen's is committed to a diversity of students and faculty and to the global expertise that they bring to the cultural and academic fields. We are dedicated to centering antiracist, decolonial, Black, and Indigenous scholarship.

MA and PhD students take courses together in their first year, choosing CUST courses and graduate courses in other departments. Students serve as Teaching Assistants for undergraduate courses across the Faculty of Arts & Science, Research Assistants on grantfunded faculty projects in areas related to their research, and work on curatorial or community projects throughout the university and beyond. When they graduate, our students have superior intellectual tools and practical skills that will last them a lifetime inside or outside of the university. Cultural Studies graduates work in galleries, non-profits, arts organizations, and universities across Canada and beyond.



RESEARCH Areas

Research topics and methods in Cultural Studies are only limited by student ambition and preparation, and the combination of faculty members they can put together to supervise their work. Geographical spaces engaged by our current PhD students include China, Turkey, Cape Breton Island, Toronto, Pakistan, Lebanon, Akwesasne Mohawk Territory, Mexico, and Ghana.

Research Areas our PhD students are currently working in include:

- **Animal Studies**
- Carceral Studies and Prison Abolitionism
- Creative Writing
- Critical Education Studies
- **Critical Race Studies**
- Curation, Museum, and Critical Heritage Studies
- Diaspora and Migration Studies
- **Gender Studies**
- **Environmental Humanities**
- Film Studies and Documentary Film
- Indigenous Arts and Politics
- Music and Critical Sound Studies
- Performance and Visual Art
- Popular Culture
- Political and Social Theory
- **Queer Studies**
- Radical and Independent Media
- **Religious Studies**
- Settler Colonial Studies
- Theatre and Theatre Studies

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. Applicants are required to secure an agreement for supervision before being accepted into the program.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): 4 full-term courses, CUST-902 (Cultural Studies Colloquium), qualifying exam plus thesis proposal defended (comprehensive exams), and thesis or project.

Cultural Studies offers a range of theory, methodology and topics courses. Students are required to complete CUST-803 (Cultural Studies Past & Present) OR CUST-800 (Cultural Studies Theory) plus one additional Cultural Studies course. Students choose the remaining two courses from available courses in CUST and other units from across the university.



Cultural Studies PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



YEAR II YEAR I YEAR III Knowledge & Workplace YEAR IV **ACHIEVE YOUR** Continuing to meet regularly with your · Complete thesis, portfolio, or project. · Complete your qualifying exams in the fall. Complete 4 one-term courses, plus Cultural **ACADEMIC** supervisor, write your dissertation. Check out Write and defend your thesis or project Studies Colloquium (CUST 802/902). Plan date of thesis submission and examination. **GOALS** the SGSPA writing camps, like Dissertation Boot proposal in the winter. Embark on your Meet with your supervisor to discuss program · Work with supervisor to prepare for defence. substantive research in the summer. requirements, resources, research/occupational Use conference presentations to accelerate · Review submission and examination guidelines. Find your way through the academic process goals, and timelines. your writing, meet colleagues, and practice with the help of School of Graduate Studies and Archive your thesis or project on QSPACE · Consider the format of your PhD work: effective dissemination of research findings. Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) and professional monograph thesis or portfolio? What will best development or Student Academic Success If doing community-engaged or artistic match your materials, methods, goals, and research, look for opportunities to exhibit or desired audience? develop public-facing projects. Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to · In the summer, form your supervisory committee discuss progress and career pathways. Begin discussion of potential external thesis and prepare for your qualifying exams. MAXIMIZE RESEARCH Continue to attend conferences and connect Complete CORE online module on research · Continue to present at conferences. If necessary, apply for ethics review (GREB); with scholars in your field and with community ethics if doing research with humans (interviews, consult with others for support. Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis **IMPACT** community work etc.). (3MT) or GRADflix competition. Present your work through professional Continue public outreach through social media · Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding. associations, topic conferences, or at Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance and the Queen's Media Centre. graduate conferences such as Undisciplined. on speaking to news outlets about your work. Attend conferences in your field, even if you are List yourself on the Arts and Science University Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio not presenting. · Expand your research audience through social Research website. show Grad Chat to talk about your research. media or online presence. Take a CUST micro-course to stay in touch with Consider putting an article in The Conversation. Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant others, experience intensive discussion or skill for Doctoral Field Research. BUILD Explore paid or volunteer media work with the • Serve as a Teaching Fellow (TF) in an

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Queen's Journal, Kingstonist, CFRC, blogs, etc.
- Participate in the Cultural Studies Student Caucus or Queen's spaces and initiatives such as Four Directions, Yellow House, etc.
- Check out professional development workshops from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development.
- · Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees, community organizations, etc.
- · Get teaching tips from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, SGSPA professional development, MITACS,
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.

Perseverance

- as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an 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 discussion

WITH YOUR **COMMUNITY**

- Volunteer with a community organizations such as Loving Spoonful, Joe Mills, etc., or involve yourself in activist, artistic, or professional projects outside the university.
- · Serve on faculty or university committees.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, or by organizing conferences.
- Engage with people working in careers of interest, through LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Join professional associations such as the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies.
- Continue outreach to people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Cultural Studies.

appropriate undergraduate program...

• Practice articulating the skills you have been

from casual conversation to contract work,

help from a Career Services workshop.

developing in settings outside the university,

volunteering, networking, and interviews. Get

• If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Career advising and support is available at Career Services through workshops, special events (e.g. career fairs) or appointments with a career coach.
- · Browse University Affairs, Chronicle of Higher Education, and non-academic labour market websites.
- · Start building your teaching portfolio.
- · Explore different careers of interest by using LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- · Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Polish your academic resume and begin applying for academic jobs and post-docs.
- Don't neglect non-academic possibilities. Research organizations of interest and start putting together an "industry" resume.
- Consider speaking with an International Student Advisor, if you are an International
- Find impactful work that aligns with your values using the Queen's Career Guide to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- 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 opportunities to develop skills. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and
- Attend CUST Alumni events to hear what our graduates are doing after Queen's.

Skills 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
- Independence and experience

Career Possibilities

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 nonprofits.

- · Academia and teaching
- · Civil Service
- Galleries
- Non-profit agencies
- Media Museums
- 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.

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the <u>SGSPA website</u> for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. 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.

Application 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
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements of the SGSPA in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application due: January 31
- Notification of acceptance: March 31

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

Late applications may be considered for domestic applicants until June 1. However, January 31 is the deadline to be considered for additional awards and scholarships. Please email the CUST Graduate Assistant for further information if you will be submitting an application after January 31.

What about FUNDING?

Currently, doctoral students are guaranteed minimum funding of \$22,000 per year for 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 more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.



