

# Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies PhD

*Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies*



GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →

## Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SCREEN CULTURES AND CURATORIAL STUDIES?

Housed in the state-of-the-art [Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts](#), the new PhD in Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies is unique because of its linkage of adjacent disciplines: film and media studies and, more generally, the study of screen cultures, film and media production, and curatorial studies and practice. This multidisciplinary and professionally-oriented program provides students with a wide range of course options and professional opportunities, including academia, arts management, programming, media production (from mainstream media, to artistic and activist production), and curation.

## Why QUEEN'S?

The program's three strongly interconnected areas of focus – studies, production, and curation – are designed to stimulate creative dialogue in ways that ensure their mutual and respective influence, and in ways that open exciting points of access to multiple disciplinary formations not offered in any other film, media, cinema or communications PhD program in Ontario.

Visiting scholars, filmmakers, artists, and curators in the core professional development course provide opportunities for practice-based learning, integrating new knowledge gained from other graduate level course work, and implementing some of their newly acquired skills in and beyond the gallery, festival, and museum.

Exhibition space is available to students at the Art & Media Lab in The Isabel Bader Center and the Union Gallery to accommodate curatorial projects.

The program is also uniquely offered in partnership with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre (AEAC), a university and public art museum with physical display space paralleled by an active online program presence. The slate of courses offered by this partnership provide robust opportunities to participate in and benefit from experiential, applied learning.



## Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full-time). Three core courses + two elective courses + qualifying exam + dissertation/project.

The structure of this program is designed to maximize flexibility allowing students to do traditional academic research, engage in creative and/or community projects and develop professional profiles suitable to a wide variety of academic and non-academic career pathways.

Visit the [Film and Media 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 and related experience.

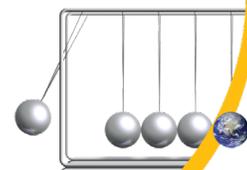


## RESEARCH Areas

- Feminist, Critical Race, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ Screen Cultures
- National Cinemas, Cultural Institutions and Curatorial Events
- Moving Image Production (Narrative, Documentary, Experimental, Animation, and Open Media)
- Curatorial Studies
- Film, Media and Performance Studies
- Archives, Curation and Remediation
- Historical and Contemporary Film and Media
- Experimental Media



School of Graduate Studies  
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# Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies PHD MAP \*

DOCTOR OF SCREEN CULTURES AND CURATORIAL STUDIES (PhD)



## YEAR I

## YEAR II

## YEAR III

## YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities in the fall and winter include completing your coursework, and attending the Research Seminar and Workshop with visiting artists and academics.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, and timelines.
- With your supervisor begin your list of required readings for your Qualifying Exam.

- Complete your Qualifying Exam. 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](#).
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the [SGS writing camps](#), such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Submit dissertation for supervisory review.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

- Present your work through professional associations, topic conferences or at graduate conferences.
- 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.

- 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](#).

- 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.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies to go on Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider putting an article in [The Conversation](#).

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on the department steering committee, faculty or university committees. Talk to the student caucus for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#).
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- 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 SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Consider exhibiting your work at the Agnes Etherington Arts Centre or attending the events at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multicultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with community organizations, museums, and arts centres around the country.
- Participate in the workshops offered by the Film and Media Department as well the Agnes Etherington Arts Centre to learn more.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, or by organizing conferences.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- Join professional associations like the [Film Studies Association of Canada](#).
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Film and Media.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a [Career Services workshop](#) or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to do With That?* or *The Academic Job Search* from the Career Resource Area 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 School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

- Start building your teaching portfolio.
- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- Start putting together your resume and begin your job search plan.
- Attend industry fairs and job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- 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, and interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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

- **Knowledge and technical skills** in multiple forms for diverse audiences.
- **Learn how** to create innovative, interdisciplinary, and informed media.
- **Study more** about historiography; research-creation; archives and exhibition; on-line curation; digital media practice; images, activism, and the real; animation theory and practice.
- **Independence** and experience 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.

### WHERE CAN I GO?

A PhD in Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies will give you a solid foundation to take your career in many directions, such as:

- Academia and teaching
- Non-profit agencies
- Media
- Museums
- Galleries
- Film production
- 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.

# 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 SGS professional development framework and the new [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) 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 [SGS website](#) 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

- MA or MFA degree from a recognized university in film or media studies or cognate fields (e.g. communications, cultural studies, film and media production, visual art, art history, popular culture).
- Minimum grade of A- in MA or MFA.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrated proficiency in a language other than English (if needed).
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application deadlines are posted on our How to Apply page, here: <https://www.queensu.ca/filmandmedia/graduate/how-apply>

## What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies PhD students is \$18,000 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. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#).



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