Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4-year bachelor's degree in a related program from a recognized university.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average during undergraduate study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing sample.
- Statement of interest.
- Video documentation of relevant work (if applicable).
- CV
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL IBT: Writing (24-30), Speaking (22-30), Reading (22-30); Listening (20-30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 31 to qualify for funding.

What about FUNDING?

Full-time Cultural Studies MA students receive a minimum funding package of $15,000 per year, for two years.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one-time $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal awards and scholarships

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CULTURAL STUDIES?

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.

“Cultural Studies hosts a lively community of scholars, artists, and activists with a broad array of interests and creative practices. The ability to build an international research-creation project allowed me to integrate my research fields with my practice.”

- Zaira Zarza, PhD 2015

GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS

Cultural Studies is an innovative and growing interdisciplinary research program for MA and PhD students. 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.

Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master’s of Cultural Studies is offered in 2 patterns.

- Pattern I: 4 full-term courses + CUST-802, and a 20,000-25,000 word thesis or a major project.
- Pattern II: 6 full-term courses + CUST-802, and a 10,000-15,000 research essay or a minor project.

RESEARCH Areas
- African Studies
- Chinese Studies
- Critical Canadian Studies
- Critical Race Studies
- Curation and Museum Studies
- Dance, Theatre and Performance
- Diaspora and Migration Studies
- Education, History, and Culture
- Environmental Humanities
- Ethnographic Methods
- European Studies
- Film and Visual Arts
- Gender and Queer Theory
- Globalization Studies
- Health and Sport Studies
- Indigenous Arts and Politics
- Indigenous Ecologies
- International relations and the Economy of Culture
- Islamic Studies
- Law, Prison and Justice Studies
- Latin American and Hispanic Studies
- Memory Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music and Sound Studies
- Popular Cultures
- Postcolonial Theory
- Poverty, Welfare and Politics
- Quebec Studies and Canadian Francophonies
- Religion, Culture and Spirituality
- South Asian Studies
- Surveillance Studies
- Urban Studies

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 and related experience.