

Graduate Studies FAQs

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.

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 HABITAT](#) 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.
- 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 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 31st to qualify for funding.
- **Notification of acceptance:** March 31st.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

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. Queen's will automatically issue a \$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](#).



GRADUATE PROGRAM
CULTURAL STUDIES

Graduate Assistant
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Cultural Studies PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →

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.



Why QUEEN'S?

Comprising over 100 students and over 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.

RESEARCH Areas

- African Studies
- Asian Studies
- Critical Canadian 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
- Law, Prison, and Justice 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

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

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."

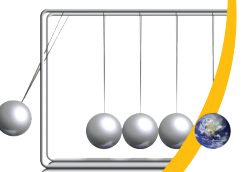
- Zaira Zarza, PhD 2015

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.

Program STRUCTURE

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

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



Cultural Studies PhD MAP*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online [My Grad Map tool](#).