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).
- C.V.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the
- requirements set by the School of Graduate Studies
- which includes evidence of English proficiency.

The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (internet-based): 80; IELTS: 6.5.

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

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources.

What about FUNDING?

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

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

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CULTURAL STUDIES?

Cultural Studies is a 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, student 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

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 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 10,000-12,000 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

What is the community like?

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover on 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.

Queen’s is the perfect destination for students who wish to integrate my research fields with my practice.

- Zaira Zarza, PhD 2015

To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Where can I get help?

We welcome students from all disciplines who are interested in integrating my research fields with my practice.

- Zaira Zarza, PhD 2015

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 WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Cultural Studies can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritizes, organizes and synthesizes 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
- Perseverance
- 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
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A Master’s degree in Cultural Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in academic and teaching:

- 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.

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**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.*