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)
• CV
• Demonstrated proficiency in a language other than English (if needed).
• If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the minimum language requirements of the Graduate and Professional School of Studies (GPSS).
• TOEFL (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 Academic: 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. Teaching Assistantships, and named internal Fellowships.

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.
WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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

- **Knowledge and technical skills**: Effectively communicating 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**: Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.
- **Leadership**: Initiate and vision leading people and discussion.

WHERE CAN I GO?

A PhD in Cultural Studies can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 4% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- **Academia and teaching**: University, Public schools, Private schools.
- **Media**: Broadcast, Print, Online.
- **Museums**: Museums, Art Galleries.
- **Civil Service**: Federal, Provincial, Municipal.
- **Publishing houses**: Academic, Trade, Independent.
- **Social policy agencies**: Federal, Provincial, Municipal.

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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

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*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.