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 that are 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

• Film, Media and Screen Cultures
• Experimental Media
• Moving Image Curatorial Studies
• Moving Image Production (Narrative, Documentary, Experimental, Animation, Open Media)
• Film, Media and Performance Studies
• Historical and Contemporary Film and Media
• Archives, Curation, and Remediation
ACQUIRE 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.

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.

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 SGS, 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.
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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.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Careers 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.

2020-2021
Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies
PHD MAP

DOCTOR OF SCREEN CULTURES AND CURATORIAL STUDIES (PhD)

YEAR I

- Complete your Qualifying Exam. Embark on your substantive research in the summer.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of the ‘Expanding Horizons’ or Student Academic Success Services.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.

YEAR II

- 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.

YEAR III

- 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.
- 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.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- 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 for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
- 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.
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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

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A 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 careers.
- Learn how to create innovative, interdisciplinary, and informed media.
- Study more about historiography; research-creation; archives and exhibition; on-line curation; digital media practices; 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.

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

* 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.

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

• 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 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 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.