

# Cultural Studies MA Map

*Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies*



GRAD MAP FOR MA 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 more than 140 students and over 120 distinguished faculty from 20 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**

Cultural Studies offers 2 options for the masters degree:

**2-year, thesis based MA:** four full-term courses, CUST-802 (Cultural Studies Colloquium), plus a 20,000-25,000 word thesis OR a major project (CUST-899).

**1-year, course based MA:** four full-term courses, CUST-802 (Cultural Studies Colloquium), plus completion of the Professional Development Certificate and Capstone Course (CUST 850).

Cultural Studies offers a range of theory, methodology and topics courses (see Courses of Instruction section for descriptions). Students are required to complete CUST-803 (Cultural Studies Past & Present) plus one additional Cultural Studies course. Students choose the remaining two courses from available courses in CUST and other units.

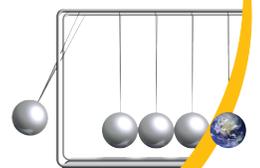
- Health and Sport Studies
- Indigenous Arts and Politics
- Indigenous Ecologies
- International relations and the Economy of Culture
- Islamic Studies
- Law, Prison and Justice Studies
- Latin American and Hispanic Studies
- Memory Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music and Sound Studies
- Popular Cultures
- Postcolonial Theory
- Poverty & Welfare Politics
- Québec Studies and Canadian Francophones
- 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.

## **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

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[www.queensu.ca/sgs](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs)



The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2020-2021. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Regularly attend the Cultural Studies Colloquium (CUST 802/902) to learn about the scope of Cultural Studies research.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the [SGS Habitat](#).

- Consult with your supervisor and confirm which pattern you will be following for your thesis or project.
- Complete further coursework if required, and gain ethics clearance for your research if required.
- Form your supervisory committee, get your research proposal approved, and begin to research and write your project or thesis.
- Consider studying abroad with a Cultural Studies exchange partner.

- Complete your project or thesis. Submit your thesis or project to the QSPACE archive.

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.
- Attend guest lectures on related topics from across campus - be curious, and learn what others are thinking.
- Think about who will serve on your committee, and attend one of their lectures

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as [UnDisciplined](#), the Cultural Studies graduate symposium.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Complete an Annual Progress Report Form with your supervisor.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a [Grad Chat](#) to discuss your research interests.

- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as those put on by the [Canadian Association of Cultural Studies](#).
- Consider putting an article in [The Conversation](#).

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#) for more ideas.
- Serve on the [Cultural Studies Steering Committee](#), one of our Standing Committees, or other university committees. Talk to the student caucus for tips on getting involved

- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider an application to the Experiential Learning Project Fund or the FAS or SGS Student Initiatives Fund.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as [Martha's Table](#), or [Loving Spoonful](#).
- Join the [Cultural Studies Student Caucus \(CSSC\)](#) to give input.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, or by organizing conferences.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).
- Consider diversifying your experience by participating in an international exchange program.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Canadian Association of Cultural Studies](#).
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

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

- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out [Career Cruising](#) for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your C.V. or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

## 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:** 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**
- **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:

- 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.

# 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

- 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.
- Personal Statement (1-2 pages, double spaced) in which you describe your academic, artistic, activist and/or professional background, and why you are interested in pursuing an MA in Cultural Studies at Queen's.
- Video documentation of relevant work (if applicable).
- C.V.
- 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.

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

## What about FUNDING?

Full-time Cultural Studies receive a minimum funding package of \$15,000 in their first year; a second year of funding is provided for students accepted into the thesis stream.

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 government tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#), or see what awards are offered through the Cultural Studies Program.



GRADUATE PROGRAM  
CULTURAL STUDIES

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