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 Master’s 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 are not offered in any other film, media, cinema or communications Master’s 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

MA (1 year, full-time). 3 mandatory courses + 2 elective courses + Thesis or Project (The MA thesis should be finished and defended before a committee within the year).

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.

The MA thesis requirement can take the form of a written thesis; or a media work, curatorial project, or video essay, each with a complementary written component.

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

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.
Getting Started

- Key priorities in the fall and winter include completing your coursework, and attending the Research Seminar and Workshop with visiting artists and academics.
- With your supervisor begin your list of required readings for your thesis research.

Intermediate Stage

- Consult with your supervisor and confirm which pattern you will be following for your thesis or project.
- Form your supervisory committee and begin to research and write your project or thesis.
- Consider volunteering in museums, galleries and arts events to expand your work connections.

Wrapping Up

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

Maximize Research Impact

- Think about audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference or think about displaying your work outside the university.
- Gain valuable research experience by attending the events hosted by our partners, such as the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Thousand Islands Playhouse, the Bloor Street Culture Corridor, Hot Docs Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Vulnerable Media Lab.

Build Skills and Experience

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS902, 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.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in Teaching and Learning.

Engage with your Community

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- 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.
- 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.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, or by organizing conferences.

What Will I Learn?

A graduate 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 audiences.
- Learn how to create innovative, interdisciplinary, and informed media.
- Study more about historiography: research creation; archives and exhibition; on-line curation; digital media practice; images, activism, and the real; animation theory and practice.
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
- Awareness, an understanding of ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity.
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions.

Where Can I Go?

A Master’s in Screen Cultures and Curatorial Studies can take your career in many directions, such as:
- Academia and teaching
- Non-profit agencies
- Media
- Museums
- Galleries
- Film production
- 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.

* 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.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- BAH or BFA 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).
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average during undergraduate study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- 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 Department of Film and Media provides financial support for MA students. The current minimum level of funding is approximately $16,000 for the academic year. Financial support is derived from a combination of internal and external awards and teaching assistantships. 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 award to incoming Master's students who have won federal government Tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships.