

# CULTURAL STUDIES

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## Purpose and Philosophy

Cultural Studies is an emphatically interdisciplinary area of inquiry that intersects the humanities, science studies, social sciences, and the arts. Its researchers theorize the forces that shape the lived reality of people in the 21st century.

Drawing on a range of practices, researchers investigate values, cultural processes and objects, economic and social relations, institutions and identities.

What distinguishes Cultural Studies from other approaches to the study of culture is its recognition that no single disciplinary approach can get at the complexity of cultural forms and its emphasis on power, social justice and social change.

Necessarily self-reflexive, Cultural Studies draws on a range of methods and critical theories. It offers opportunities to break down conventional divisions between academia and activism, between theoretical critique and cultural production.

Comprising over 100 distinguished faculty from over 20 disciplines to offer an innovative program at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels, Cultural Studies at Queen's is committed to a diversity of students and faculty and to the global expertise that they bring to the cultural and academic fields.

Our goal is to create an intellectual environment that combines a high level of academic scholarship and an ongoing meaningful engagement with cultural issues relevant to local and global communities.

## Financial Support

The Cultural Studies Program offers support for each full-time student during the first two years in the masters program and the first four years in the doctoral program. Financial support is derived from university scholarships and research and teaching assistantships.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for the national and provincial awards listed earlier in this calendar. Attention is drawn to the submission dates for these awards, which normally fall well before the deadline for applications to the Cultural Studies Program, e.g. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Fellowships in October and Ontario Graduate Scholarships in January.

## Fields of Research

The program integrates the range of theoretical and practical approaches used within Cultural Studies, and fosters scholarship in both historical and contemporary fields of

research. The Ph.D. program has been designed around four field areas and offers a project component that allows those who choose to do so to develop their cultural practice (e.g. filmmaking or curating) or to engage in work in the community as part of their studies. Graduates will be prepared to continue in academic work or to work as critically engaged citizens in a variety of cultural environments. The four fields offered in the PhD program are:

1. Communication, Media and Technologies
2. Globalization, Nationalisms and Cultural Citizenship
3. Social Movements
4. Bodies and Identities

It is our intention that analyses of class, race, and gender, alongside other primary axes of social difference and inequality, will pervade all teaching and research conducted in these fields.

## Language Requirements

Students will be encouraged to gain facility in a language other than English that pertains particularly to their own scholarly and career interests. Where facility in a language is necessary to research in the candidate's field, the student will be required to acquire it. In such cases, the requirement will be determined by the student's supervisory committee. In such cases, students will be required to pass a language proficiency test before being allowed to undertake their field work.