

CULTURAL STUDIES

Purpose, Philosophy, and Practice

Drawing from a range of theories, practices, and methods, Cultural Studies 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.

Necessarily self-reflexive, Cultural Studies draws upon 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. Cultural Studies scholars make deliberate choices in bringing together appropriate combinations of object of study, method, and theoretical framework. Research-Creation, Community-based Research, and/or Indigenous knowledge frameworks are central to many projects in our program.

The format of Cultural Studies theses varies accordingly.

While many students write a monograph-style thesis with a sustained argument, others present their work in a portfolio format, in which components in different modes, media, and/or voices complement each other and may reach towards audiences outside academe. All theses must clearly describe and discuss their research questions, academic contexts, and reasons for choice of format and approach, and specify the results and their implications for academic research.

Comprising over 100 distinguished faculty from over 20 disciplines, 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.

Cultural Studies at Queen's aims to create an intellectual environment that combines a high level of academic scholarship and meaningful engagement with cultural and political issues relevant in local and global contexts. It is our expectation that awareness and analysis of class, race, and gender, alongside other axes of social difference and inequality, will pervade all teaching and research conducted in our program.

Financial Support

The Cultural Studies Program offers support for each full-time student during the first two years of the master's program and the first four years of 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 elsewhere in this calendar.

Language Requirements

In cases where a language other than English is deemed necessary to a student's research, the supervisory committee may require the student to pass a language test or otherwise demonstrate proficiency before defending their thesis proposal.