



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

# CULTURAL STUDIES: TEXTS AND CULTURES (MA)

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**The Master of Arts (MA) in Cultural Studies: Texts and Cultures is intended to give students an excellent grounding in cultural, literary, and textual studies.**

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This course-based MA offers a variety of courses that will introduce students to critical issues in the study of literary and textual cultures. Central to the field are the questions of what constitutes a text and how some texts come to be valued over others and how questions of value relate to the distribution of power and authority. Topics are studied in a seminar format.

Information about specific faculty research interests can be found on the Cultural Studies website at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/cultural-studies> and on the faculty member's home departmental website.

The expected time to graduate is 12 months (full-time) or 24 months (part-time); maximum is 3 years.

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## SAMPLE CAREERS

This program is ideal preparation for students interested in pursuing further graduate work at the PhD level in English and Cultural Studies (among other related fields), as well as for those interested in pursuing careers in secondary-school teaching, publishing, management, marketing, and other careers in communications and cultural industries, where MA degrees are increasingly valued

## SAMPLE COURSES

**Topics in Cultural Theory** These courses focus on such questions as: What constitutes a text? How do some texts come to be valued over others? How do questions of value relate to the distribution of power and authority? How do social differences such as race, ethnicity, class, and gender shape and unsettle cultural production and consumption over time?

**Topics in Visual Cultures** The study of visual cultures is a particularly active field of inquiry in contemporary Cultural Studies. The study of images and representation is a central interest in the field of visual cultures, drawing on approaches from art history and film studies, cultural and literary studies, theories of performativity, and new media studies. The field of visual cultures examines the cultural construction of the visual in the arts, media, and everyday life, and encourages critical engagement with various theories of seeing. Possible topics of investigation include comics and graphic narratives; illustrated books; film, television, and internet narratives; historical and contemporary visual and/or performing arts; and digital new media.

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**Topics in Genders, Sexualities, and Cultures** These courses focus on such issues as: the relationship between feminist theory, queer theory and literary and cultural production; the impact of queer theory on historical considerations and contemporary understandings of sex, gender and sexuality; the continued relevance of feminism and feminist theory to questions of gender and sexuality; and the development and circulation of terms such as "homosexual" and "heterosexual" and concepts such as "masculine" and "feminine," categories that have a fundamental impact on how we organize and understand cultures, subjectivities, and knowledge.

### **MORE SAMPLE COURSES**

- **Topics in Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures**
- **Topics in Cultures of Childhood**
- **Topics in Local, National, and Global Cultures**
- **Research Methods and Practice**

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### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants should have an Honours or 4-year BA in English or in a field that provides preparation in cultural, literary or textual studies (e.g. History, Rhetoric & Communications, Political Science, etc.). Other degrees and/or experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

English Requirement (if applicant's first language is not English): A minimum TOEFL iBT score of 100, with a score of at least 22 on the writing and speaking components, or an IELTS score of 7.5. The test must have been taken within two years of the date a completed application is filed.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

1. Complete the online application form: <https://oa2.uwinnipeg.ca/OnlineAdmissions/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fOnlineAdmissions>
2. In addition to the completed application form, the following must also be included with the application:
  - a. Transcripts are required from ALL recognized, post-secondary institutions attended, whether or not a degree has been awarded. For initial assessment purposes only, copies of unofficial transcripts (uploaded to your application) are acceptable and preferred. Official transcripts will only be required if you are recommended for admission. All official transcripts are to be sent directly from the post-secondary institutions. If the final transcript does not show a completed degree, an official/notarized copy of your diploma is also required.
  - b. Supply two letters of recommendation and reference forms from individuals familiar with your academic work.
  - c. Provide English language requirement (where applicable). Official test scores must be forwarded directly to the Graduate Studies Admissions Office from the testing agency. For initial assessment purposes only, copies of test scores (uploaded to your application) are acceptable and preferred.
  - d. Supply a statement of interest of 500 words, which includes a brief description of your undergraduate training, your reasons for applying to this program, and your areas of research interest in cultural studies.
  - e. Include an academic writing sample, preferably an essay from a recent course with the instructor's comments, written in English. The committee will also consider supplementary materials.
  - f. Other supporting documents include: scanned copies of name change (if applicable), an academic resumé and proof of permanent residency (if applicable).
  - g. Official documents should be sent to the Graduate Studies Admissions Office, The University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3B 2E9.

**Start date** for the program is in September.

**Deadlines** to submit a complete application package, including all supporting documents: Canadian applicants – January 15; International applicants – December 15

### **CONTACT US**

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**W: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/cultural-studies>**

**Graduate Studies Admissions Office**  
**P: 204.786.9309**  
**E: [gradstudies@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:gradstudies@uwinnipeg.ca)**

In any case where the Academic Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.