Degrees Offered
MA, PhD

Career Options
Both of our programs provide a gateway to a wide variety of career choices. Our alumni hold key positions in media industries, strategic communications, policy, regulation and public affairs, and with cultural agencies and NGOs. Many of our PhD graduates hold positions as university professors across Canada and internationally.

Application Deadline
February 1, to be considered for funding

Admission Requirements
Applicants without a background in the field at the master’s or PhD levels may be required to take additional coursework to meet admission requirements.

MASTER’S: You will need at least a BA (Honours) in communication, or a related discipline, with at least a B+ or equivalent. Applicants may need to take designated undergrad courses in Communication Studies.

PhD: The normal requirement is a master’s degree (or the equivalent) in communication, or a related field, with an overall average of A- or better.

Carleton’s Master of Arts in Communication analyzes critical questions that shape our communication, media and information flow in today’s complex society. Faculty and students grapple with the big questions of communication including those relating to communications policy, the economics of media and constructions of social identity.

We offer tools for thinking about how to live in a complex world characterized by connections and misconnections, by institutions, laws and practices that determine how we use and interface with media, and by technologies that act as platforms for expressions of identities and as objects for policy. Working with other graduate students in a collegial environment, students work closely with faculty on a range of research projects. Past thesis topics range from American Sign Language, micro-blogging in China, radio use by Toronto Tamils and film in Zimbabwe.

We offer a range of courses organized around broad themes and theoretical traditions as well as subject-specific topics of contemporary interest. We also offer specializations in African Studies, Climate Change and Data Science.

Our PhD program builds on the essential analytical and research skills developed at the master’s level. We also offer a specialization in Political Economy at the doctoral level.

One of the most wonderful things about pursuing my degree in the Communication department is the collaborative environment. All of the faculty are not just incredibly skilled, but also supportive. This is a department that will support, challenge, and encourage you every step of the way throughout your degree.

— Joanne Farrall, PhD Candidate

carleton.ca/communication