

Canadian Studies

The School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies is centred on a shared commitment to engaging with the history, the ongoing legacies and the enduring structures and practices of settler colonial violence in Canada and to fostering new directions for Indigenous thought and critical Canadian Studies. In our departmental interactions as well as in our teaching and our research, we seek to create a welcoming space of listening and of mindful, mutually respectful and generous dialogue.

In our MA in Canadian Studies and our PhD program in Canadian Studies (run jointly with Trent University), students can take courses in Indigenous studies, critical Canadian studies and heritage conservation. Our Indigenous studies courses teach about traditional and emerging Indigenous ways of knowing, ethical research practices conducted for and with Indigenous communities, the experience of colonialism and the processes of resurgence and reconciliation. Heritage conservation theory and practice courses provide students with an opportunity to critically examine definitions of heritage, why it matters, whom it serves, and who makes decisions as to what is conserved, bridging critical heritage studies and

sustainable conservation, with a special emphasis on place and urban settings. Other courses cover settler colonial theory and practice, the politics of race-making, cultural politics and memory, social movements, nationalism and nation-branding in Canada and Quebec, and emergent research methods. In many of our courses, students will have the opportunity to explore non-traditional forms of research.

Our students benefit from the concentration of experts and institutions working on these issues in the nation's capital. They develop the interdisciplinary and ethical research methods, and innovative ways of thinking, required to pursue intellectually, politically and ethically sophisticated lines of inquiry.

Faculty and Student Research Areas Include:

- Indigenous Studies and the North
- Heritage Conservation
- Collective memory and commemoration
- Cultural studies and policy
- Critical nationalism

Degrees Offered

MA, PhD

“The School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies provides a supportive and academically rigorous environment in which students are encouraged to explore and pursue a variety of research interests. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of SICS, I was surrounded by accomplished and innovative scholars working in such fields as visual culture, gender studies, Indigenous studies, settler colonial studies, and affect. These fields all inform my current research projects. I feel that I have grown so much as a scholar in SICS, and have recommended the MA and PhD program to many friends and colleagues!”

— Charlotte Hoelke, PhD/19



Career Options

Our students grow to understand issues that are critical to Canada now and in doing so are equipped to grapple with the issues that will face us in the future. Their intellectual adaptability and capacity to navigate real-world ambiguities have led to careers in heritage conservation and planning, Indigenous affairs, cultural policy, education, consulting, and many other sectors.

Fall Application Deadline

February 1, in order to be eligible for funding for both the MA and PhD programs

Admission Requirements

MA: An honours bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in one of the disciplines represented in the school with an average of B+ or higher. Special consideration may be given to applicants interested in the Indigenous Studies and the North research area who have extensive knowledge of the North or Indigenous peoples.

PhD: A master's degree, or equivalent, in Canadian studies or a closely related field with a minimum average of A- in courses, including the thesis (where applicable) and with no grade below a B+.

Contact Info

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