

Indigenous and Canadian Studies



The School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies (SICS) pursues new directions in Indigenous studies, engages with the history, ongoing legacies, and enduring structures of settler colonialism in Canada, and advances critical scholarship on Canada. In its teaching and research, the School fosters a welcoming space of mindful, mutually respectful intellectual engagement. In the SICS MA and PhD programs (the latter run jointly with Trent University), students can take courses in Indigenous Studies, critical Canadian Studies, and heritage conservation.

Indigenous studies courses teach about traditional and emerging Indigenous ways of knowing, ethical research practices conducted for and with Indigenous communities, the experience of colonization, 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, what it conserves, and who decides these questions. They blend critical heritage studies with sustainable conservation practice, emphasizing urban settings and the particularities of place.

Canadian Studies courses cover settler colonial theory and race-making, cultural politics and memory, social movements, nationalisms, and nation-branding in Canada and Quebec. Students

explore traditional and emergent forms of knowledge and research methods.

Students in SICS courses benefit from the School's connections with experts and institutions working on all of these issues in the nation's capital. They learn interdisciplinarity, ethical research methods, and innovative ways of thinking to develop intellectually, politically, and ethically sophisticated lines of inquiry.

Faculty and Student Research Areas Include:

- Indigenous Studies
- Settler Colonialism
- Critical heritage, conservation and sustainability studies
- Public memory and commemoration
- Canadian cultural studies
- Nationalisms in Canada

Degrees Offered

MA, PhD

Career Options

Our students engage with issues that are critical to contemporary Canada. In doing so they learn to navigate ambiguities and complexities empirical, moral, and philosophical. Their intellectual training leads them to careers in Indigenous affairs, cultural policy, heritage conservation and planning, consulting, and many other sectors.

Fall Application Deadline

February 1, for both the MA and PhD programs, in order to be given priority consideration for funding.

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 Indigenous or Northern Studies 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).

Contact Info

613-520-2366
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“ I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies for my graduate studies. The School is home to incredible scholars and its critical and interdisciplinary focus pushes students to pursue in-depth research without being constrained by traditional academic boundaries. I recommend the School to any student who wants to be challenged and supported as they engage in advanced critical research. ”

— Lindy Van Vliet, PhD 2021