Cultural Studies

Major description

Gain a unique grounding in questions of identity, power, diversity and justice from global perspectives.

Cultural Studies explore identity and social roles while challenging the dominant assumptions of who and how we are in relation to others. Dive into topics such as power and identity; cultural expression such as television, film, advertising, literature, art, and video games; and social practices such as shopping, cell phone use, and social justice movements.

Program highlights

Cultural Studies provides an education for students that integrates their daily experiences and the world around them. The program organizes a number of events each year, including the Annual Cultural Studies Speaker.

The Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies run the AMP Lab, which houses projects that engage the work of the humanities, adding value to cultural artifacts through interpretation and analysis in a digital context.

Your career options

Cultural Studies prepares students to live in a world where writing, reading, coding and decoding are skills in high demand. Secure a career in a field such as marketing, advertising, publishing, or cultural studies.

Visit the Cultural Studies webpage and scroll down to the “Your Career Options” heading for more employment information.

Getting Started

First-year standing

Explore the Cultural Studies program by visiting the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) website or reviewing the Academic Calendar. Learn more about your major requirements by visiting the Degree Navigator webpage and reviewing the First-Year Planning Guides.

Book an appointment with an advisor to discuss program or career-related questions. Find the advisor that is right for you by reviewing advising options available.

Visit the Student Learning Hub throughout your degree for free supports from peers and professionals that include tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing.

Moving Through Your Degree

Second-year standing

Declare the Cultural Studies major on the Student Service Centre (SSC) or the web during the registration period between June and mid-September after completing a minimum of 48 credits.

Explore more FCCS undergraduate studies options to add a minor or find unique courses to fill your elective requirements.

Meet with an instructor or TA during office hours: ask a question, discuss an assignment, or go over lecture material.

International Students: Contact International Student Advising to review your study status.

Considering further education? Find graduate programs at UBCO and beyond. Research application requirements, admissions information, and funding options.

Moving Through Your Degree

Third-year standing

Explore a topic of interest in depth by participating in FCCS Undergraduate Research Award to support your research under the supervision of a FCCS faculty member.

Explore co-op opportunities to strengthen your skills and build your work experience by applying to the Co-operative Education Office. Applications open in September to students with 3rd year standing or higher.

Study abroad by participating in a Go Global program such as exchange, faculty-led global seminar, or research abroad.

Receive training and support to help develop career and employment readiness by participating in the Arts Career Apprenticeship Program.

How to use the Program Plan:

Tuurn est! This Program Plan is designed to help shape your UBC experience, challenge yourself to try new things, and become the person and scholar you want to be to help make your time at UBC Okanagan yours. The Program Plan offers suggestions - you don’t have to do it all!

The Program Plan includes four categories:

• Explore the Major: Explore what you’ll be studying and learning. Make connections between your program and future career or education opportunities and goals.

• Connect and Build Community: Making connections will help develop your support network throughout your studies and beyond.

• Develop Skills and Gain Relevant Experience: Expand your capacity to understand the changing world and embrace different perspectives by seeking out new experiences and opportunities.

Legend

Experiential Education opportunities are highlighted with a symbol. Plan ahead! Statements highlighted with a symbol must be completed during a specific term(s) or have an associated deadline.

Undergraduate Programs and Admissions: you.ubc.ca
Explore Experiential Education
Participate in hands-on, immersive learning experiences.

Explore high-impact, “learn-by-doing” experiences that take your education beyond the classroom. Whether on- or off-campus, paid or volunteer, participating in directed experiences and focused reflection helps to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and build your capacity to contribute to your communities.

Experiential Education opportunities are highlighted with a symbol. Most opportunities highlighted below can be pursued at any time. Opportunities with timelines or deadlines are noted with a symbol.

Getting Started:
Explore new opportunities and interests.

New to UBC?
- Participate in orientation and transition programming to connect with other students and get involved in the campus community.
- Find on-campus events to meet new people and get involved with the campus community using the Events Calendar.
- Meet a Student Connector at Student Connect for help with navigating campus and to learn more about the opportunities available at UBC Okanagan.
- Follow @UBCOSstudents on Instagram for campus tips, opportunities, and event updates.
- Attend a Heat Varsity Athletics game. Admission is free with your student UBC card.

Connect your experiences
Whether you’re new-to-UBC or nearing graduation, reflect on the questions below to help connect your values, interests, and education to your future career or personal goals. Practicing reflection can help deepen your learning, strengthen your connections, and encourage life-long learning. These reflection questions are meant to help you build a UBC Okanagan experience that is unique to you.
- What are your hopes for the future?
- What are your goals for the next five years?
- What kind of career are you interested in after completing your degree?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What are some challenges you have faced and how did you overcome them?
- How will your experiences at UBC Okanagan affect your future career?
- What are you looking for in your future career?

Using the Program Plan regularly throughout your time at UBC to build an experience that is fulfilling and rewarding.

Connect & Build Community

Use the Events Calendar to find on-campus opportunities for personal and professional development.
- Connect with the Academic & Career Development team for support with exploring opportunities that will help you achieve your career or education goals.
- Looking to volunteer, intern, or gain work experience? Assess what experience you have and fill any gaps by participating in Career Development workshops and finding opportunities on the Student & Alumni Job Board.

Develop Interests and Broaden Perspectives:
Get more involved and build your skills and connections.

Branch out, get involved in student life, and have fun by joining a student association like the UBC Cultural Studies Student Collective to meet peers and participate in events and activities.
- Build your connections to the community by attending FSS events and workshops.
- Build your networking skills with alumni working in careers in your desired industry by using Ten Minutes to Success and LinkedIn or by attending career events and workshops.
- Commuting? Visit Colleges spaces on campus to relax, study, and socialize with others.
- Planning to live on campus? Apply to join a Living Learning Community.

Immersive Experiences: Take part in unique opportunities and programs. Find ways to immerse yourself in your experiences.

Use the Program Plan regularly throughout your time at UBC to build an experience that is fulfilling and rewarding.

Learn about UBC’s commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous initiatives.
- Explore course options and electives that broaden your own perspectives and worldviews.
- Learn about programs and supports available through the Equity & Inclusion Office.

Engage Locally & Globally

Learn about UBC’s commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous initiatives.
- Explore course options and electives that broaden your own perspectives and worldviews.
- Learn about programs and supports available through the Equity & Inclusion Office.
- Participate in cross-cultural initiatives organized by the Global Engagement Office (GEO) to increase cultural awareness and grow professionally.
- Get involved with Student Union Okanagan (SUDO) resource groups:
  - Indigenous Peoples Collective (IPC)
  - Peer Support Network (PSN)
  - Pride Resource Centre (PRC)
  - Women’s Resource Centre (WRC)
  - Sex Positivity Centre (SPC)

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