

# CULTURAL STUDIES PROGRAM

6200 Horizon Hall  
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-2851  
Website: [culturalstudies.gmu.edu](http://culturalstudies.gmu.edu)

The Cultural Studies Program is distinctive in several respects. While similar programs at other universities are based in a department, the program at Mason has a truly interdisciplinary foundation, drawing on faculty members from 14 different departments across the university. The program explicitly links the social sciences and the humanities by combining their methods of interpretation to explore the production, distribution, and consumption of cultural objects in their social contexts. With particular focus on theory and method in crafting this linkage, the program addresses contemporary issues of nationality, class, race, and gender and opens the scope of scholarly inquiry to all forms of culture, past and present.

## Undergraduate Programs

Cultural studies does not have an undergraduate program, but supports the interdisciplinary undergraduate program in global affairs as well as a special topics course in cultural studies. CULT 320 Globalization and Culture (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) is a core requirement for students majoring in global affairs. CULT 390 Topics in Cultural Studies is a course whose content will change from offering to offering and may be of special interest to global affairs majors.

## Graduate Programs

The doctoral program in cultural studies trains students for scholarship and teaching. The core curriculum includes an introduction to cultural studies and a methods course, as well as courses on political economy, gender and sexuality, critical race studies, science and technology, social institutions, and visual and performance culture.

All students develop field specializations in two areas of cultural studies. The particular strengths of the program are visual culture, media, and new media studies; political economy and globalization; and gender and sexuality studies.

## Related Master's Degrees

Applicants to the doctoral degree in cultural studies must already hold a master's degree. Students interested in pursuing the PhD in cultural studies at Mason who do not meet this requirement might wish to consider one of the related master's degrees at Mason (anthropology, English, history, foreign languages, philosophy, and sociology). The required master's degree may be taken from any institution of the student's choice.

## Funding

The program offers teaching assistantships and fellowships, which are awarded on a competitive basis. Other sources of funding such as grants, loans, and employment on campus are also available. Students awarded assistantships must register for a minimum of six credits a semester and show satisfactory progress toward their degree.

## Faculty

### Program Faculty

#### Professors

Denise Albanese (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/dalbanes/>)  
Roger N Lancaster (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/rlancast/>)  
Alison Landsberg (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/alandsb1/>)  
Paul Smith (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/psmith5/>)

#### Associate Professors

Tim Gibson (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/tgibson1/>)  
Jessica Scarlata (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/jscarlat/>)

#### Assistant Professors

Hatim El-Hibri (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/helhibri/>)  
Alexander Monea (<https://culturalstudies.gmu.edu/people/amonea/>)

## Programs

- Cultural Studies, PhD