African Studies

Carleton University
Canada's Capital University
The continent of Africa is not only the birthplace of humanity, but is also perhaps the most culturally and geographically diverse continent on earth. It was once the home of great empires, most famously the Empire of Mali (1235 AD - 1645 AD) where the great city of Timbuktu flourished as a trading centre. It has also produced sophisticated cultures and societies, like that of the San-speaking peoples of the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa who have developed livelihoods under the harshest of conditions.

From this continent have also emerged such great writers as Wole Soyinka (Nigeria), Ngugi wa Thiong’o (Kenya), and Nadine Gordimer (South Africa); such famous actors as Lupita Nyong’o (Kenya), Charlize Theron (South Africa), and Chiwetel Ejiofor (Nigeria); award-winning filmmakers like Sembène Ousmane (Senegal) and television comedians like Trevor Noah (South Africa); such internationally recognized musicians as Papa Wemba (Democratic Republic of Congo), Akon (Senegal-USA), and Angélique Kidjo (Benin); international athletes such as Didier Drogba (Côte d’Ivoire), Luol Deng (South Sudan), and Genzebe Didaba (Ethiopia); celebrated Canadian cultural producers such as K’naan (Somalia-Canada), Esi Edugyan (Ghana-Canada), and Shad (Kenya-Rwanda-Canada); and athletes like Jarome Iginla (Nigeria-Canada).

The African diaspora has also provided powerful voices speaking out in literature and film about racism, gender relations and Africa’s troubled historical and current relationship with the West—a relationship still stinging from the legacies of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and colonialism. Today, it is the current struggles with poverty, poor political leadership, HIV/AIDS and civil wars that overshadow outside perceptions of the continent. The African Studies program will offer you a window into this rich and diverse continent and an opportunity to study its histories, cultures and cultural productions, geographies, politics and economics.
The Institute of African Studies

The Institute of African Studies at Carleton University provides an exciting, interdisciplinary environment in which students can complete a Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours or General) degree, a minor in African Studies, or a specialization in the Bachelor of Global and International Studies. As students learn about different aspects of Africa, they are guided by professors from multiple disciplines with substantial experience in the field.

Students in these programs can benefit from a work placement opportunity and the chance to study in Africa through an African Studies Abroad course in May or at one of the African universities with which Carleton has exchange agreements. The Institute of African Studies regularly organizes public lectures and conferences, drawing speakers from the many non-governmental and governmental organizations in Ottawa that work in Africa, as well as experts from Canada, Africa, and elsewhere, allowing students to gain from these diverse experiences and sources of expertise.

The Carleton advantage

Carleton University has one of the highest concentrations of Africanist scholars in the country, with nearly 50 professors from all faculties affiliated to the Institute. It also has exchange relationships with African Universities, including the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; the University of Ghana in Legon (Accra), Ghana; and the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Carleton also has a number of active Africa-focused student groups which organize a variety of events.

The capital advantage

As Canada’s capital, Ottawa is home to many governmental and non-governmental organizations involved with African issues, all of the African embassies and high commissions and a number of archival and library sources relevant to African studies. Since Ottawa is the hub of Africa-related activity in Canada, Carleton is able to draw an impressive list of guest speakers and provide students with rich volunteer and internship opportunities.
The Institute of African Studies has been incredible for giving me diversity within my education. The interdisciplinary requirements mean that I have a fuller understanding of Africa from multiple academic perspectives. The professors’ passion for Africa and size of the department offer unique learning opportunities. The Institute offers such a personalized experience as well; all of my classes gave me the chance to get to know professors and ask lots of questions. I have been lucky to participate in the study abroad course (AFRI 3100) that went to South Africa to learn about Healthcare and now have done an exchange year and the placement course with a professor at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The opportunities and experiences are endless!

Choosing the right program

Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours)

The Combined Honours program requires 7.0 credits in African Studies in addition to the requirements of the other discipline. A language requirement is also needed for this program. In addition to taking introductory Foundation courses, second-year courses in some of the regions of Africa and intermediate third-year thematic African Studies courses, students will choose courses in African history, politics, anthropology, literature and culture, and wider political, economic or cultural contexts before finishing with a capstone seminar in African Studies and an Honours seminar in an African studies topic.
Students in the Combined Honours program will have the opportunity to do a work placement with one of the many institutions in Ottawa working on African issues, or in Africa, as well as taking the African Studies Abroad course in the May term.

**Bachelor of Arts (General)**
The General program requires 6.0 credits in African Studies. In addition to taking introductory Foundation courses, second-year courses in some of the regions of Africa and intermediate third-year thematic African Studies courses, students will choose courses in African history, politics, anthropology, literature and culture, African diaspora, and wider political, economic or cultural contexts.

Students in the General program will have the opportunity to do a work placement with one of the many institutions in Ottawa working on African issues, or in Africa, as well as taking the African Studies Abroad course in the May term.

**Bachelor of Global and International Studies (Honours Specialization)**
The Honours Specialization requires 7.5 credits in Africa and Globalization, in addition to the 4.5 credit core course sequence in the degree. A language requirement is also included in this program.

Students will take introductory Foundation courses, second-year courses in some of the regions of Africa, intermediate third-year thematic African Studies courses, and an African experience course either as a work placement with an institution working on African issues, or through taking the African Studies Abroad course in the May term. Furthermore, students will choose courses in African history, politics, anthropology, literature and culture, and African Diaspora, as well as an Honours seminar in an African Studies topic and a capstone seminar in African Studies.
Minor in African Studies
The minor program requires 4.0 credits in African Studies, to be completed along with the requirements of your major discipline. Students will take introductory Foundation courses, second-year courses in some of the regions of Africa and intermediate third-year thematic African Studies courses. Students will choose courses in African history, politics, anthropology, and literature, culture, and diaspora studies.

Your first-year experience
First-year Seminars
First-year BA and BGInS students are strongly encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. Our First-year Seminars will get you away from the lecture hall and give you the chance, in a small class of no more than 30, to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors. You will also get early and frequent feedback on class assignments and instruction in research, writing and study skills. Although some FYSMs count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a FYSM in your major discipline.

Future opportunities
Workplace
African Studies prepares you for a wide range of careers including international development, foreign affairs, humanitarian aid work, journalism, policy analysis, research, education and business.

Graduate studies
Graduates of our Combined Honours BA program or our Honours BGInS program may go on to graduate studies in fields as diverse as those that contribute to this multidisciplinary program, such as political science, history, economics, sociology, anthropology, international affairs, cultural studies, geography and literature.
If you think that you may wish to pursue an advanced degree, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early and discuss your plans with faculty members to ensure that your program is suited to meet the relevant graduate-level requirements.

**Professional programs**
Many professional programs, including law, education and journalism, encourage well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds to apply. African Studies provides a strong foundation for a number of professional programs and you are encouraged to pursue interests you may have in these fields after completing an undergraduate degree.

**Admission requirements**
For admission to the Bachelor of Arts, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. These six courses must include 4U English (or Anglais). For the Combined Honours program, you must also meet the admissions criteria of the other Honours program you seek to enter jointly with African Studies.

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment.

Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary. Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

**For more information**
...about African Studies, please visit carleton.ca/africanstudies or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc.
Do you want more information?
Please contact us at:

**Institute of African Studies**
Carleton University
439 Paterson Hall
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6
Canada
Tel: 613-520-2600 x2220
Fax: 613-520-2363
Email: african_studies@carleton.ca
Website: carleton.ca/africanstudies

**Undergraduate Recruitment Office**
Carleton University
315 Robertson Hall
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6
Canada
Tel: 613-520-3663
Toll-free in Canada: 1-888-354-4414
Fax: 613-520-3847
Email: liaison@carleton.ca
Website: admissions.carleton.ca

This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.
For more information on all of Carleton’s undergraduate programs, visit

admissions.carleton.ca

where you can browse program descriptions, career possibilities, and electronic versions of all of our program guides. You can also check out financial aid options, book a tour, sign up for our monthly newsletter, watch Carleton videos, and connect with us on social media.

You may also wish to consult our current

Admissions Viewbook

We look forward to hearing from you!