Canadian Studies
The Canadian philosopher John Ralston Saul noted that Canada’s “strange peculiarities” make the country unique, exciting, complex and a “perpetually incomplete experiment.”

As a Canadian Studies student at Carleton University, you will examine this constantly changing country, discovering more about yourself in the process.

Drawing on disciplines such as art and architecture, literature and language studies, history and politics, sociology and religion, Indigenous studies and women's studies (to name only some of the relevant areas), the Canadian Studies program at Carleton encourages new ways of exploring Canada and the diverse peoples, places and practices located within its boundaries.

The Carleton advantage
Canada’s first Institute of Canadian Studies was developed at Carleton University more than 50 years ago. And like the country it studies, the Institute has continually reinvented itself. Now known as the School of Canadian Studies, our courses incorporate new knowledge and approaches in order to understand the creative tensions that diversity brings to this land.

Today our program embraces the concepts of “critical nationalism” and the “creative tensions of diversity” to explain how Canada keeps evolving. With faculty expertise in Indigenous studies, anthropology, cultural studies, heritage conservation, history, politics and women’s and gender studies, you will gain a well-rounded perspective that will help you develop your own understanding and explanation of Canada.

The School of Canadian Studies also houses the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture—the first university chair in Canada to specialize in this area. This provides students with the expertise of a world-renowned scholar in Aboriginal studies, and the Annual New Sun Conference, organized by the Chair, exposes them to an unparalleled wealth of Aboriginal research and practices.

The capital advantage
Carleton University’s location in the Canadian capital, Ottawa, provides an important source of stimulus and support for both faculty and students interested in Canada.

Institutions such as Library and Archives Canada, the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Supreme Court of Canada and Parliament Hill, provide unique resources for research and opportunities for internship placements.
Choosing the right program
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours)

The School of Canadian Studies at Carleton offers an interdisciplinary program leading to a three-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) General degree, a four-year Honours BA degree or a four-year Combined Honours BA degree.

You will be required to complete a core program designed to encourage an understanding of Canada in all its diversity, from a number of perspectives that are integrated through an interdisciplinary approach. At each level, there are courses offered directly by the School of Canadian Studies.

In addition, other departments offer courses with substantial Canadian content. The School of Canadian Studies encourages you to take some of these courses, based on your own interests. This will enrich your unique program of study and the credits can count towards your degree. You are encouraged to consult with your professors regularly. The intimate nature of the School ensures that you get to know your professors as they will help you develop your understanding of Canada.

Mention : Français
You may earn a Mention : Français notation on your records. To do so, you must complete part of your requirements in French and demonstrate a knowledge of the history and culture of French Canada.

Genevieve Richard,
fourth-year student in Canadian Studies and Political Science

I chose to study Canadian Studies at Carleton because of my interest in Aboriginal issues. More specifically, I am interested in issues of resource management in the Arctic and its impact on different Aboriginal groups. I am incredibly passionate about the Canadian Studies program at Carleton because it is small and you are able to choose classes that fit closely to your personal interests at an early stage in your degree. The School is made up of an amazing group of instructors and support staff that truly care about their students and who are extremely knowledgeable on a diverse number of topics.
Core program in Canadian Studies

Students are encouraged to take either the full-credit course *Introduction to Canadian Studies* or the two half-credit courses *Ottawa: Exploring National Institutions* and *Introduction to Canada and the World*. *Introduction to Canadian Studies* will introduce you to the interdisciplinary study of Canadian society and culture. Topics include Indigenous Peoples, languages and ethnicity, race, technology, immigration, arts and culture, economic development, the environment, regionalism, religion, gender, sovereignty, Quebec and English Canada, and foreign relations. *Ottawa: Exploring National Institutions* offers an interdisciplinary examination of Ottawa, looking at its history, evolution, and role as Canada’s capital, and *Introduction to Canada and the World* offers an introductory examination of interdisciplinary themes, ideas and debates related to Canada and its place in the world.

If you do not take the introductory courses listed above, you may enrol in one of the Canadian Studies First-year Seminars—FYSM 1406, 1409 or 1600—which would count as your required first-year credit in Canadian Studies. The requirement may also be met by taking other 1000-level or FYSM courses approved by the School of Canadian Studies.

In your second year of Canadian Studies, you will conduct a more in-depth examination of key debates that have shaped the nature of Canada. Other courses introduce you to Indigenous issues, a critical examination of nationalism, and heritage conservation. You may also explore Canadian culture and the relationship between English and French Canadian cultures.

Third-year courses introduce you to Canadian Studies research methods. You may study Canada’s technological progress, the cultural identity of Canadians and Indigenous Peoples, and the knowledge economy. You may also take courses on Quebec studies, feminism in Canada, and the role of diversity in shaping Canada.

In your fourth and final year, you will take a capstone seminar where you will be able to apply your analytical and research skills to practical, collective research projects. You can also select courses on popular culture, cultural landscapes, communities in Canada, and Indigenous health and healing. A “Directed Studies” course allows you to explore an area of individual interest under the supervision of one of your professors.
On-the-job experience
As a fourth-year student, you will have the opportunity to take a practicum course that provides you with hands-on work experience in an institutional setting.

Additional courses
In addition to your program core courses, you will be required to take additional credits in Canadian areas of study. You can choose from a wide range of courses available at Carleton and you can consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc for the complete list of courses.

You may also take University of Ottawa courses with significant Canadian content as part of your degree, though you need the permission of the undergraduate supervisor in the School of Canadian Studies to include them in your program.

Two minors
If you are studying in another discipline but have a strong interest in Canadian issues, Carleton offers a minor in Canadian Studies or in Indigenous Studies.

Language requirement
As a Canadian Studies student, you will also need to meet a language requirement for graduation, either by taking a French or Indigenous language course or by demonstrating proficiency in French or an Indigenous language.

Your first-year experience
First-year Seminars
As a first-year Bachelor of Arts student at Carleton, you are strongly encouraged to take a First-year Seminar. Experienced instructors teach small groups (a maximum of 30 students) and provide early and frequent feedback on class assignments and instruction in research, writing and study skills.

Although some First-year Seminars count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a First-year Seminar in your major discipline. If you do decide to take a First-year Seminar in Canadian Studies, you have the choice of the following three First-year Seminars:

How Ottawa Works: Exploring National Institutions
This course (FYSM 1406) investigates the sites of government public-policy making and the arts in Canada's capital. Field trips to important Ottawa institutions are an integral part of the course.

Social Change in Canada
This course (FYSM 1409) is an interdisciplinary analysis of social change and how people change Canada, through
an examination of movements like environmentalism, feminism, peace and anti-racism. In a small group setting and under the direction of an experienced faculty member, you will acquire skills in writing, research and analysis, as well as oral presentations.

Contemporary Controversies in Canadian Society
This course (FYSM 1600) is designed to introduce you to the study of Canadian society. Through readings, films, discussion and analysis, you will examine a number of key social issues that are facing Canadians today. Topics include crime and social control, racism, education, gender and sexuality, poverty and homelessness, aging, death and dying, and the family. For each topic, both the historical and contemporary dimensions will be examined. Course material will be drawn from a range of disciplines including history, sociology, literature and political science.

A sample first year
■ 1.0 credit in Introduction to Canadian Studies
■ 1.0 credit in any First-year Seminar
■ 3.0 credits in electives

Future opportunities
The workplace
Canadian Studies students graduate with a broad, interdisciplinary perspective on Canada, its people, and its central issues. With a firm grounding in a range of approaches across a number of research areas, you will be prepared for a variety of career possibilities.

This program provides an excellent basis for employment in fields such as government service, education, law, museum and archival work, public administration, politics and journalism.

Graduate programs
Graduates of our honours programs are generally well qualified to go on to graduate studies in a variety of fields including Canadian studies, political science and history. Carleton offers a graduate program in Canadian Studies, which draws students from across the country and around the globe.

If you think that you may wish to pursue an advanced degree, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your program is suited to meet the relevant graduate-level requirements.
Professional programs
Many professional programs, including law, teaching and journalism are interested in attracting well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds. A strong knowledge of Canada and an ability to explain Canada from an interdisciplinary perspective complements knowledge gained from traditional disciplines.

Admission requirements
For admission to the Canadian Studies program, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Your 4 U/M courses must include 4U English (or Anglais).

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 Carleton’s Canadian Studies program, please visit our website at carleton.ca/cdnstudies or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc.

Cara Des Granges,
fourth-year student in Canadian Studies and Political Science

I transferred into Canadian Studies after taking an introductory course that explored a wide range of topics relating to Canada, such as art, politics, history, literature and even hockey! Throughout my degree, the School of Canadian Studies has provided me with opportunities inside and outside the classroom, helping me discover new things such as designing a museum exhibit and publishing an academic article. It has also given me the necessary skills needed to compete and succeed in the job market; I have worked for the Library of Parliament, as a research assistant for the government, and as a teaching assistant for the department.
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!