

Cultural Studies at Trent

Cultural Studies is a deep, critical dive into modern culture that will help you to uncover the hidden politics of everyday life, including opportunities to peek into how culture intercepts many aspects of professional life through the co-op stream. As a student, you will gain the tools to critique and create cultural objects and practices – everything from games to graffiti, print to painting, and music to film. You will study culture by reading, talking, and doing, taking lecture and workshop courses in literature, fine art, media, and theory. And you will ask (and seek answers to) the questions about how culture shapes our lives, and vice versa.

These explorations can take place both in the classroom and beyond – through the Cultural Studies Co-op program, you will take these tools, theories, and thinking into workplaces across three paid work terms to investigate contemporary culture and political dynamics in environments from corporate to creative.

Cultural Studies Co-op

Co-op is an opportunity for students to gain work-integrated experiential learning that will help them get a head start on their career. The Cultural Studies Co-op assists graduating students in achieving a competitive edge while generating experience within a wide range of sectors. Specifically, co-op gives the students a chance to obtain 12 months of practical experience on the job, develop or enhance technical skills, explore career options, network with a variety of individuals and organizations, learn from mentors, enhance communication and presentation skills, and develop technical writing skills.

Cultural Studies Co-op is a competitive direct-entry program with a limited number of spaces.

Program Requirements for Admittance into Co-op:

- Minimum 80% cumulative average
- ENG4U with a minimum of 60%

To remain in the co-op, students must:

- Successfully complete the required Co-op courses: COOP 2000H with a grade of 70%+ and COOP 4000H with a grade of 65%+
- Maintain a minimum 75% cumulative average throughout their study terms
- Complete three co-op work terms (COOP 2100P, 3100P, 4100P)
- Receive satisfactory evaluations during each of their work terms

Cultural Studies Co-op Work Term Schedule

	Fall	Winter	Summer
Year 1	Study Term 1	Study Term 2	Study Term 3
Year 2	Study Term 4	Study Term 5	Work Term 1
Year 3	Study Term 6	Study Term 7	Work Term 2
Year 4	Work Term 3	Study Term 8	

CULTURAL STUDIES CO-OP

All co-op students are encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor for degree mapping and to ensure they are meeting all their program requirements. You can book an appointment on the Student Experience Portal (trentu.ca/sep) or by calling 748-1011 ext. 1488.

Please Note: Co-op is meant to prepare students for the real-world job application process and as such, the co-op process is competitive and dependent upon many factors including market conditions, the student's efforts to secure a work term, and the academic performance of a student. Every effort is made to find suitable co-op work terms for students, but a work term opportunity cannot be guaranteed for every student. Co-op students will secure positions through successful participation in the co-op interview process and/or their own job search activities. It is preferred that no more than two of the three work terms are with the same employer. Withdrawal from the co-op program will not normally be approved while a student is on a work term.

Students who are unable to obtain a suitable co-op opportunity in an upcoming work term are expected to continue with their academic program on a full-time basis. A missed work term can be made up. If a co-op student is unable to complete three work terms yet otherwise fulfills degree requirements, they will be awarded an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies.

Students do not pay tuition during each work term. Students are required to pay co-op fees plus ancillary fees and levies. The Co-op Assistance Program is available to support students in financial need with co-op expenses. For more information, please reach out to coop@trentu.ca.

International Students As of April 1, 2026, international post-secondary students no longer need a co-op work permit to participate in a mandatory work component of their study program. To be eligible for student work placements, you must have a valid study permit that includes authorization to work on campus. For full eligibility requirements and updates on working in Canada as an international student, visit [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/2023/06/working-in-canada-as-an-international-student/).

Students with Disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please contact sas@trentu.ca for more support.

Sample Work Term Areas for Cultural Studies:

- Arts & Culture
- Community Engagement
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Libraries, Museums & Archives
- Media & Communications
- Social Services

Potential Career Paths for a Cultural Studies Graduate:

- Museum Director
- Communications Director
- Art Critic
- Exhibit Designer

