

ATLANTIC CANADA STUDIES, MA

Department Website: <http://www.smu.ca/academic/arts/acs/welcome.html>

Saint Mary's University offers an interdisciplinary program in Atlantic Canada Studies (ACST) that integrates the teaching and research expertise of a number of faculty members from various Departments in Arts, Commerce and Science.

There are sound intellectual and practical reasons for pursuing an interdisciplinary program of regional studies. It offers a unique combination of social-scientific and cultural-historical perspectives. The program takes an interdisciplinary approach to three areas of specialization:

1. the culture,
2. political economy, and
3. resource development of the region.

Students learn to apply the conceptual perspectives and analytical tools of one or more academic disciplines in their research and study.

There are particular advantages to an interdisciplinary approach to further study. This applies, for instance, to people employed by government at various levels. It also applies to:

- managers in public and private enterprise
- members of the teaching profession
- business people
- policy makers
- individuals whose occupation requires them to deal with:
 - social,
 - economic,
 - political, or
 - cultural problems.

For many of these people, a broad understanding of the region's political economy and culture is vital.

The general requirements for the Master's degree apply to the graduate program in ACST.

Admission Requirements

The MA in Atlantic Canada Studies follows the general admission requirements and procedures (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as outlined in the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar. In addition, normal qualification for entry into the two-year Master's program is an honours degree in ACST, or an honours degree in another discipline with substantial course content relevant to ACST, or a degree which the ACST Committee deems to be equivalent (i.e., to include at minimum a grade point average of at least B in the candidate's final sixty (60) credit hours taken at university). At the discretion of the Committee, a student may be admitted to the program subject to the prior completion of such qualifying work as the Committee shall prescribe. Once the student has embarked full-time on the Master of Arts program, the normal goal is completion within 24 months, although in some cases

thesis work may extend beyond this time period. The degree may also be taken through part-time study.

For the minimum and maximum time-for-completion of the MA in ACST see the table associated with FGSR Academic Regulation 19 (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/program-study-research/>) of this Academic Calendar.

Financial Support

Full-time students admitted to the program may be eligible for funding administered by Saint Mary's University. Funding recommendations are made by the program. All successful applicants are automatically considered for graduate funding. Students are encouraged to apply for external scholarships.

Program Requirements

Note: Students not registered in any course work but working on their Program/Thesis must register in Program Continuation (Prog Registration/Continuation (FGSR 9000)) for every semester (including summer) in which they are in their graduate program.

See the FGSR Program Requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) in the Graduate Studies Academic Calendar and below.

The ACST Coordinator will work with all Master's students from the earliest stages of their participation in the graduate program to determine the area of a thesis topic and to select a thesis supervisor. The thesis supervisor will be the Graduate Faculty Advisor for the duration of a given student's participation in the program.

For the Master of Arts in ACST, all students must complete an acceptable thesis. It is not possible to satisfy the requirement for a thesis by means of extra course work.

Students are expected to produce a thesis which shows both originality and the analytical-critical skills of sound research and interpretation. The topic must deal directly with an Atlantic Canada subject matter.

All students must present and defend a thesis proposal before the ACST Committee and ultimately a thesis before a Thesis Examining Committee. This Committee consists of a thesis supervisor, the ACST Graduate Studies Coordinator (or appointee), and a third reader acceptable to the thesis supervisor and the ACST Graduate Program Coordinator in accordance with Graduate Regulation 16 d.

All ACST Masters students must complete Thesis Research (ACST 6690). Credit for the course will be awarded when the student completes and successfully defends their MA thesis. Supervisors may require a demonstration of language competence or extra course work as preparation for the treatment of certain thesis topics. [Thesis Research (ACST 6690) counts for nine (9) credit hours of the total twenty-four (24) credit hours required for the degree].

In addition, all students must complete:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
ACST 5991	Research Methods ¹	3
Select 12 credits of course work of the following: ²		12
Group A		

ACST 6621	Literary Cultures of Atlantic Canada
ACST 6622	Material Cultures of Atlantic Canada
ACST 6623	Cultural Studies: Theory and Method
Group B	
ACST 6631	Environmental History of Atlantic Canada
ACST 6632	Atlantic Canada Ecology and Resources – Contemporary Perspectives
ACST 6633	Reading the Landscapes of Atlantic Canada – Ecological Connection to Place
Group C	
ACST 6301	Community Leadership in Atlantic Canada
ACST 6641	Atlantic Canada's Economic Development in Context
ACST 6642	Politics and Community in Atlantic Canada
ACST 6643	Indigenous Peoples of Atlantic Canada: Contemporary Issues
Group D	
ACST 6501	Public History
ACST 6661	Reappraisals of Atlantic Canada's Past
ACST 6662	The Atlantic Region, 1720-1870
ACST 6663	The Atlantic Region Since 1870
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Total Credit Hours	15

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Preferably in the first semester in which they are enrolled in the program.

2

They must also complete a further twelve (12) credit hours of course work that includes at least nine (9) credit hours from three (3) of the four groups (A,B,C,D) listed below: (course selection must be approved by the ACST Graduate Studies Coordinator).