

## Simon Fraser University

## Women's Studies <br> Graduate Program

## CONTENTS:

Page
Admission Requirements ..... 2
Faculty Resources ..... 4
Fees ..... 7
Financial Aid ..... 8-11
Graduate Courses ..... 5- 6
Hiring Priorities ..... 12
Program Requirements, M.A. ..... 3
Registration ..... 7
Residence Requirement ..... 4
Special Arrangements (for Ph.D) ..... 13-16
Student Evaluations ..... 12
Supervisory Committee ..... 3
Teaching Assistantships/
Tutor Markerships ..... 12

Simon Fraser University

## M.A. PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Master's Program in Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program which draws on the resources of faculty in many areas of the Arts and Sciences as well as Interdisciplinary Studies. It is therefore possible for the Master's student to create, in cooperation with the Women's Studies Graduate Committee, an individualized program of studies to suit her/his scholarly interests and goals.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the Women's Studies Graduate Program Committee that they are prepared academically to undertake graduate level work in Women's Studies.

In addition to University requirements, all applicants are required to submit:

1. A sample of scholarly work.
2. A short statement of interests and goals in Women's studies; normally, students will be expected to present a definite proposal for their research.
3. A short description of previous relevant course work and/or employment.

Qualified students will be accepted into the M.A. program only if, in the opinion of the Women's Studies Graduate Committee, a suitable senior supervisor is available. Senior supervisors will only be selected from joint appointees in Women's Studies and continuing faculty members on the Coordinating Committee of the Women's Studies Program.

A student with incomplete academic preparation for the M.A. program may be required to take up to 12 hours of additional work in the Women's Studies undergraduate program. The Graduate Committee will specify these requirements for the incoming student. The Graduate Committee will consist of all members of the Coordinating Committee; the Graduate Program Committee, which will deal with admissions and all matters pertaining to individual students, will consist of all continuing faculty members of the Coordinating Committee.

## The Program

Except in special circumstances as determined by the W.S. Coordinating Committee, a candidate for the M.A. in Women's Studies must:

1. take four graduate courses, including W.S. 800-5, gaining at least a 3.0 CGPA, and
2. submit a thesis (normal length 60-120 pages) or two extended papers (normal length 30-60 pages each) giving evidence of independent research and critical abilities.

Students will be required to take an oral examination on their thesis or papers at the end of the M.A. program. For further information, see the General Regulations (Graduate Programs) section of the University Calendar.

## Supervisory Committee

Following enrollment by the student in the Program, a Supervisory Committee will be formed, which shall have the responsibility for determining, in consultation with the student, the projected program of study, selecting appropriate research topics, and ensuring that the candidate fulfills all degree requirements. The Committee will consist of at least two faculty members from Women's Studies. Other faculty outside the Program may also be added to the Committee.

Students may make changes to their Supervisory Committee in cases where, for instance, the development their topic indicates a different faculty member would be more appropriate for the Committee. Changes made for any reason must be formally approved by the Graduate Program Committee and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Students' progress will be appraised annually.


## Residence Requirement

"The aim of the residence requirement is that a student spend a period of time in contact with faculty members and with other students at the University. To this end, a student shall be registered in an approved program and undertaking study at this University as a Master's student for a minimum of three semesters." (from: General Regulation, l.7. For further information please refer to the Calendar.)

FACULTY RESOURCES
Joint appointments:
Margaret Benston
Computing Science
Meredith Kimball
Psychology

## Kaja Silverman

Centre for the Arts
Mary Lynn Stewart History

Veronica Strong-Boag
History
Susan Wendell
Philosophy
Coordinating Committee
Andrea Lebowitz
English

Arlene McLaren
Sociology/Anthropology

RESEARCH AREAS

Women in science; social impact of technology

Women and achievement; women and therapy; female roles; older women

Feminist film; film theories; semiotics

Women in Europe, especially France; women and public policy

Women in North America, especially Canada

Feminist and political theory; ethics; pornography

Modern British literature 19th \& 20th Century American literature; Feminist literary criticism

Women, family \& education; sociology of education; sex roles

## GRADUATE COURSES IN WOMEN's STUDIES

Because the graduate prgram is still quite small, most of the courses are offered by individual instruction, much like the directed readings courses, rather than as scheduled seminars.. Some courses are offered as scheduled seminars, in conjunction with undergraduate courses. For example, WS 800 is offered each spring semester in conjunction with WS 400 (Advanced Women's Studies).

## W.S. 800-5: Methodology in Women's Studies Research

An interdisciplinary seminar in methods of research in Women's studies. Students will examine theoretical issues in Women's Studies methodology and study examples of research and criticism from Women's Studies in History, Art/Literary Criticism, Philosophy, Psychology and the Social and Natural Sciences. Emphasis will be placed on developing a rigorous and creative interdisciplinary approach to problems. Students will apply methods studied in the course to their own areas of concentration.

## W.S. 820-5: Graduate Seminar in Women's History

This course will examine one or two critical issues in the history of women. Canada, England and France are of special interest in this course, but students, with the permission of the instructor, may focus their work on North America and/or Europe more generally.

## W.S. 821-5: Graduate Seminar in the Psychology of Women

This course will consist of an in depth exploration of both traditional and feminist theories of the development of female personality. Special consideration will be given to the impact of social and economic factors on women's psychology and the extent to which such factors are or are not taken into account.

## w.8. 822-5: Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory

This course will analyse and compare major feminist social and political theories, including those that have emerged from liberal, socialist and radical feminist traditions. The relationship among theories of sexism and political goals and practices will be discussed.

## W.S. 823-5: Graduate Seminar in Feminist Art/Literary Criticism

This course will examine the development of feminist aesthetic theories with particular reference to literary, cinematic and/or art forms. The fundamental assumptions of feminist literary art and/or art criticism as well as the principles of art forms will be discussed.
W.S. 824-5: Graduate Seminar on Women and Social Policy

This course will focus on one or more social issues and policies in such fields as law, health, economics, social welfare, and science and technology.
W.S. 825-5: Graduate Seminar in Women Technology and Social Change

This course will focus on relationships between changes in the technological and scientific bases of a society and changes in other major aspects of that society, particularly as they affect women's roles and ideas about women. Emphasis will be on Europe and North America.
W.S. 830-5: Selected Topics Graduate Seminar I W.S. 831-5: Selected Topics Graduate Seminar II W.S. 840-5: Directed Studies
W.S. 898 M.A. Thesis

Grading: The following course-grades are available to faculty teaching graduate courses: A; A-; B+; B; B-; C (barely satisfactory) and $F$ (failure).

In exceptional circumstances, the grade for a course may be deferred. The University deadine for clearing the deferral is at the end of the following semester. Extensions beyond this first deadine are extremely difficult to have approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies office.

University regulations require that students maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 (B). If a student's grade-point average falls below this level, she/he will be officially withdrawn from the program unless the Graduate Committee considers there are reasons why a student should be continued.

## REGI STRATION

Graduate students must register in person on the Thursday and Friday immediately preceding the first day of classes each semester. If extenuating circumstances prevent students from registering in person, they can arrange ahead of time to have the Program Assistant register for them.

Registration forms must include all requested information: citizenship, medical insurance, visa, etc. Students must indicate whether they are registering for a particular course, a thesis (or extended essay) semester (eg. W.s. 898), or on leave, and pay the appropriate fees. Forms must be signed by the student's Senior Supervisor and the Chair of the Graduate Program.
--Audit: Graduate students may audit undergraduate courses, with the audit appearing on their transcripts. They may not, however, audit graduate courses.
--On Leave: A student who does not enroll in a seminar, thesis or EXE, MUST register On Leave, and pay the On Leave fee for that semester. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.

## FEES

M.A. Program: 1st, 2nd and 3rd semesters - $\$ 626.00$

4 th, 5 th and 6 th semesters 452.00
7 th and subsequent semesters 135.00
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { On Leave } & 135.00\end{array}$

Special \& Qualifying students $\quad$| 45.00 per |
| ---: |
| semester hour |

Student Activity Fee (except
if you're on leave) $\quad 30.00$

Athletic-Recreation Fee (except
if you're on leave) $\quad 15.00$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Late Registration Fee: lst day } \quad 30.00 \\ & 5.00\end{array}$
Each subsequent day 5.00
Time Extension surcharge (per sem.) 135.00
Graduation Fee 30.00


## FINANCIAL AID

Below please find information regarding various forms of financial aid; the scholarships are available primarily to graduate students and/or to undergraduates applying to enter graduate school. For more detailed listings, please consult the SFU Calendar or contact Financial Aid or the Dean of Graduate Studies office.

## 1. Canada Student Loans

Candidates may borrow up to $\$ 1785$ in federal and $\$ 1000$ in provincial basic loans each semester; repayment commences six months after the borrower ceases to be a full-time student at a specified educational institution. It is the student's responsibility to provide proof of registration to the bank each semester. Students must carry a minimum load of nine hours per semester to qualify for the federal loan program and twelve for the provincial program.
Application forms are available from the Financial Aid Office at SFU. Students are advised to apply earlier than the deadines of: March 1 (for Summer Semester); July 1 (for Fall Semester); November 1 (for Spring Semester).

## 2. Emergency Loans/Bursaries

Graduate students in critical need may be eligible for an emergency bursary of up to $\$ 600$ or a 60 -day interest-free loan of $\$ 300$ if definite repayment ability is indicated. Apply for either of these at the Financial Aid Office.
3. C.D. Nelson Memorial Graduate scholarship - $\$ 10,000$ per annum; tenure - 2 years for students entering M.A. Program.

Recipients may hold the equivalent of one Teaching or Research Assistantship for one semester per year and may receive no more than $\$ 1,000 /$ year in other scholarship support. Full time employment during the term of the award is prohibited.

Up to three scholarships may be awarded each year. progress reports are made annually.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15 each year (submit to W.S. Program Assistant).

## 4. William \& Ada Isabelle Steel Memorial Scholarship

$\$ 9,500 /$ year ( \& up to $\$ 2000$ for travel, accommodation and research expenses); tenure commences in any semester and lasts for 3 semesters

Recipients must be registered in a graduate program at SFU and their research must require work which takes them outside the Lower Mainland of B.C. The scholarship portion of the award is $\$ 9,500$ and up to $\$ 2,000$ is available for travel, accommodation and related research expenses.

During the award the recipient may hold the equivalent of one full Teaching or Research Assistantship; one full semester must be kept free for research; recipients may receive up to $\$ 1,000 / y e a r ~ i n ~$ additional scholarship support. Recipients may not hold any employment other than what is listed above.

Semesterly progress reports are required.
APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15 each year (submit to W.S. Program Assistant).
5. SSHRC Special M.A. Scholarship - \$11,340 per annum for a 12 month period.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) offers special M.A. scholarships in the Social Sciences and Humanitites. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents (eg. landed immigrants).

Applications must be made before beginning graduate studies. It is advised that students start their application one year before the expected tenure of the award; if advanced work abroad is planned, even more time should be allowed for preparation and application. Application forms are available from the SSHRC. Applications are accepted only in the fall. The award is non-renewable. Recipients must consult with the SSHRC before accepting any other award or remuneration.

## 6. President's Research Grant Stipend - $\$ 3,800$ (Ph.D); tenure semesterly.

These are one-semester awards available to students who are registered full-time (not "on leave"), in good standing, in a Ph.D program. At the time of tenure, the recipient must have completed all University and departmental requirements for the degree except the thesis. Students are eligible to hold no more than one PRS.

Award holders may receive no other income from University funds or from other scholarships during the tenure of the award.

One stipend per degree program is permitted.
APPLICATION DEADLINES: The end of the second month of semester for tenure in the following semester ( 27 February for Summer 1987)
7. Graduate Research Fellowship - $\$ 3,000$ (in 87-2;
effective 87-3 it will be $\$ 3,200-\mathrm{MA}$; $\$ 3,800-\mathrm{Ph} . \mathrm{D})$; tenure: semesterly.

For 87-2: Applicants must be registered in a graduate program during the semester of the award. A project of research related to the thesis and supported by the student's senior supervisor must be submitted as part of the application. The student must have declared a supervisory committee, have completed two semesters of work. Recipients are not permitted to hold any other major awards, including a Teaching Assistantship or a Stipend.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 27 February 1987 (for 87-2)


Effective 87-3:
An applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student, (not "on leave"). In no case will more than 15 semesters of fellowship support be awarded to any student. Academic merit is the criterion for ranking eligible applicants. The primary grounds of assessment are grades and research ability. Applicants would normally have a cgpa of at least 3.5. In exceptional cases, other evidence of outstanding ability may outweigh the cgpa criterion.

Recipients may receive no employment or scholarship income from University sources during the tenure of the award and are expected to devote their full time and energy to their graduate studies.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 15 each year for the following summer, fall and spring semesters.
8. Bert Henry Memorial Graduate Scholarship - $\$ 12,000$ per annum; tenure - starts in Fall semester for 3 semesters.

Applicants must hold a Master's degree (or will hold one prior to the start of the tenure of the award) and must be planning to enter a Ph.D program at SFU. Recipients may hold the equivalent of one Teaching Assistantship or one Research Assistantship. One full semester must be kept free for research. Recipients may also accept additional scholarship support of us to $\$ 1,000$ per annum.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15 each year (submit to WS
Program Assistant).

## 9. Soptomotrist Foundations Awards:

A. Undergraduate: Two awards, totalling $\$ 1500$, to be divided between two successful applicants.
The awards are intended to assist women to complete undergraduate university or college programs, or to enter vocational or technical training. Preference is normally given to single women who are heads of households and in need of financial help. Applicants must be full-time students enrolled in at least three courses.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 15 each year.

## B. Graduate \& Undergraduate: Two $\$ 5,000$ awards.

Two fellowships for women in the western Canada region. An applicant must be: female and a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant; registered in a graduate program of studies or accepted for the final year of a four-year undergraduate program; pursuing a course of studies which will lead directly to careers serving other women by improving the quality of their lives; intending to spend a minimum of two years in such a career in Canada.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS / TUTOR MARKERSHIPS

The Women's Studies Program normally is able to offer one Teaching Assistantship in the Spring and Fall Semesters, and one Tutor Markership each semester. These positions are contingent on enrollment in the w.S. 100 courses. These positions normally pay a minimum of $\$ 1860$ for the semester for M.A. students.

## Teaching Assistant Hiring Priorities*:

The Women's Studies Program Coordinating Committee believes it is beneficial for graduate students to have Teaching Assistant experience and would like to do all in its power to accommodate graduate students' requests for Teaching Assistantships. However, we realize that due to the size of our program, we may be unable to fulfill this principle in each case.

Whenever the number of graduate students who have priority for appointment, as defined in Article XIII of the TSSU/SFU Collective Agreement, exceeds the number of T.A.ships available in a given semester, the program may take into account any or all of the following factors in assigning T.A.ships:
-- Suitability for particular courses
-- Instructor requests
-- Amount of financial support already received
-- Accumulated base units
-- Financial need
-- T.A. preferences
-- Accumulated T.A. ratings on course evaluation forms and by instructors
-- Level of academic achievement
-- Progress on research requirements (where applicable)

* The above also apply to appointing Tutor Markers in DISC courses.


## Student Evaluations

All Teaching Assistants must have their students complete teaching evaluation forms which then must be submitted to the professor (or supervisor) of the course. (Tutor Markers should check with the Distance Education office regarding evaluation procedures for correspondence courses.) All Professors must submit evaluation reports on the TAs and TMs, based on student evaluations and other knowledge, such as visits to tutorials. These reports must be turned in to the Program Assistant's office. (Forms available from the office)

It should be noted that all Teaching Assistants have the right, under their TSSU collective agreement, to see the evaluation reports. They also have the right of access to original student assessment forms for a period of three semesters following that in which the assessment was made.

## SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

There is currently no Ph.D program in Women's Studies at SFU. A person wishing to do a Ph.D in Women's Studies can, however, apply to do so in one of two ways: a) by enrolling in an existing Ph.D program in another department and doing a sub-specialty and a thesis in Women's studies; b) by applying to do a Ph.D under "Special Arrangements."

The following outlines the conditions under which special arrangements can be made for an incoming graduate student who wishes to work outside or between established programs of the University:

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## General Principles

1. Special arrangements will be made only when it is clear that:
(a) The student concerned is exceptionally able;
(b) The student's proposed course of studies cannot be pursued in any existing program;
(c) There is little need for additional expenditure of University funds in connection with the Arrangements; e.g., provision of new library resources, laboratory equipment, etc.

2. The Special Arrangements made for each individual student must:
(a) Be approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee;
(b) Be periodically reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee;
(c) Have a final report prepared on them by the Executive Committee regarding the value of the training the University has been able to provide.
3. The Special Arrangements must provide for the inclusion of at least one External Examiner at both the master's and doctoral level. The Executive Committee in making its final report to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, will seek the opinion of the External Examiner as to the value of the training the University has been able to provide for each student.
4. The Special Arrangements made for an individual student do not set a precedent for other graduate students with similar interests.
5. If many students in the same area come before the senate Graduate studies Committee, it can require the relevant department or departments to submit to the procedures for the establishment of a new program as a condition of considering further students in that area.

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## Documentation and Procedures for Special Arrangements

1. Initiation of Requests:
(a) Students wanting special Arrangements should apply to the Dean of Graduate Studies Office.
(b) In accordance with General Principle I.l., the Dean of Graduate studies may require the student to apply to an existing department.
(c) Where special Arrangements appear to be needed, the Dean of Graduate Studies will endeavour to establish a Supervisory Committee appropriate to the Student's interests. Faculty members willing to serve on the Supervisory Committee should obtain the approval of their department chairperson to accept this responsibility. If no Supervisory Committee can be found, the request for Special Arrangements will be denied.
2. A specific proposal for Special Arrangements shall be submitted by the sponsors to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee through the office of the Dean of Graduate studies by the end of the second month of the semester before the semester in which the
3. All proposals should contain the following:
(a) A statement, as complete as possible, of the field of study and its core areas to be covered by the proposed Arrangements with the reasons that special Arrangements are required. For the interdisciplinary Arrangements, the statement should make clear its internal coherence, discreteness and academic merit; the departments concerned should be named.
(b) The names and curricula vitae of all intended members of the Supervisory Committee. For each member, a brief statement of research interests and their relevance to the proposed Arrangements should be provided.
(c) A statement indicating which of the currently awarded degrees the student would be seeking and indicating which Faculty would exercise the statutory power of Faculties.
(d) The minimum academic requirements for the degree; e.g., courses, examinations, field experience, and thesis. A proposed timetable of the completion of these requirements should be included.
(e) A statement as to what University facilities will be needed, such as laboratories, with approval for their use by the appropriate authorities; a statement as to the adequacy of the Library holdings in the proposed area of work.
(f) Should some small additional expenditure be necessary for the Special Arrangements, the Senate Graduate Studies Committee should be assured in writing by the Department Chairperson(s) or by the Dean(s) involved that the cost will be met out of existing budgets. Statements about Library acquisitions must be countersigned by a University Librarian.
(g) A statememnt giving sources of income, if any, for the student.
(h) A statement designating the University department which is to be the student's home department, and which will provide a mailbox, etc. Normally this will be the department of the intended senior supervisor; approval by the Department Chairperson is required. If no suitable department can be found, the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies will serve as home Department.
4. The Senate Graduate Studies Committee may, at its discretion, require further information from the sponsors and may seek other assessments of the proposal from inside or outside the University.
5. The functions of a Departmental Graduate studies Committee for a student whose Special Arrangements fall under one department can be carried out by the actual Departmental Graduate Studies Committe of that Department. The functions of a Departmental Graduate Studies Committee for a student whose Special Arrangements fall between existing departments shall be carried out by the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee.
6. Other than the exceptions stated in this document, the current Graduate Regulations approved by Senate apply to students for whom Special Arrangements are made.

## Advice to students seeking special Arrangements:

--Paragraph I.l(a) states that the student must be "exceptionally able." This normally means an undergraduate CGPA of 3.5 or better, certainly for applicants who want to work outside existing programs. Applicants who plan interdisciplinary work should normally be able to demonstrate exceptional interests, for example, by existing relevant work or scholarly accomplishments.
--You should find a Supervisor who is a faculty member of a department with which you would be associated. Your supervisor should advise and assist you in the preparation of your project description [para. II.3(a)]. This is the description of what you plan to do under Special Arrangements. Its primary purpose is to convince the Senate Committee to admit you. It is therefore most important that it is clear, well organized, and adequately comprehensive. Once you have prepared it, you may show it to the Associate Dean (or in her/his absence, the Dean) of Graduate Studies, for an opinion as to whether it and your other qualifications are likely to meet the standards required by the Senate Committee.
--Your application will not be processed until all documentation (II. 3 above) is received.
--Despite what might be interpreted from II.l(a) the composition of your supervisory Committee is normally proposed by your senior Supervisor and yourself and approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, rather than appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.


