

# VISUAL CULTURE & COMMUNICATION (HBA)

*Department of Visual Studies*

**Visual Culture and Communication (VCC)** is an interdisciplinary undergraduate curriculum that provides students with a foundation in both visual culture and communication studies (history, theory and criticism) and digital communication practices (with courses taught at Sheridan Institute). The program offers grounding in both the analysis of visual culture and the practices of visual communication. Students also take courses that are drawn from the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology program. Students graduate with an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto.

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we've pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using **My Program Plan** found at [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans)

### Program of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE1200 Visual Culture and Communication (Arts)

### Check out...

What is the relationship between mass media technologies and the idea of "reality"? Dive into this debate in VCC334H5. Ever considered an internship? Why not apply for VST410Y5? You will have the opportunity to gain practical experience at an institution or business closely related to the arts and to visual studies.

### What can I do with my degree?

The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

**Careers for graduates:** Web designer; Promotions specialist; Photographer; Media relations officer; Communications specialist; Visual merchandiser; Media coordinator; Production assistant; Multimedia designer; Information specialist/ librarian.

**Workplaces:** Film, video, TV, production; Newspapers/ magazines; Multimedia/design firms; Photo agencies/ studios; Advertising; Marketing.



VCC

SPECIALIST Program Plan

## HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#). Update your plan yearly.



	1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>Enrol in courses ISP100H5, CCT109H5, CCT110H5, FAH101H5, VCC101H5 and CIN101H5.</p> <p>Choose a program of study (Subject POST) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the <b>Degree Explorer</b> and the <b>Academic Calendar</b> to plan your degree.</p> <p>Develop foundational academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a <b>utmONE</b> course. Build community and gain academic support through <b>LAUNCH</b>. Join a RGASC <b>Peer Facilitated Study Group</b>.</p>	<p>Complete 1.0 credits from CCT270H5, 250H5, 204H5; 1.0 credits from CCT200H5, 206H5, 210H5 and 1.0 credits from VCC205H5, 236H5, 290H5.</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>use the <b>Degree Explorer</b> to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements.</li><li>see the <b>Office of the Registrar</b> and the <b>DVS Undergraduate Counsellor</b>.</li></ul>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>Use the <b>Co-Curricular Record (CCR)</b>. Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the <b>Get Hired Fair</b> through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p> <p>Attend the <b>Experiential Education Fair</b>.</p>	<p>Use the <b>Career &amp; Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx)</b> to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Work on-campus through the <b>Work-Study program</b>. View position descriptions on the CLNx.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the <b>Department of Visual Studies Student Society (DVSSS)</b>.</p> <p>Visit the UTM Library <b>Reference Desk</b>.</p>	<p>Do you have a professor you would like to connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn <b>Tips On How to Approach a Professor</b> available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>Engage with the many programs offered by the <b>International Education Centre (IEC)</b>, whether you are an international or domestic student. Consider joining the <b>Canada Eh?</b> day trips or <b>English Language Conversation Circles</b> to deepen your global mindset.</p> <p>First-year international students can also take advantage of <b>THRIVE'IN</b>, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.</p>	<p>Participate in <b>International Education Week</b> and engage in programs like <b>Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS)</b> to build on your leadership and communication skills in global citizenship.</p> <p>Learn about and prepare for a future <b>UTM Abroad Experience</b> through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>Where should you start your career journey? The Career Centre's <b>model</b> can help you identify things to consider. You can get started today by visiting <b>My Career Centre</b> to begin exploring on your own. Ensure you meet with the <b>DVS Undergraduate Counsellor</b> once a year.</p> <p>Get ready to select your Program of Study (POST) by attending the <b>Program Selection &amp; Career Options</b> workshop offered by the Office of the Registrar and CC.</p>	<p>Learn how your academics and career goals work together in a <b>Career Counselling appointment</b>.</p> <p>Explore careers through the CC's <b>Job Shadow Program</b> and <b>In the Field</b>.</p> <p>Considering <b>further education</b>? Attend the CC's <b>Graduate &amp; Professional Schools Fair</b>. Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, GMAT) and research funding options (OGS, SSHRC).</p>

3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR	4 <sup>TH</sup> OR FINAL YEAR
<p>Complete 1.5 credits from any VCC courses at the 300/400 level; 1.0 credits from any CIN or FAH course at the 300/400 level; VST410H5; and 2.0 credits from CCT310H5 or CCT311H5 or CCT353H5 or VCC394H5 or VCC397H5.</p> <p>Consider applying for <b>Research Opportunity Program (ROP)</b> courses VCC399Y, CIN399Y, CCT399Y and CCT499Y. Visit the EEU website for <b>ROP Course Prerequisites</b>. Attend the RGASC's <b>PART</b> to enhance your research skills.</p>	<p>Complete 1.5 credtis from CCT417H5 and CCT434H5 and CCT453H5; with permission up to 1.0 credits may be taken from FAS246H5, FAS346Y5 and FAS347Y5. Complete 1.0 credits from VCC400H5 and one other 0.5 VCC credit at the 400 level.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
<p>Consider a practical work-based experience in visual studies through the internship course VST410Y5. Speak to the <b>DVS Undergraduate Counsellor</b> for details.</p>	<p>Interested in radio production? Work with <b>CFRE Radio 91.9 FM</b>, the UTM campus radio station. Do you enjoy movies and planning events? Consider helping with the UTM Film Fesitval. Learn more @UTMFilmFest.</p>
<p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Check out an event at the <b>UTM Blackwood Gallery</b>.</p> <p>Network with industry professionals and get feedback on your work at the <b>DVS/ICCIT Portfolio Critique &amp; Networking Night</b>.</p>	<p>Join a professional association. Check out the <b>International Association for Visual Culture</b>.</p> <p>Attend the DVSSS Alumni Networking event.</p>
<p>Expanding your intercultural awareness and developing intercultural skills will help you in your academics, personal growth and are highly sought out by employers.</p> <p><b>Earn credits overseas!</b> Apply to study for a summer term, or year at one of 170+ universities. Speak to the IEC for details about <b>Course Based Exchange</b>, funding and travel safety. Attend Global Learning Week to learn about the various opportunities available to you!</p>	<p>Engage in programs like <b>ISTEP</b> and <b>THRIVE</b> to support your transition out of the University!</p>
<p>Attend CC workshops to learn the basics of creating a resume and cover letter, preparing for an interview, and creating a strong LinkedIn profile. To register, visit the UTM Events page on <b>CLNx</b>. You would also find exciting networking opportunities to connect with employers, industry professionals and alumni.</p> <p>Are you ready to take the next step in preparing for further education? Get started by checking out the Pursue Learning section of <b>My Career Centre</b> and attending a drop-in session with a Career Counsellor for best practices for grad school preparation.</p>	<p>Attend the CC workshop, <b>Now That I'm Graduating What's Next</b> to learn how to develop your job search plan.</p> <p>Ready for employment? Schedule an <b>Employment Strategist Appointment</b> to review your documents and practice your skills. If you are still unsure about the next steps in your career journey, schedule a <b>Career Counsellor Appointment</b> to gain support exploring career options and establishing a career plan.</p>

\*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.



## Skills developed in VCC

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

**Communication:** effectively present ideas and arguments in writing, speech and a variety of visual media.

**Technical:** acquire knowledge of visual media and its uses; understand issues associated with the production, dissemination, and consumption of media; and use specialized software.

**Creativity:** demonstrate creativity, artistic expression and inventive problem-solving.

**Analytical:** understand creative processes and critically examine a range of art and visual culture from different time periods.

**Teamwork:** work well with others and knowledge of different cultures.

## Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Department of Visual Studies Student Society (DVSSS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit **Student Groups and Societies Directory**

## Services that support you

- **Accessibility Services (AS)**
- **Career Centre (CC)**
- **Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)**
- **Experiential Education Unit (EEU)**
- **Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)**
- **International Education Centre (IEC)**
- **Office of the Registrar (OR)**
- **Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)**
- **Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)**
- **UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)**

## Department of Visual Studies

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## FUTURE STUDENTS

### Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at **utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook**.

**NOTE:** During the application process, applicants will select the Visual Studies admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

### Sneak Peek

What's so scary about monsters? Learn how the threat of the monster in literature, movies, and television shows relates to concerns about mass-media technologies in VCC205H5. What are the principles of Game Design? Take CCT270H5 to learn about videogame theory, best practices, emergent trends and technology.

Find out the ways the digital medium has impacted comics and graphic novels and create your own memes in VCC394H5! Interested in the rise of advertising? Explore these and other topics in North American consumer culture in VCC236H5.

### Student Recruitment & Admissions

Innovation Complex, Room 1270  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Rd  
Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400  
**www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students**

