

## Holocaust Studies MA Stream, 2025–2027



*We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

Welcome to graduate studies at the University of Victoria. We look forward to working with you over the next two years as you complete an MA in Germanic and Slavic Studies in the Holocaust Studies stream in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures. Please refer to the current [Graduate Academic Calendar](#) for more information about the program.

These pages provide specific information relevant to you and your graduate student cohort as you begin your degree. Besides your academic studies, including coursework and independent research, the Holocaust Studies program offers myriad opportunities to engage in professional development, study abroad experiences, international and hands-on learning through study abroad, co-op, and practicum placements, and regular activities to promote your health and wellbeing.

Faculty members in the Holocaust Studies program stream at UVic are committed to providing a vibrant research culture. As leaders in educational innovation, experiential learning, and community-engaged teaching, we are excited to work with you in fostering critical thinking and intellectual curiosity as you learn knowledge and content, acquire relevant research and presentation skills, and cultivate personal and professional growth.

We offer the only Holocaust Studies MA stream in all of Canada—and we are thrilled that you have chosen to be a part of it!

## Questions? Where to go for help

**Supervisor:** You have each been assigned a temporary supervisor. This working relationship will need to be confirmed by the end of your first semester. Your supervisor is a faculty member in the program who will mentor you during your studies. Your supervisor is there to assist you in planning your program and working with you in ways that promote your scholarly activities and progress. Please refer to the UVic [Graduate Supervision Policy](#) for more details.

**Graduate Assistant for the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures:** Emmanuelle Guenette is the graduate and undergraduate assistant in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures as well as a PhD candidate in Slavic Studies. Emmanuelle is your first point of contact for information on program requirements, university policies, graduate studies forms, and department procedures.

**Graduate Advisor for Germanic and Slavic Studies:** Dr. Megan Swift is serving as graduate advisor for Germanic and Slavic Studies and is a member of the SLLC Graduate Committee. Megan will communicate with you about the details of the program, including information related to funding. You should feel free to approach the graduate advisor about any questions you might have about the program.

**Graduate Advisor for the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures:** Dr. John Archibald chairs the SLLC Graduate Committee (of which Megan Swift is a member). This committee is made up of all graduate advisors of SLLC graduate programs and makes decisions related to graduate studies in the SLLC.

**Chair of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures:** Dr. Silvia Colàs Cardona is the current chair of the SLLC. The staff in the main office (located in Clearihue C247) is there to help you with any issues related to space in the second-floor D-wing, including your office.

**Holocaust Studies Committee:** This committee is made up of all faculty members in Holocaust studies who are not on leave. This committee makes recommendations and decisions regarding the Holocaust Studies stream program. As graduate advisor for Germanic and Slavic Studies, Megan Swift serves as a liaison between the Holocaust Studies Committee and the SLLC Graduate Committee.

**Graduate Admissions and Records (GARO):** This is the office that processed and managed your admissions application. They also manage your records during and after your studies. If you are writing a thesis, you will submit your final thesis to them after it has been defended and approved.

**Faculty of Graduate Studies:** The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) helps you navigate funding opportunities, program requirements, graduate policies and procedures, and academic accommodations. If you are writing a thesis, the Faculty of Graduate Studies will assist in coordinating your oral examination.

## Your research

**Project vs. thesis:** Besides your academic course work, you are expected to make continual progress on your research. You may choose between the project or the thesis option. The main difference pertaining to course requirements is that you are required to take one additional course for the project option (10.5 units of coursework and 4.5 units of project credit for the project option instead of 9.0 units of coursework and 6.0 units of thesis credit for the thesis option).

For **the project option**, you are expected to complete either a major research paper or a creative project, such as a visual-arts project, a performance-based production or a creative-writing project. Students opting for the major research paper will submit their research in the format of a journal article (40-45 pages). Students opting for a creative project must embed that creative project in arts-based research. The objective is not to produce stand-alone complete art works; rather, the art serves as the medium for research. Working in close consultation with the supervisory committee, students delimit the parameters and scope of the artistic product and must accompany it with a scholarly essay (15-20 pages). Both project types require an oral examination. In the case of the artistic project, students have the option of adding a public exhibition or performance as an informal component to the formal oral examination. For **the thesis option**, you are expected to submit an MA thesis (minimum 70 pages), worth 6 units of credit, which includes a final oral examination of the thesis.

**Supervisory committee:** Your supervisory committee consists of, at a minimum, your primary supervisor and one other faculty member. For both the thesis and project option, the second supervisory committee member may be from inside or outside the home academic unit. All members of your supervisory committee must be members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Your primary supervisor should be confirmed by the end of the first term of study. In consultation with you, your supervisor will nominate a second member of the committee by the end of the second semester of study. If your supervisor agrees, it is possible to include additional members to the committee (as a co-supervisor or regular supervisory committee member).

**Oral examination:** Both the project and the thesis option require a final oral examination. For both types of projects (research paper and creative project) the oral examination is scheduled by the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures. For the thesis option, the oral examination is scheduled by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and will involve an examination committee. This committee includes your supervisory committee, an external examiner, and an examination chair. The Faculty of Graduate Studies chooses an examination chair to make sure the examination runs smoothly. Your supervisor will request an appropriate external examiner (who is at arms-length to the thesis) to the FGS Dean. FGS requires a minimum of 20 working days between the submission of your request for an oral examination and the date of the examination itself.

## Your progress in the program

**Research proposal:** In your first semester of study, you will be expected to complete a Looking Ahead Plan on top of your regular coursework. This plan is due on the first day of GMST 501 in January and should be submitted to your supervisor by January 30, 2026, at the latest.

**Student progress report:** A progress report is completed by your supervisor each year you are in the program. First, you should schedule a meeting with your primary supervisor in early April to discuss your progress. After your supervisor completes the report, you will be asked to collect the signatures of the other member(s) of the supervisory committee and submit the completed report to the Graduate Advisor by **April 30**.

**Procedure for unsatisfactory progress assessment:** In the case of an unsatisfactory progress assessment, you will need to work closely with the supervisory committee and, if needed, the Graduate Advisor, to develop a plan for how to improve progress. The process begins with you writing a written response regarding the unsatisfactory assessment (submitted no later than two weeks after the progress assessment). There are two possible scenarios for a response and subsequent procedure:

Scenario 1: You agree with the assessment and provide explanation for the lack of progress. You will then meet with the supervisory committee to work out a plan for how to move forward. The plan should include a new timeline and clear benchmarks for how to provide evidence of progress over a period agreed upon by you and the supervisory committee. The new progress plan and timeline should be developed no later than six weeks after your written response to the unsatisfactory assessment. If within six weeks not all parties agree to the new progress plan, the unsatisfactory assessment stands, and you move to the Scenario 2 option for next steps.

Scenario 2: You disagree with the unsatisfactory assessment. This triggers a review of the progress assessment. This process begins with you submitting a written statement presenting a case for why the unsatisfactory assessment is wrong. This statement is submitted to the Graduate advisor no later than two weeks after the initial progress assessment.

Conflict resolution should normally follow the path outlined in the Faculty of Graduate Studies [Graduate Supervision Policy](#) (section 3.1): You should normally seek resolution following the chain of authority: starting with your supervisor(s), supervisory committee member(s), Graduate Advisor, Head of the academic unit, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, until the issue is resolved; however, you have the option of seeking confidential advice beginning with an Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

There are two possible resolutions to this process: If it is determined that progress was unsatisfactory, Scenario 1 applies, and you, together with the supervisory committee, develop a new progress plan and timeline. If it is determined that the unsatisfactory progress assessment was wrong, the supervisory committee submits a new progress assessment outlining clear expectations and benchmarks for the next review period, including detailed parameters for communication with the members of the supervisory committee and a regular meeting schedule

for the next review period. This new assessment is to be submitted to the Graduate Advisor no later than six weeks after completion of the resolution process.

## Funding

**Your funding package:** You and members of your cohort have received guaranteed funding for the first year of your program with the potential of it being renewed in the second year. Four of you in the cohort have received a \$20,000 fellowship from The Azrieli Foundation. Two of you have received research assistant positions as part of Dr. Charlotte Schallié's SSHRC-funded [Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives](#) (SCVN) project. This consists of a research assistant position in the amount of \$11,000 and a graduate scholarship in the amount of \$5,000.

**Distribution of funds:** If you are receiving a fellowship from The Azrieli Foundation, the funds will be dispersed in three payments: \$7,000 on or near September 1<sup>st</sup>, \$7,000 on or near January 1<sup>st</sup>; and \$6,000 on or near May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The SCVN Research Assistantship will be funded as 1) \$5,000 graduate scholarship, paying \$625 each month over the 8 months of the academic year, 2) as a salaried research assistant position for \$11,000 (280 hours approx) appointed from September 2, 2025 – April 30, 2026. Payments will be approximately \$600 bi-weekly and \$1,200 monthly (including mandatory employer deduction costs). Students will track their hours and submit timesheets each pay period to the Project Manager, Jennifer Sauter.

SCVN Research Assistants will work with librarians and researchers at the University of Victoria Libraries as we engage in new ways with the archives of the Survivor-Centered Visual Narratives project (SCVN). Students will learn basic archival principles and will be given first-hand access to recently acquired artists archives. To ensure we work in a good way, students will learn about trauma-informed research in the archives and will apply these principles to describing SCVN material. The work will be both theoretical and practical in that students will apply their acquired knowledge to the actual description of artists archives.

**Other possible sources of funding:** There are other sources of funding internal and external to UVic. A good place to start looking is on the Faculty of Graduate Studies [Graduate Awards and Scholarship](#) webpage. Some require applications and others, especially those related to our program, do not. If you receive a UVic scholarship or award, please consult with Emmanuelle Guenette to find out how the payment(s) will be distributed.

**Teaching assistantships:** Teaching Assistant positions will be posted on the [SLLC website](#). The procedures for hiring are determined by the [CUPE 4163 \(Component 1\)](#) guidelines. For appointments, please see the TA Appendix section 13.02 (Appointment Procedures) and Appendix A (Appointment Priority Policy for Specialist Instructional – CUPE 4163 – Positions).

## Health, Wellness, and Networking

**Monthly lunch gathering:** We will hold an informal monthly lunch gathering from 12:30–1:30 pm in the Germanic and Slavic Studies Reading Room on the following Thursdays: September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 4 during the fall semester.

**Monthly walk:** Want to get away from your desk and explore your surroundings? We will meet on the following Thursdays in front of the Petch Fountain near the library for a walk on the following Thursdays beginning at 12:30 pm: September 18, October 23, November 20, and December 11.

**Workshops:** As part of our program, we will be offering the following workshops during the fall 2025 semester. These are geared towards your health and wellbeing and provide important information and professionalization opportunities. For this reason, we expect you to attend.

### Health and Wellness

Thursday, September 25, 12:30–2:00 pm in Clearihue A329

Facilitator: Dawn Schell, Student Wellness

### Off-Campus Opportunities

Thursday, October 16, 12:30–2:00 pm in Clearihue A329

Facilitators: Christian Bergmeister, International Exchange, International Centre for Students; Karima Ramji, International Programs, Co-op and Careers; Helga Thorson, School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

### Professional Development and Transferable Skills for the Job Market

Thursday, November 6, 12:30–2:00 pm in Clearihue A329

Facilitator: Sue Ogrodnik, Career Services

### Self Care

Thursday, November 27, 12:30–2:00 pm in Clearihue A329

Facilitator: Dawn Schell, Student Wellness

## Opportunities

**I-witness Field School:** The [I-witness Field School](#) (GMST 589) is an optional 1.5-unit course for graduate students that will be taking place in the summer term of 2026. Applications are due on November 1, 2025. Those of you who have taken the joint 3.0-unit undergraduate course in the past are not eligible to apply.

**Semester in Europe:** We encourage you to consider an optional semester on exchange in the second year of your program at one of our partner universities in Europe: Central European

University in Vienna, Austria; the Technical University in Berlin, Germany; and the University of Wrocław in Poland. Depending on the semester dates of each university, you might decide to go in the fall or the spring semester. Deadlines for applying for UVic Exchange opportunities are February 1, 2026 (for a fall 2026 exchange) and August 1, 2026 (for a spring 2027 exchange).

**Practicum vs. Co-op:** Optional practicum or Co-operative Education placements allow you to acquire knowledge, practical skills for employment, and workplace experience. What is the difference between the two? Practicum placements are organized by the Holocaust Studies stream program, whereas co-op placements are coordinated by the UVic Co-op program. If you choose to complete a practicum placement, you need to register in a specific Holocaust Studies course (GMST 587) for which you are required to pay tuition. Participation in a Co-op work term requires that you pay a Co-op program fee rather than tuition. Master's students in the Co-op program complete two work terms (a work term consists of four months of full-time, paid employment), and students undertake study and work terms in alternating sessions. Interested students should contact the Humanities and Fine Arts Co-op office early in the term in which they are applying. Please also refer to [General Regulations: Graduate Co-op](#).

**Research opportunities:** There are many opportunities that you could pursue to conduct your research. If you have adequate German-language proficiency, you could apply for a DAAD [German Studies Research Grant](#) to conduct research in an archive in Germany for one to two months. The USC Shoah Foundation offers an Azrieli Research Fellowship for graduate students who are pursuing a Masters' degree to conduct research using their Visual History Archives. We will forward you the Call for Applications for the 2026–2027 competition once it is available. Similarly, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum regularly offers [summer graduate student research fellowships](#). It is worth searching the internet for other possibilities as well.

## Being in Community

**Meeting other graduate students:** Besides your cohort, you will have the opportunity to meet graduate students in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures and in other departments across campus.

**Graduate Student Society:** The elected body of graduate student representatives, the Graduate Students' Society (GSS), concerns itself with all matters pertaining to the welfare of its individual members. In addition to its primary mandate to lobby on academic and other issues of concern to graduate students, the GSS provides grants for travel to academic conferences as well as financial assistance for graduate students' departmental activities. It also holds an orientation session to welcome new graduate students and introduce them to the UVic facilities. The Graduate Student Centre has meeting rooms for courses and other academic and social events, a reading room, and a casual pub/lounge, the "Grad House." Graduate Student Representatives attend GSS meetings. Students can find out about GSS academic, political, and social activities by



attending the GSS General Meetings, by contacting the SLLC Graduate Representative, or by visiting the [GSS website](#). The Graduate Student Society also provides modest amounts of conference support.

**Graduate student reps:** The School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures graduate student body annually elects two graduate student representatives: an SLLC Representative and a Graduate Student Society (GSS) Representative. Both representatives act as advocates for graduate students' issues and may also organize events of interest to the students. The SLLC Representative attends and votes in SLLC meetings. The GSS Representative attends and votes in the monthly GSS meetings and may also participate in other GSS initiatives and subcommittees. The process for determining who will be the SLLC representatives will take place amongst the wider SLLC cohort.

**The wider community:** You may wish to get involved with Holocaust commemoration by joining the [Victoria Shoah Project](#). This volunteer group plans at least two commemorative events a year.