



# PhD Program in Communication, Information & Media

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School of Communication  
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Welcome

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## **As of 2023:**

- **74 full-time faculty**
- **55 PhD students with full-time appointments (internally/externally funded research fellows, teaching assistants, graduate assistants**
- **46 additional PhD students**

## Q. How many applicants applied last year?

Total	233
Comm	87
JMS	81
LIS	65

International	Domestic
72%	27%

## Three areas of concentration:

- **Communication**
- **Media Studies**
- **Library and Information Science**

### **Communication**

- Communication and Technology
- Health Communication
- Interpersonal Communication
- Language and Social Interaction
- Organizational Communication

### **Library and Information Science**

- Health Information and Technology
- Human Information Behavior
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Information Institutions, Artifacts and Documents
- Information, Learning, and Technology
- Information Retrieval and Language Analysis
- Social Computing and Data Science

### **Media Studies**

- Critical Data Studies
- Political Economy of Media
- Media and Inequality
- Journalism Studies
- Digital Media and Platform Studies
- Media and Politics
- Promotional Culture
- Science Communication
- Media History

**Q. What if my proposed research interests cut across more than one program area? Can I choose faculty from two program areas with one application?**

We welcome interdisciplinary applications. However, students are accepted into only one of the three areas. So it's best to be clear about which area you would like as your "home" area. Once accepted to the program, students can take courses in all three areas and work with faculty across all three areas.

## **Q. How crucial is it to secure a potential advisor before applying?**

We do not require applicants to secure an advisor before applying to the PhD program. We will assign an advisor to you once you are accepted. However, it is highly recommended to (a) reach out to individual faculty members to discuss the possibility of working with them and (b) explain in your application why your research interests will be well served by our faculty and our program.

## **Q. How are application materials reviewed? What are you looking for in the application package?**

All faculty members in each area (Media Studies, Communication Studies, Library and Information Sciences) review applicants to its area and make recommendations.

- (a) articulation of a strong and feasible research project;
- (b) connection to faculty research and interests;
- (c) prior scholarship and qualifications;
- (d) quality of writing and expression;
- (e) recommendation letters;
- (f) required TOEFL/IELTS scores.



## **Q. Can I combine this with a PhD in Women's Studies?**

Rutgers offers a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies. It consists of 9 credits (3 courses) taken in WGS.

<https://womens-studies.rutgers.edu/academics/graduate-program/graduate-certificate>

**Q. Can I apply directly to the PhD program from a Bachelor's degree?**

Yes.

**Q. If you are applying with a BA and no MA, what are things you can do or highlight to improve your odds of admission?**

We are looking for PhD students who can articulate a feasible research project that connects to the expertise of our faculty.

**Q. What is the likelihood of someone being admitted to the program if both their bachelor's and master's degrees are in a different, but related, field?**

We value interdisciplinarity and welcome applications from students with backgrounds in fields related to Communication, Information & Media Studies. Your application should make the case for your interest in CIM.

## **Q. Is financial aid available for Ph.D students?**

All applicants (international and domestic) applying for full-time study are automatically considered for funding.

Media Studies Area: 4 funded positions

Communication Are: 4 funded positions

Library and Information Science: 4 funded positions

Media Studies only accepts funded students.

Comm and LIS accept unfunded students.

## **Q. What is the funding package for funded students?**

Five years of funding is provided. Each of those five years of support will include salary/stipend, tuition and fee remission, and health insurance.

Students may be appointed as a teaching assistant, graduate (research) assistant, or fellow during their years of funding.

**Q. Is study abroad/summer research covered by the funding?**

We offer small stipends for students to take methods courses over the summer.

**Q. Does Rutgers provide PhD student housing? Will the housing be covered by funding?**

Yes, there is some graduate student housing. No, the housing is not covered by funding.

**Q. I am an international student. Can I upload an unofficial transcript on the application portal and provide the official transcript after the start of the program, if admitted?**

We prefer that you upload official documents only.

**Q. Are there any exceptions for not meeting the GPA requirement?**

Not really, because we receive so many applications.



## **Q. Can I apply for an application fee waiver?**

Please contact the Rutgers Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions to request a fee waiver.

<https://gradstudy.rutgers.edu>

## Q. Do I need to submit TOEFL/IELTS scores?

Non-native English-speaking applicants must submit TOEFL or IELTS results. Results must be from within the last three years. You are exempt from submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores if you have already completed (at the time of application submission) **three or more consecutive academic years** in an undergraduate or graduate curriculum where the only language of instruction was English.

Minimum IBT-internet based TOEFL: Writing 22, Speaking 23, Reading 21, Listening 17.

Minimum IELTS combined score of 8

**Q. How common is it for doctoral candidates to work full time? What level of flexibility is there, especially for someone who is currently a full-time staff member at Rutgers?**

It is not very common for PhD students to work full time unless the candidate is a part-time student (in which case they are not eligible for funding). *Note: The Media Studies program does not accept part-time students.*

**Q. Is there a part-time option? Is there an online option? When are classes held?**

We occasionally accept part-time students, but they are not eligible for funding. We do not offer any online options. All coursework must be completed in person. Classes are offered once a week for three hours, day and evening.

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*Thank You*

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