

## SCLA / Research-Creation Guidelines

The M.A. in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts (SCLA) is an interdisciplinary program whose courses are taught by faculty members from different units, such as Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; English; and, at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts: Dramatic Arts, Music, Arts and Culture, and Visual Arts. As our students come from various backgrounds and disciplines, we offer two options for the Major Research Paper.

One option is to write a traditional Major Research Paper (analysis of and theoretical approach to literary and artistic expressions). The other project is to develop a research-creation project for the MRP.

### What is Research-Creation?

Research-creation is “An approach to research that combines creative and academic research practices, and supports the development of knowledge and innovation through artistic expression, scholarly investigation, and experimentation. The creation process is situated within the research activity and produces critically informed work in a variety of media (art forms). Research-creation cannot be limited to the interpretation or analysis of a creator’s work, conventional works of technological development, or work that focuses on the creation of curricula.

Fields that may involve research-creation may include, but are not limited to: architecture, design, creative writing, visual arts (e.g., painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, textiles), performing arts (e.g., dance, music, theatre), film, video, performance art, interdisciplinary arts, media and electronic arts, and new artistic practices.”

(Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council)

### Research-Creation Option (MRP/Thesis)

The Research Creation option is available to cultural producers with an active practice and/or academic qualifications in relevant disciplines (music, theatre, creative writing, visual arts. etc.) who choose to create a cultural product (work of art, performance, play, text, etc.) for their Major Research Paper or Thesis. **Students choosing the research-creation option are required to provide an analytic-theoretical text related to the work they create. Its length and approach will be determined in consultation with their supervisors.** Documentation and/or presentation of production should be taken into account at all stages. However, production components are not to be considered as over and above written components.

The feasibility of the project, timeline and logistics of the final presentation should be addressed at the proposal stage. It is possible to present the process of development or conceptual design of a project as the research-creation output.

### Resources

SCLA does not provide studio space or production facilities. Students are encouraged to discuss with their supervisor whether any support may be available through other units. They may also visit the following facilities: the Digital Scholarship Lab (Brock Library), the Makespace and the Brock LINC (Rankin Family Pavilion).

All SCLA students are graduate associates in the Research Centre in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture (in the Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture) and are invited to use its resources for the publication, exhibition or performance of their creative project.

Students are also encouraged to become members of the Humanities Research Institute, where some funding for production elements may be available.