

**MA in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts (SCLA)
Brock University**

Preparing your application: Writing Tips for the Statement of Intent

The statement of Intent is an important component in your application. When writing it, please consider the following:

- Be focused: State one or two specific areas of interest pertaining to comparative literatures and arts which you have explored in your undergraduate studies or that you wish to explore in the program. You may provide names of authors / artists / concepts / theoretical approaches you wish to study. Avoid generalizations (for instance, studying the representation of children in arts and literature is not a realistic topic. Studying the representation of children in the works of a specific artist and a specific author for whom there is a legitimate ground for comparison (or in a time/space-limited context) is preferable. Avoid long explanations, biographical / academic / professional details, summaries of books or of theories.
- Do not worry about the outcome of your research: At this early point, you do not know yet how your research, argument, and findings will evolve. Also keep in mind that it is not unusual for students to change their topics during their studies. Finally, please provide the name of a Brock faculty member who could supervise your MRP even if you have not contacted her/him.
- Adopt academic writing: First of all, give yourself time to consult primary sources, read appropriate secondary sources, and develop your thoughts. When you write, organize your statement carefully; highlight the interdisciplinarity of your approach; pay attention to style and grammar; articulate your thoughts clearly; avoid jargon and verbiage; reread yourself several times before submitting.