

Comic Cons MA or PhD Research Assistantship (Toronto)

We are seeking a student researcher to join our research team in Toronto, Canada. Applicants will be considered from amongst incoming MA or PhD students who are admitted to Ryerson University's [Communication and Culture](#) program. The successful candidate will receive a CDN\$12,000 research assistantship, renewable for one year, supervised by Dr. Miranda Campbell in the School of Creative Industries at Ryerson University. Funding for project-related travel will also be provided.

About the Comic Cons Research Project

The **Comic Cons Research Project** is a partnership between Carleton University, Ryerson University, the University of Calgary, the Ottawa Geek Market, and Toronto Comic Arts Festival. This SSHRC-funded project seeks to understand the organizational field of comic cons, comic art festivals, and related fandom events in North America as an emerging urban media industry.

Based in Toronto, the student researcher will work with the project's non-academic partners and conduct ethnographic research on convention organizing as a social, cultural, and industrial practice. Training will be provided through coursework, and additional mentorship will be provided by the project's [research team](#). Research data produced will be used by the Project, but student site access and field work may also serve as the basis for the student's own thesis work, which can pursue a related but independent focus to the Comic Cons project

About ComCult

As an MA or PhD student in the York/Ryerson Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture, you will have the opportunity to take advantage of a wealth of academic and creative resources, including media production facilities and equipment. You might conduct research using the extensive archival collections, on-line and other library resources at Ryerson or at York, or with the many collections, institutions, and creative industries in Toronto and Southern Ontario.

Students in the Program have access to a wide range of library resources, computer labs, and studio facilities at Ryerson and York. These include the media production facilities at the [Rogers Communications Centre](#) at Ryerson, multimedia labs and animation labs in the [Faculty of Fine Arts at York](#) and in the [School of Image Arts at Ryerson](#), faculty research centres in the [Faculty of Arts](#) at Ryerson as well as a variety of more specialized labs, and extensive archival collections at both universities.

More than [130 faculty](#) from across both York and Ryerson are eligible to teach and supervise in the program. We offer competitive funding packages, teaching and research opportunities and strong support for external scholarship application success. There are for-credit field and work placement options as well opportunities to conduct scholarly research creation and creative project based work. In typical years, we offer 30+ graduate courses for ComCult students to choose from.

To Apply: Instructions and Details for Applicants

To be considered for this funded Comic Cons RAship, students must submit a full and complete application to the Ryerson side of the Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture and be admitted as either an MA or PhD student for Sept 2018 **AND** submit a separate application directly to Dr. Campbell detailing their interest in and qualification for this RA position. Students should include a brief statement in their letter of intent of their application to Com Cult clarifying that they have applied for the Comic Cons RA position.

Only students admitted to Com Cult will be eligible to hold the Comic Cons RAship, but, any students who apply for, but are not offered the Comic Cons RA position will still be considered for admission to the Com Cult Graduate Program where they would have the chance to apply for other RA and TA positions.

- To apply to the MA or PhD in the Communication and Culture Program, please visit [Ryerson School of Graduate Studies Admissions](#). The deadline for guaranteed first consideration of applications for MA and PhD places in ComCult is Jan. 22, 2018.
- To apply for the Comic Cons RAship, please send a CV and cover letter indicating interest and qualifications for the position to [Miranda Campbell](#) by January 22, 2018.

The successful candidate for the Comic Cons RA positions will, in addition to meeting the standards for Com Cult MA or PhD admission, describe and demonstrate the following in their application to Dr. Campbell:

- a record of outstanding academic achievement in Communication Studies or related disciplines
- research interests in fan studies, popular culture, and/or creative industries
- an ability to work both independently and in a collaborative environment
- exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail

Students whose MA or PD research interests overlap with the Comic Cons project themes will be strongly considered for this RAship; however, students are encouraged to present stand-alone projects in their application material to ComCult and describe their interests in the Comic Cons project in their RA application sent directly to Dr. Campbell.

For inquiries regarding the Comic Cons Research Project, contact [Miranda Campbell](#). For inquiries regarding the Communication and Culture program, contact graduate program director [Jeremy Shtern](#).