



PhD in English

The only department in North America where the study of literature is combined with the ancient tradition of rhetoric and the radical new perspectives that accompany the current digital revolution.

GRADUATE RESEARCH FIELDS

- > Experimental Digital Media
- > Genres
- > Literary Theory and Discourse Analysis
- > Rhetoric

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- > Successful completion of an MA program in English with 85% average*
- > 3 references
- > Statement of interest

**Although candidates normally enter PhD studies from Master's programs, it is possible for outstanding candidates to enter directly from an Honours Bachelor of Arts (BA).*

HOW TO APPLY

- > Application deadline is February 1 for admission in September
- > Make sure that you have checked the application requirements and obtained the required documents, references, and statements for your application
- > Prepare and submit your online application at uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/apply

GUARANTEED FUNDING

\$100,000 over 4 years for full-time Canadian students



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

FACULTY
OF ARTS

PhD candidate examines the social media of political leaders

With four degrees under her belt so far, Monique Kampher is excited to add a doctoral degree from Waterloo to her already impressive resume. A PhD candidate in English Language and Literature, Monique's interdisciplinary research focuses on real-world political issues and how social media is impacting debates and democracy.

"Combining rhetorical studies with political elections and social media is a trifecta of a winning combination for research," says Monique.

By analyzing how campaign leaders portray themselves online – as well as how they represent others – we can see how social media is shaping leaders' debates and affecting our political climate, she explains. "In democracies, the knowledge and beliefs of voters determine the outcomes of elections, both of which are substantially shaped by media."

Monique's area of research isn't without its misconceptions. Monique notes that both inside and outside academia, the notion of rhetoric is not well-understood. As she puts it, rhetoric is the art of persuasion, which applies to all aspects of life and communication. It also provides a valuable framework for critical thinking. Monique hopes that her contribution to the field will provide Canadian government policy makers, media organizations, and independent regulatory election agencies, the tools to identify the ways digital media influences voters.

When Monique made the decision to return to school to pursue a PhD, Waterloo was the perfect fit for combining her passions and came highly recommended by department chairs she has worked with at York, Sheridan, and Seneca. "Waterloo's program offerings compliment my previous real-world experience and academic expertise, providing new ways to approach my research."

As a doctoral student at Waterloo, Monique has been nationally recognized for her research, teaching, and writing. She has earned the prestigious SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship alongside Ontario Graduate Scholarships and President's Graduate Scholarships from Waterloo. She won Waterloo's 2021 Independent Graduate Instructor Award for Excellence in Teaching, was named RhetCanada's Graduate Paper Prize Winner by the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric, and has been published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Rhetor*.

Monique credits her doctoral supervisor, Dr. Randy Allen Harris, as instrumental to her success. "His guidance, teachings, encouragement, and support throughout my doctoral journey, have helped me to become a better scholar. I am so fortunate to have him as my mentor."

With the end of her PhD in sight, Monique is open to all opportunities. "What is important to me is that my PhD gives me the opportunity to work in an area that contributes to the health of our democracy and the future of our citizens."



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MONIQUE KAMPHERM
PhD Candidate, English

