

Why Pursue the Joint Master of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies?

Brandeis faculty and graduates are in the vanguard of feminist scholars worldwide. Our joint MA provides a strong grounding in discipline-specific studies along with an interdisciplinary education in the theories, methods, and scholarship of women's and gender studies. By introducing current research in a range of fields, the joint MA creates cross-disciplinary dialogue and prepares students for intellectual leadership in careers as diverse as public policy, education, social service, management, law, writing, and counseling. Doctoral students will find that our curriculum is excellent preparation for teaching and research both in women's and gender studies and in their chosen discipline.



The WGS Faculty

Women's and Gender Studies at Brandeis enjoys a distinctive international reputation as a pioneering program. Our core and affiliate faculty, drawn from twenty-four departments and programs, includes some of the most renowned scholars in women's studies.

Together, faculty members have received nearly every major national fellowship—including MacArthur, Guggenheim, Radcliffe, NEH, NSF, Ford, and ACLS awards—and a significant percentage of the university's teaching awards. Collectively, they have published scores of important books and

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How to Apply for the Joint Master of Arts

Terminal Joint MA

Prospective students may elect a terminal MA in Women's and Gender Studies and one of the following six disciplines: anthropology, English and American literature, music, Near Eastern and Judaic studies, sociology, or sustainable international development (Heller School). Most of these degrees can be earned in one year, but students may benefit by extending their studies into a second year. Prospective students apply through their home departments.

Joint MA for PhD Students

Students currently enrolled in an affiliated Brandeis PhD program may elect the joint MA at any time during their graduate studies with the approval of the joint MA graduate adviser in their home departments. The MA currently is offered in conjunction with the following nine fields: American history, anthropology, comparative history, English and American literature, music, Near Eastern and Judaic studies, psychology, social policy (Heller School), and sociology. This degree replaces a departmental MA.

Degree Requirements

- WMGS 205a, Graduate Foundational Course in Women's and Gender Studies
- One course in feminist research methodologies (such as WMGS 198a or the Feminist Inquiry course offered through the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies)
- Two elective courses in Women's and Gender Studies—one inside and one outside the home department
- Additional courses as required by the home department
- Participation in a one-semester noncredit graduate proseminar
- A substantial research paper as specified by the home department



Core and Affiliate Faculty

African and Afro-American Studies
Faith Smith

American Studies
Joyce Antler, Shilpa Davé, Laura Goldin

Anthropology
Elizabeth Ferry, Sarah Lamb, Ellen Schattschneider

Biology
Judith Tsipis, Lawrence J. Wangh

hundreds of articles and have held offices in many professional organizations. Our faculty works closely to ensure individual mentoring of graduate students and to create a lively intellectual culture within the program.

Classical Studies
Ann Koloski-Ostrow

Economics
Elizabeth Brainerd, Nidhiya Menon

English and American Literature
Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Olga Broumas, Mary Campbell, Caren Irr, Thomas King, Susan Lanser, Paul Morrison, Faith Smith

Fine Arts
Nancy Scott

German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature
Matthew Fraleigh, Robin Feuer Miller, Harleen Singh, Sabine von Mering

Heller School for Social Policy and Management
Sarita Bhalotra, David Gil, Anita Hill, Lorraine Klerman, Phyllis Mutschler

History
Silvia Arrom, Jane Kamensky, Alice Kelikian

Special Opportunities

- Scholarships and fellowships
- 25–50 percent tuition scholarships
- Paid teaching and research assistantships
- WGS Graduate Grant for an outstanding research project
- Chris Lerman Prize for essays on extraordinary women

- Isak Kazes Outstanding Student Award
- Phoebe and Dr. Donald Giddon Grant for Research on Women and Health
- Participation in the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (for more information see web.mit.edu/gcws)



Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Marc Brettler, Bernadette Brooten, Sylvia Barack Fishman, ChaeRan Freeze, Ilana Szobel

Philosophy
Marion Smiley

Politics
Jill Greenlee, Jytte Klausen, Eva Thorne

Psychology
Leslie Zebrowitz

Romance Studies
Dian Fox, Jane Hale, James Mandrell

Sociology
Wendy Cadge, Gordon Fellman, Karen Hansen, Shulamit Reinharz, Sara Shostak

Theater Arts
Susan Dibble, Adrienne Krstansky

Women's and Gender Studies
Mitra Shavarini, Deirdre Hunter

About Brandeis University

Brandeis University, located just nine miles west of Boston in Waltham, Massachusetts, is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution of higher learning and research. Its full-time faculty of 355 includes nationally and internationally recognized teachers, scholars, and researchers. Founded in 1948 by the American Jewish community, Brandeis brings to American higher education a strong dedication to excellence, community service, and the commitment to social justice personified by Louis Dembitz Brandeis, the distinguished Supreme Court justice for whom the university is named.

About the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Established in 1953, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences today enrolls more than 800 students pursuing advanced degrees in twenty-five fields. Graduate study at Brandeis offers students in-depth, broad-based, scholarly exposure while providing professional training in their chosen fields. A selective admission process, sustained contact between students and faculty, and stimulating course work contribute to the intellectual growth of each student.



What Our Students Say

“Being part of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program has provided a unique perspective on my policy studies in health-care inequities. I also have thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent lectures, events, and programs offered, as well as the gift of sharing time with strong, intelligent, committed women.”

Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson,
Joint MA Social Policy
and WGS’06

“Because of the program, I have continued my interests in gender and women’s issues both in academia and within my own research. I also found a home at Brandeis in the Women’s Studies Program, where I always felt comfortable expressing myself.”

Melissa-Ann Yeager-Farfan,
Joint MA Anthropology
and WS’02

Women’s and Gender Studies Joint MA Advisers

American History

Jane Kamensky
kamensky@brandeis.edu

Anthropology

Sarah Lamb
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Comparative History

Silvia Arrom
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English and American Literature

Mary Baine Campbell
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Heller School for Social Policy and Management

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Music

Allan Keiler
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Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

Bernadette Brooten
brooten@brandeis.edu

Psychology

Leslie Zebrowitz
zebrowit@brandeis.edu

Sociology

Karen Hansen
khansen@brandeis.edu

For Applications and Information

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

www.brandeis.edu/gsas
781-736-3410

Women’s and Gender Studies Program

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Brandeis University Joint Master of Arts in Women’s and Gender Studies

Brandeis University

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Joint Master of Arts in Women’s and Gender Studies

Brandeis University is committed to providing its students, faculty, and staff with an environment conducive to learning and working and where all people are treated with respect and dignity. Toward that end, it is essential that Brandeis be free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, ancestry, religious creed, gender identity and expression, national or ethnic origin,

sex, sexual orientation, age, genetic information, disability, Vietnam Era veteran, qualified special, disabled veteran, or other eligible veteran status, or any other category protected by law. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President of Human Resources, Stony Brook building, 781-736-4464.

Office of Communications
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“My study focused on public policy and government as they related to women’s studies and sociology. An internship placement through WGS opened the doors that allowed me to create networks within city and state government that led to several jobs, including the one I have now. That internship placement was the catalyst for my career.”

Heidi Kruckenberg,
Joint MA Sociology
and WS’99

“The Women’s and Gender Studies Program provided me with a community of phenomenal women. In this community I found confidence, friendship, and support. Thank you!”

Rachel Werner,
Joint MA NEJS and WGS’06