Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- A minimum B+ average in the last two years of an Honours (4-year) bachelors program in a related social science field. Students with humanities-based backgrounds or from traditionally unrelated fields may also be considered for admission if they have completed sufficient courses in social science.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Academic writing sample.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Global Development requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 15th.
- Notification of acceptance: Mid-February and onwards.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate Studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

The Department of Global Development Studies provides financial support for MA students enrolled in the one-year course-based program. The current minimum level of funding is approximately $15,000 for the academic year. Financial support is derived from a combination of internal and external awards and teaching assistantships. Funding for the two-year thesis-based stream is not guaranteed. See the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships and the department’s Financial Support page.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES?

For students interested in questions of global change and social justice, the Queen’s MA in Global Development Studies presents an exciting academic opportunity. By carefully combining strong pedagogy with cutting edge analysis, this degree guides students through the complexities and controversies of development in today’s global context. With small classes and close supervision, we carefully provide students with the interdisciplinary tools they need to conduct research on vital political, economic, environmental and cultural themes. This gives them the necessary foundations to move forward with further studies or careers in the government, non-governmental or private sector.

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning faculty and 50+ research centres, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10 minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and water's edge. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Why QUEEN’S?

The faculty in Global Development Studies are recognised internationally as leaders in their field and they use their diverse academic and experiential backgrounds to foster graduate research and cross-cultural learning across the student body. Addressing pertinent topics ranging from aid and trade to gender, environment, and beyond, they provide students with the strategic analytical tools and thematic knowledge they need to undertake original research projects. These skills are directly transferable to a range of post-graduate careers. At the same time, the emphasis on cross-cultural learning and social justice helps produce informed citizens who are uniquely positioned to craft positive social change in Canada and abroad. From the grassroots to the global, our students attain the skills and knowledge needed to make an impact in our increasingly connected world.
Global Development Studies MA MAP *

GETTING STARTED

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA Major Research Paper or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to your Grad Chair and supervisor about opportunities.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and attend weekly Student Services in National and International Development (SNID) lectures.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, or Loving Spoonful.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your Major Research Paper or thesis.
- If accepted into the thesis stream, consult with your supervisor about committee members.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your Major Research Paper or thesis.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Global Development Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership, initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

A Master’s degree in Global Development Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Public Service
- Government
- Non-governmental organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- International aid work
- Academia
- Law
- Media

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.