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.

“By studying within such a small and new program I was able to design my curriculum in accordance with my research interests.”
– Sara Korosi, MA

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!

Program STRUCTURE

The Masters of Global Development Studies has two streams:

- The one-year course-based stream requires students to complete six courses and write a 50-60 page Major Research Paper (MRP).
- The two-year thesis-based stream requires students to complete four courses and write a 75-100 page thesis and defend it before a committee of three examiners.

All students are admitted into the course-based stream. Students interested in transitioning into the thesis-based stream apply for entry at the end of the Fall term during their first year. Transition into the two-year stream is dependent on having an overall average of at least A- in Fall term classes, a clear research project and close supervisory support from a faculty member.

RESEARCH Areas

- The Political Economy of Development
- The Cultural Politics of Development
- Environmental Change and Development
- Social Movements in Development
- Indigenous Peoples and Development

Before applying, we encourage you to identify your key area(s) of research interest to make sure you are a good fit with the areas that we teach and supervise in. You do not need to find a specific supervisor. However, you are welcome to contact potential supervisors at the application stage to tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience and to check if they are accepting new graduate students to supervise. Faculty profiles with their research and/or supervision interests are available on our departmental website. Once admitted, we will happily help you develop your research project and find a suitable supervisor.

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs
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 contributions 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 Studies 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.

- Launch Your Career
  - 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 30 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**

- Achieve Your Academic Goals
  - 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.

- Maximize Research Impact
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference at Queen's or another Canadian university.
  - Attend and participate in graduate seminars.
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Build Skills and Experience
  - Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
  - Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
  - Expand your research audience with help from the SGS Blog, Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

- Engage with Your Community
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as student graduate seminars, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Competency Certificate.
  - If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

- Launch Your Career
  - Exploring different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen's Connect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through the Alumni Connect. Check out the free online modules on MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
  - If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

**Wrapping Up**

- Achieve Your Academic Goals
  - Complete your Major Research Paper or thesis.

- Maximize Research Impact
  - Consider publication options for your research.
  - Attend or present at a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Association of International Development (CAIDID) annual conference. Start thinking about the audiences for your research.

- Build Skills and Experience
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Check out opportunities for extracurricular training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
  - Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

- Engage with Your Community
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Alumni, or find alumni in various careers through QueensConnects alumni profiles.

- Launch Your Career
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**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
- Persistence
- 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!
Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Where can I get help?

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGS HABITAT for available resources.

What is the community like?

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 professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, 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 waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

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 proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies 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 Academics: 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.

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