M.A. Career Outcomes in the Social Sciences


**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 arenas 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.

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOLOGY?**

In general, a sociological approach engages with usually contemporary social problems and questions from a critical perspective. Students of sociology are trained to critically examine social dynamics and structures, and to engage with the formation of pathways towards social change. Our students at the MA level are trained (theoretically and methodologically) in advanced critical social analysis. Both micro and macro sociological approaches are covered.

The Sociology graduate program at Queen’s has particular strengths in socio-legal studies and criminology, critical sociology, and surveillance and digital media. Most of our graduates from the MA program proceed to doctoral programs throughout Canada and beyond. Others move into law, social work, or take up employment in policy analysis and research. Many graduates of the MA program remark on the intimate, supportive and cohesive culture of the Department.

**How do I find a supervisor?**

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

**What about funding?**

M.A. students in Sociology receive funding for the two years of the program, with a maximum of $14,000 per year. The basic funding package includes graduate assistantships and teaching assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the Sociology Department.

**Why QUEEN’S?**

“Throughout my time here I felt challenged by my coursework and research, but also supported; overall the program offers an ideal environment for the intellectual and professional development of graduate students.”

– Isabel Macquarrie, MA

In addition to the benefits of a small department where students receive ample attention from faculty and staff, inside the classroom and out, Sociology at Queen’s offers an annual graduate student conference where MA students who are interested may engage in a typical conference format with many members of faculty and from the graduate program in attendance. Each MA student is guaranteed a minimum of $14,000 per year of annual funding for a maximum of two years. Every student is offered a teaching assistantship.

The Surveillance Studies Centre is a multidisciplinary and international research centre affiliated with the Department. It offers several speakers series that have attracted leading figures in surveillance, including Edward Snowden. Its current streams include big data surveillance, drones, wearables, and social sorting.

**Why KINGSTON?**

Described by students as both “Quaint” and “Irrlicht,” Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

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.

Kingston also offers meaningful points of social and political engagement, including prison transitions and reform, local shelters, and other community non-profit organizations.

**Program STRUCTURE**

The 2-year Master of Sociology offers 2 methods of completion:

- Method I (Thesis): Two core half courses; two other half courses, and a thesis (about 100 pages) weighted at half of the total program.
- Method II (Essay): Two core half courses; four other half courses, and an essay (about 60 pages) weighted at one-quarter of the total program.

**RESEARCH Areas/Streams**

- Criminology and Law
- Power, Inequalities and Social Justice
- Media, Information and Surveillance

**Contact**

Department of Sociology
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www.queensu.ca/sociology

Visit the SGS website to read FAQs, M.A. Map and more.
# Sociology M.A. 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 essay or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [Expanding Horizons](https://queensu.ca/graduate-studies) professional development workshops, the Department Grad Chair, and the SGS Habitat.
- Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

**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.

## Intermediate Stage

**Build Skills and Experience**
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, CTV and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Departmental Committee graduate student representative for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [Expanding Horizons](https://queensu.ca/graduate-studies).
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Elizabeth Frye Society, and the Boys and Girls Club.
- Follow the Sociology Department on [Twitter](https://twitter.com). Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, the American Criminology Society, the Surveillance and Society Conference, the Society for Social Studies of Science, and more.

**Engage with Your Community**
- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](https://queensu.ca/graduate-studies) on the SGS website, and using [Queen's Connects](https://queensu.ca/graduate-studies) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum." Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects, on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' networking workshops.
- 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 study 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.
- Attend or present at the Sociology Graduate Student conference. Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Sociological Association, The American Criminology Society, the Surveillance and Society Conference, the Society for Social Studies of Science, and more.

## Wrapping Up

**Launch Your Career**
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like "So Where Are You Going to Go With That?" 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.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](https://queensu.ca/graduate-studies) on the SGS website, and using [Queen's Connects](https://queensu.ca/graduate-studies) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum." Check out the free online modules at 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.
- 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.

**Employability Skills**

Knowledge and technical skills in area of specialization
- Communication: effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation: to address complex, multifaceted challenges
- Perseverance: to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome
- Independence: and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness and 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 discussions

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