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.

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.

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 multi-disciplinary 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 “eclectic,” 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

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact

www.queensu.ca/sgs
### GETTING STARTED
- 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 workshops, the Department Grad Chair, and the SGS Habit.

### INTERMEDIATE STAGE
- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your cognate essay or thesis.
- Attend or present at the Sociology Graduate Student conference.
- Attend the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- 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.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the Skills and Experience workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extraining through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

### WRAPPING UP
- Complete your cognate essay or thesis.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS Blog, Look in the AMS Clubs, Directory, or other 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.
- Start keeping an awareness 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.
- If you are interested in professional development in teaching and learning, start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
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### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS
**Knowledge and technical skills**
- in areas 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,**
- research and cultural sensitivity

**Professionalism**
- in all aspects of work, research, and interactions

**Leadership**
- initiative and vision leading people and discussions

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Honours B.A. in Sociology (or equivalent).
• Grade requirements: minimum B+ average over all 4 years of undergraduate study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Writing sample and an Extended Statement of Interest.
• If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application deadline: February 1 is the deadline for internal awards, but applications will be accepted beyond this date.
• Notification of acceptance: starts at the end of February.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process. The key dates and deadlines, as well as the requirements, are outlined below.

How do I find a supervisor? We encourage you to identify an area of interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying. Visit the Sociology Department website to read about the research interests of faculty members.

What about funding? M.A. students in Sociology receive funding for the two years of the program, with a minimum of $14,000 per year. The basic funding package includes graduate awards 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.

Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me? A Master's degree in Sociology 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:
• Academia and research
• Foreign service
• Government services
• Law
• Social Work
• Teaching

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

Visit the SGS Habitat online for student services or contact the Department of Sociology for more information.