Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOLOGY?

In general, a sociological approach engages with 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?

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.

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.

Queen’s is located in Kingston, which offers meaningful points of social and political engagement. Because of the significance Kingston holds in the federal penal system, there are many local associations concerned with prison transitions and reform. Some of our graduates work with the Elizabeth Frye Society, while others work within local prisons. There is a large and growing Boys and Girls club where members of the Queen’s community interact on a regular basis. Some of our graduate students work with local shelters for women, and in feminist legal studies in Law at Queen’s.

RESEARCH Areas/Streams

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

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 weighted at half of the total program.
- Method II (Essay): Two core half courses, four other half courses, and an essay weighted at one-quarter of the total program.

“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
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.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- BA Honours undergraduate degree in Sociology or equivalent with a minimum B+ standing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing Sample
- Statement of Interest

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application deadline: Our deadline for applications is February 1 for internal awards. However, in some cases, applications are considered before the Fall term begins, as long as space is available in the program.
- Notification of acceptance: Decisions are made in March.

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

What about FUNDING?

MA students are guaranteed a minimum of $14,000 in the form of a Queen's Graduate Award and a Teaching Assistantship. Funding is guaranteed for 2 years.

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.

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