Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- BA Honours undergraduate degree and Master’s degree in Sociology or equivalent with a minimum A- standing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing Sample
- Statement of Interest

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: 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?

PHD students are guaranteed a minimum of $21,000 which includes a Teaching Assistantship and a Queen's Graduate Award. Funding is guaranteed for 4 years.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY?

The Department focuses on critical social inquiry and in-depth research, offering students challenging projects and world-class resources to complete them. Our faculty members are all well-published scholars with national or international reputations; yet they still manage to maintain an open-door policy and establish supportive, mentoring relationships with students.

The Sociology graduate program at Queen’s has particular strengths in socio-legal studies and criminology, critical sociology, and surveillance and digital media. Graduates of our PhD program have an outstanding record of securing full-time academic positions and successful professional careers such as in law, social work, policy analysis, and corrections. Many graduates of the PhD program remain on the intimate, supportive and cohesive culture of the Department with strong supervisory support.

Why QUEEN’S?

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.

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.

What is the community like?

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 GSS habitat for available resources.

Where can I get help?

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

Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies application process.
YEAR I
- Key priorities include forming your Supervisory and Qualifying Exam committees, and coursework (normally completed in the first year).
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodations.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- With your supervisor begin your list of Required Readings for your Qualifying Exam.

YEAR II
- Complete your Qualifying Exam. Defend your thesis proposal. Submit ethics review application if necessary.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons workshops.
- Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student conference.

YEAR III
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defense accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, reference letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Sociological Association Congress.
- The American Criminology Society Annual Meeting.
- The Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
- Advanced knowledge and technical skills including:
  - Qualitative/Quantitative research techniques to analyze social issues.
  - Critical thinking to evaluate social problems and interactions.
  - Research design to select and effectively deploy appropriate methods.
  - Program Evaluation to collect, evaluate and analyse information concerning the effectiveness of a wide range of programs and projects.
  - Negotiating critical dilemmas and discussion to interpret, and explain multidisciplinary current issues, and their implications for individual lives, social groups and institutions.
  - By combining sociological knowledge with a critical and reflexive understanding of the complex.
- Policy Analysis to consider society and unintended consequences of policies, and consider the role of social differentiation in creating conflict, social movements, and social control around policies.
- User research to understand individual and group understandings, behaviors, needs, and motivations through observation techniques, task analysis, and other feedback methodologies.

Essential transferable skills including:
- Communication of complex theories and arguments about social issues in appropriate formats and a range of media and digital technologies.
- Teamwork/leadership: working creatively with others in a manner which recognises diverse views, values and cultural positions.
- Information management: prioritizing, organizing and synthesizing large amounts of information.
- Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands.
- Project management: developing ideas, gathering information, analyzing and appraising findings, drawing and acting on conclusions.
- Creativity and innovation to address complex, multifaceted challenges.
- Perseverance to work through challenges to achieve desired outcomes.
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, professional respect and cultural sensitivity.
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
- Professionalism in work, research, and interactions.

WHERE CAN I GO?
The majority of our PhD graduates who sought a position in academia have been able to secure tenure track appointments. Others find work in places like the Mental Health Commission of Canada, in hospitals or as community service workers.

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