A Ph.D. in Sociology can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academia and research
- Foreign service
- Government services
- Law
- Social work

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

Why QUEEN'S?

“[The] department here is small and I had no trouble forming a committee. The supervisors are easy to talk to. It’s unbelievable in terms of support.”

- April Girard, PhD

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 Discover Kingston. Kingston also 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 Fry 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

Visiting the Sociology Department website to read about the graduate program, faculty, research interests, and related awards and scholarships. For students new to Kingston, use this map to plan your success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possible pathways, 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?

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 remark on the intimate, supportive and cohesive culture of the Department with strong supervisory support.

How do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan your success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possible pathways, 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.
Sociology

PH.D. MAP

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your Supervisory and Qualifying Exam committees, and coursework.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- With your supervisor begin your list of Required Readings for your Qualifying Exam.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, GSS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Participate in graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Follow the Sociology Department on Twitter.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself! Take the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labor market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR I

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Departmental Meeting, graduate student representative for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services; the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal CFCR CTV and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use A Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

YEAR II

- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (invol in SGSOS) or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend the Department’s Professional and Academic Development Program (PAPD) (offered every second year, and required).

YEAR III

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- For help with topic conferences, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (invol in SGSOS) or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend the Department’s Professional and Academic Development Program (PAPD) (offered every second year, and required).

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

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: 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

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