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.

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 I find unique about the Department of Sociology at Queen's University is the diversity of graduate student research projects and the personalized support offered alongside. The Department here is just the right size; small enough to target individual student needs and large enough to dream big, and tackle those sociological questions you've been pondering since undergrad.”

– Mandi Veenstra, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

Two core half courses, two other half courses, a qualifying examination (written and oral), and a thesis and oral defense weighted at half of the total program.

RESEARCH Areas/Streams

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

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- 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.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- 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.
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS 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, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Departmental mentoring graduate student representative for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, or the Arts and Science Magazine.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS591 or the PUTI certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend the Department’s Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP) offered every second year, and required.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTS, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or study in a multi-cultural environment by taking OLC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- Complete your Qualifying Exam. Defend your thesis proposal. Submit ethics review application (if necessary).
- Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student conference.
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
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**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Elizabeth Fry Society and the boys and Girls Club.
- Follow the Sociology Department on Twitter.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, or other groups reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a 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?’ or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area 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.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through ‘Ask an Alumni’ for more information.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- 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.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- 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 strategies, or interviews.
- Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow. This is an excellent opportunity to start a teaching dossier.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, or other groups reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.
- 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, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
- The majority of our PhD graduates who sought a position in academia has been able to secure tenure-track positions. Others have moved on to work on projects like the Mental Health Commission of Canada, adjunct instructor, Ontario Provincial Government, and a New York City based think tank. PhD graduates in Sociology, from Queen’s have gone on to positions in rewarding, full-time tenured and track positions where they have been able to draw upon their education, skills, and abilities to contribute to international scholarship and higher education. Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you to have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation. Visit the Department of Sociology website to see where the degree can take you.

**Essential transferable skills including**
- Communication: Comprehension of complex information and arguments about social issues in appropriate formats and a range of media and digital technologies.
- Teamwork/Leadership: Working creatively by cooperating with others in a manner which recognizes diverse values, beliefs and opinions.
- Information management: Prioritizing, organizing and synthesizing large amounts of information.
- Time management: Meeting deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands.
- Project management: Developing ideas, gathering information, analyzing and answering findings, drawing and acting on conclusions.
- Creativity and innovation: Addressing and implementing creative and innovative solutions.
- Perseverance to work through challenges to achieve desired outcomes.
- Understanding and awareness of sound ethical practices, sensitivity to complex social positions.
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
- Professionalism in work, research, and interactions.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- Advanced knowledge and technical skills including:
  - Quantitative/Qualitative research techniques to analyze social issues.
  - Critical thinking to evaluate social problems and interactions by challenging commonly accepted assumptions.
  - Research design: to select and effectively deploy appropriate research designs for examining and interpreting a variety of social phenomena.
  - Program evaluation: to consider the impact and unintended consequences of policies, and consider the role of social differentiation in creating conflict, social movements and social protest around policies.
  - Organizing critical dialogue and discussion to interpret, explain and extrapolate illustrated content, and their implications for individuals and regional, national and global institutions.
  - Combining sociological knowledge with a critical and reflexive understanding of the complexities of present-day societies.
- Policy Analysis: to consider the impact and unintended consequences of policies, and consider the role of social differentiation in creating conflict, social movements and social protest around policies.

**Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!**
Graduate Studies FAQs

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.

Where can I get help?

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 SGS HABITAT for available resources.

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.