

Sociology Ph.D. Map

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

GRAD MAP FOR PH.D. STUDENTS 

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?**

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 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

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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. 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.

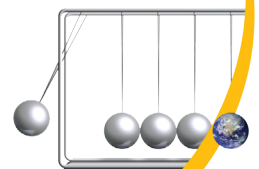
Program **STRUCTURE**

PhD (4 years): 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

School of
Graduate
Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs



Sociology PH.D. MAP

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

Queen's
175
YEARS

YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

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.

- 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](#).

- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete [ROMEOnline module](#) on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and [other funding](#).
- Attend conferences in your field.

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate [Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research](#).

- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Contact the [Queen's Media Centre](#) for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the [Arts and Science University Research website](#).

- 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](#), The American Criminology Society, the Surveillance and Society Conference, the [Society for Social Studies of Science](#), and more.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 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 [SGPS](#), or media outlets like the [Queen's Journal](#), [CFRC](#), [QTV](#) and the [SGS Blog](#). Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#).
- 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 [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL 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).

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from [Mitacs](#) and [other sources](#).
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking [QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate](#).

- 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](#).

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, museums, and cultural studies groups, 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 [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' [networking workshops](#).

- Consider joining professional associations like the [Canadian Sociological Association](#).
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take the [Career Services Career Planning workshop](#) or meet with a career counsellor 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 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 [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through ["Ask an Alum"](#). For more information check out [Career Cruising](#).
- 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, resumes, or 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 to 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

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

Ph.D. Map FAQs

What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- MA in Sociology with minimum A-average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Unpublished writing sample in a related field.
- 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](#).

How do I find a supervisor?

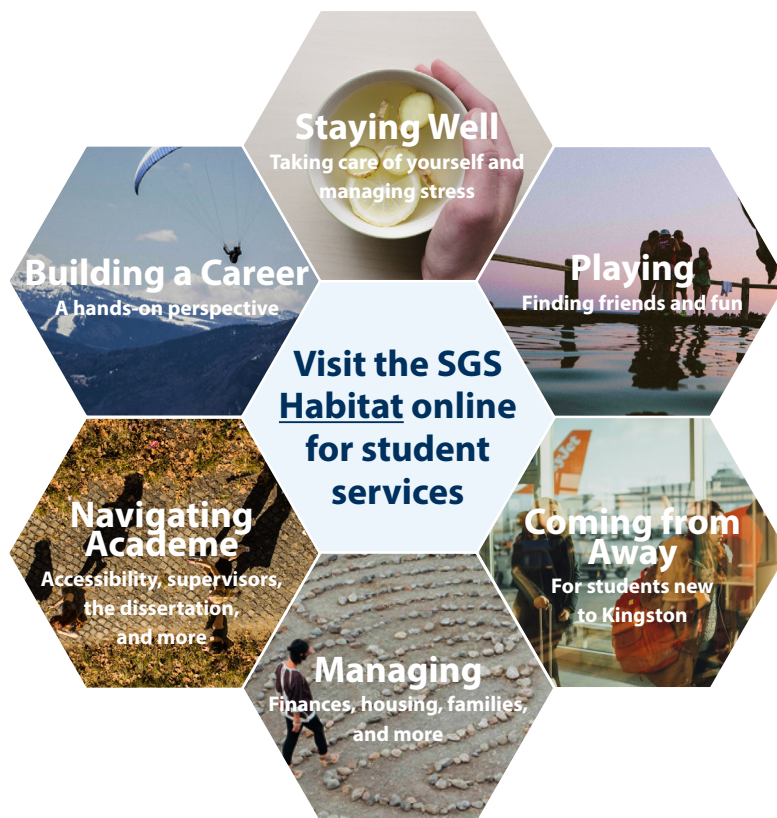
We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Sociology Department website to read [faculty profiles](#) and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.

What about funding?

The minimum funding guarantee for Sociology PhD students is \$21,000/year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package includes graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a \$10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#) or see what awards are offered through the Sociology Department.

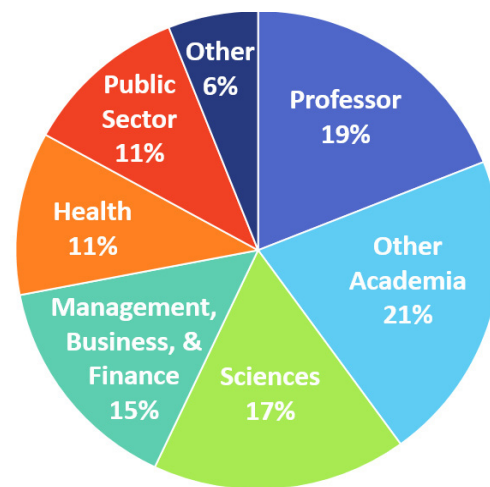


Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A PhD 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.



Ph.D. Career Outcomes in Canada

Edge, Jessica, and Daniel Munro. Inside and Outside the Academy: Valuing and Preparing PhDs for Careers. Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2015.



DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY

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