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

**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 research designs for examining and interpreting a variety of social phenomena.
  - Program evaluation to collect, evaluate, and analyze information concerning the effectiveness of a wide range of projects and policies.
  - Organizing critical debate and discussion, interpret and explain multifaceted current issues, and their implications for individuals, social groups and institutions, by 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 policy.
  - 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 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 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, social 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 has been able to secure tenure track appointments. Others find positions in places like the Mental Health Commission of Canada, adjunct instructors, Ontario Provincial Government and a New York City-based think tank. PhD graduates in Sociology, from corporations and independent consultants to federal agencies, have found positions in areas that are able to draw upon all of 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 smoothly transition to the world of work after graduation. Visit the Department of Sociology website to see where the degree can take you.

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- **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.
  - 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 II**
  - Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertations 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 defence accommodations.
  - Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.
  - 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 IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - 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.
  - 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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, OGS, and other funding.
  - Attend conferences in your field.

- **YEAR II**
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
  - Expand your research audience through social media.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.

- **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 Sociological Association Annual Meeting, or Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting and more.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- **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 SGGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal CTPC, 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**
  - With help from teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS991 or the PUTI 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**
  - 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 studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking RLTC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
  - Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow. This is an excellent opportunity to start a teaching dossier.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - 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.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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.

- **YEAR II**
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.

- **YEAR III**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connect, on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association.
  - Learn groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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.
  - Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week. Visit career.queensu.ca for your career pathways.

- **YEAR II**
  - Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentoring.
  - Explore different career interests by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alumni.” For more information on “Career Cruising.”
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - 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.
  - Consider a graduate or professional degree.

© Career Services, Queen’s University, 2017-2018
Graduate Studies FAQs

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.

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.

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 winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.