Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES?

The PhD program in Global Development Studies is the ideal choice for graduate students seeking to conduct advanced research in the field of international development and public policy. It provides students with the tangible skills needed for future careers in academia, public sector research, and international policymaking while opening new pathways within journalism, education, law, and the private sector. Taught by experts with outstanding global reputations, the program expands student competencies in cross-cultural research design, project management, and effective communication while fostering an informed sense of public purpose and social justice. Students use these skills to develop research projects that produce valued knowledge for use in academia and the development sector. On completing the program, our graduates emerge with a signature portfolio of diverse skills including project design, fieldwork proficiency, logistical planning, network building, and advanced abilities in the creation and communication of new knowledge. These competencies are strongly valued by employers in Canada and internationally who seek highly trained graduates with innovative ideas to address pressing global challenges.

Why QUEEN’S?

Through the support of a close-knit community of students, staff, and scholars who make our department a warm and welcoming environment, our doctoral students are ideally positioned to conduct research that makes a difference. From day one, they are guided by dynamic faculty members who coordinate major international research programs and extensive global knowledge networks. Bringing this expertise into the classroom, we ensure our students acquire the analytical tools and the thematic specializations they need to undertake new and valuable research. This rich learning experience is supplemented by international study opportunities, prize-winning professional development programs, excellent funding packages, and a beautiful setting in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. This is why DEVS at Queen’s is proud to offer a uniquely stimulating environment for doctoral studies.

Program STRUCTURE

The PhD program in Global Development Studies is a four-year program that includes the following:

Year One: Candidates complete four courses and a professional seminar, establish their supervisory committee, and begin to work on their research proposal.

Year Two: Candidates complete written comprehensive examinations, defend their research proposal, and begin active research.

Year Three: Candidates complete data collection, begin to write their thesis, and plan a program of knowledge mobilization.

Year Four: Candidates complete and defend their PhD thesis, and actively pursue knowledge mobilization.

RESEARCH Areas

Faculty members in DEVS have diverse and engaging research interests that explore the intersections between four primary areas of development studies:

- Environment, Development and Sustainability
- Global Health and Wellbeing
- The Cultural Politics of Development
- The Political Economy of Development

Within these broad themes, current and past graduate students have designed research on a variety of topics ranging from sustainable agriculture to disaster risk reduction and youth education. Our faculty also have practical expertise and research networks that encompass an expansive range of geographic and cultural regions. This has facilitated student research projects in countries across Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Faculty profiles with their research and/or supervision interests are available on our departmental website.
**Global Development Studies PhD**

### Key Priorities Include Coursework, Building Your Relationship with Your Supervisor, and Forming Your Committee.

#### YEAR I
- **Write your comprehensive exams and submit course syllabi.**
- **Write and defend your thesis proposal and embark on your substantive research.**
- **Apply for ethics approval through the General Research Ethics Board.**
- **Consider attending the academic and professional development workshops hosted by School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs.**
- **Complete the Research Ethics online module (CORE).**

### Build Skills and Experience

- **Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or other external funding sources.**
- **Attend conferences in your field.**
- **Continue attending seminars, such as SNID.**
- **Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs and organizing conferences.**
- **Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through the Queen’s Alumni Association, Queen’s Connects, professional associations, and at conferences.**

### Engage with Your Community

- **Consider volunteering with community organizations such as Loving Spoonful, HIV/AIDS Regional Services (HARS), and Sustainable Kingston, or in Queen’s organizations such as Queen’s Project on International Development, Queen’s Amnesty International, Queen’s Health Outreach, or Queen’s Backing Action on Climate Change.**
- **Attend weekly seminar series such as Studies in National and International Development (SNID).**
- **Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs and organizing conferences.**
- **Continue attending seminars, such as SNID.**
- **Connect to broader communities of development studies research through Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) or CASID.**

### Launch Your Career

- **Attend a Career Services workshop or meet with a career educator and coach.**
- **Start writing 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 Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.**
- **Start building your teaching portfolio, including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.**
- **Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.**
- **Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.**

### Achieve Your Academic Goals

- **Think about audiences for your research.**
- **Apply to Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and other external funding sources.**

### Maximize Research Impact

- **Present your work at conferences such as CASID, and at Queen’s seminar series such as SNID.**
- **Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.**
- **Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research Website.**

### Continue to pursue academic publication options for your research.

- **Explore opportunities to become a departmental Teaching Fellow.**
- **Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in different forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews.**
- **Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in development studies.**

### Where Can I Go?

A PhD degree in Global Development Studies can take your career in many directions, including academic inquiry. Your PhD students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- **Academia**
- **International aid work**
- **Health**
- **Leadership**
- **Consulting**
- **Non-profit organizations**
- **Public Service**

### What Will I Learn?

A graduate degree in Global Development Studies can equip you with:

- **Knowledge and Technical Skills** in an 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
- **Team Management**: meet deadlines and responsibilities on competing demands
- **Project Management**: develop idea, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Creativity and innovation** to address complex, multifaceted challenges
- **Responsiveness** and adaptability to changing circumstances or unanticipated outcomes
- **Perseverance** to work through challenges to achieve desired outcomes
- **Independence**, as well as 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

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Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• M.A., with first-class standing (A- average), in social science or humanities discipline from a recognized university, with a relevant thematic focus in course work and research.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Writing sample, CV, extended statement of research, and supervisory support

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES
• Application deadline: January 31
• Notification of acceptance: no later than March 31

Before you start your application, please review the application process outlined on the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs website.

How do I find a SUPERVISOR?

Applicants to the Global Development Studies PhD program must identify an area of research interest and secure a supervisor prior to applying.

Visit the Global Development Studies website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest, and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.

What about FUNDING?

The Department of Global Development Studies provides financial support for PhD students. The minimum level of funding is $21,000 per annum during the four-year eligibility period, providing you remain a full time graduate student in good academic standing. Financial support is derived from a combination of internal and external awards and teaching assistantships.

“Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for external funding (e.g. OGS, SSHRC, etc). For more information and application deadlines, see the information provided within the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ website relating to awards and scholarships. The Department is happy to review SSHRC applications for students who are applying to the DEVS PhD program.