

Global Development Studies PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →

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.



GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Global Development Studies PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

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

- **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 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 outcome
- **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
- **Leadership:** initiative and vision leading people and discussions

Career Possibilities

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

- Academia
- Community/Social Services
- Finance
- Government Policy Making
- Health
- International aid work
- Law
- Medicine
- Policy research think-tanks
- International/multilateral development organizations
- Humanitarian and relief organizations

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

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 [SGSPA website](#) 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 and 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

- MA, 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 current minimum level of funding is \$23,000 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.

