# Sociology PhD Map

# Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

# Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOLOGY?

The Department of Sociology focuses on critical social inquiry and rigorous research, offering students advanced training in theoretical and methodological skills, enabling them to pursue challenging projects with world-class resources to complete them. Our faculty members are all well-published scholars with national or international reputations in innovative fields of inquiry, who establish supportive, mentoring relationships with students.

The Department is particularly well known for its strengths in criminology and the law; media, information, and surveillance; power, inequalities, and social justice. Our students have an outstanding record of receiving additional research funding and in securing full-time academic positions and successful professional careers in law, social work, policy analysis and research, and corrections. Graduates of the PhD program remark on the intimate, supportive, and cohesive culture of the department with strong supervisory support.

# Why QUEEN'S?

Our faculty are recognized as academic leaders in their fields, pursuing a wide range of funded research programs that enhance the mentoring experience and provide opportunities for collaborative research and personalized training. Graduate students are taught in small seminars, in which they engage with challenging scholarship and develop their own research. Our students have developed a vibrant, supportive community through the Sociology Graduate Student Association, plus reading groups, national conference panels, and the annual graduate student conference in the department.

More broadly, graduate students at Queen's gain the benefits of a close-knit intellectual community, competitive funding packages, and a lively city full of stimulating events, experiences, and opportunities.

Program STRUCTURE



Students will complete four courses, a course in professional and pedagogical skills, a 2-part qualifying examination (written and oral), and a thesis in traditional or manuscript format to be defended before a committee of examiners.

"The Department of Sociology at Queen's University offers the unique mix of one-on-one support and innovative research expertise. The small class sizes and personalized supervision equip students with competitive professional and academic skills, making the PhD program an excellent choice for those keen to pursue further academic development. I highly recommend it!"

- Daniela Zuzunaga Zegarra, PhD

## RESEARCH Areas/ Streams

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

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 them 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. If you need assistance in making contact with a potential supervisor, please contact the Graduate Coordinator.



queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

# Sociology PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

YEAR II YEAR III YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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 SGSPA professional development workshops.
- Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student Conference.
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camps, such as Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
- Consider publishing elements of your research.
- 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.

with community partners.

 Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor

Continue to attend conferences and

Attend a major conference in your

connect with scholars in your field and

field, such as the Canadian Sociological

Association Congress, The American

Criminology Society Annual Meeting,

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- · Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete the Course on Research Ethics (CORE) if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding sources.
- · 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) or GRADflix 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.

for extra training through CTL, School

of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral

MITACS or other sources to boost your

multi-cultural environment by taking

the Intercultural Awareness Training

Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four

Affairs professional development,

Prepare for work or studies in a

Directions.

- the Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, and more.

  Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities

  Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the
  - 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.

#### 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, and the SGSPA 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. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend the department's Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP), a requirement of your degree.
- Consider becoming a book reviewer for a journal in your specific research specialism.

Participate in your graduate and professional

Get involved with the Annual Department of

Consider participating in the PhD-Community

student outreach programs, organizing

conferences, and research groups.

Sociology Graduate Conference.

Initiative

community through activities such as graduate

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- The Department of Sociology has a LinkedIn group to join.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, American Sociological Association, American Society of Criminology, and British Sociological Association, plus more specialized associations within your specific field of research.

### 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.

## LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself.
   Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Find impactful work that aligns with your values using the Queen's Career Guide to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. 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.
- 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, and interviews.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

# **Knowledge & Workplace Skills**

Advanced Knowledge and technical skills including:

Qualitative/Quantitative research techniques to

- analyze social issues.
- Critical thinking to evaluate social problems and interactions by challenging common assumptions.
- 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 to define, interpret and explain multifaceted current issues.
- Policy Analysis to considers the impact and unintended consequences of policies, and consider the role of social differentiation in creating conflict, social movements and social protest around policies.
- 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.
- 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: manage competing demands
   Project management: developing ideas, gathering information, analyzing and appraising findings,
- drawing and acting on conclusionsCreativity and innovation to address complex challenges
- Perseverance to work through challenges
- Understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research, and cultural sensitivity
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Professionalism in all aspects of work

#### Career Possibilities

The majority of our PhD graduates who sought a position in academia has been able to secure tenure track appointments. Others have pursued research careers in:

- Adjunct Faculty
- Mental Health Commissions
- Provincial Government
- Think Tanks

PhD graduates in Sociology, from Queen's are securing rewarding, full-time tenure track positions where the 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 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.

#### 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: <a href="mailto:careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps">careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps</a>.

# 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 closeknit 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.

# Graduate 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
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Two (2) academic reference letters
- · Statement of Interest

#### **KEY DATES & DEADLINES**

- Application due: January 25th
- Notification of acceptance: Late February

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

# What about FUNDING?

All eligible full-time graduate students who request funding (financial support) as part of their initial application can expect to receive a funding offer to help them with the costs associated with their graduate studies in the Department of Sociology.

The current minimum guaranteed funding package for PhD students is \$23,000 per year for four years, and it is important to note that they must apply for all major external and internal (where appropriate) scholarships for which they are eligible. Recipients of external awards will receive funding packages higher than those who do not win external funds.

Funding packages may consist of any or a combination of the following: scholarships, fellowships, external awards, internal awards, teaching assistantships, or research assistantships. The Department also offers funding for participation in conferences.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC/NSERC, and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships and the Department of Sociology funding information.



