

Global Development Studies MA Map

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

Why Graduate Studies in Global Development Studies?

The MA in Global Development Studies provides tools for critical social inquiry, and effective and ethical global research, engagement, and collaboration. Our faculty bring expertise in political economy, cultural politics, global health and livelihoods, and sustainability. We offer focused classes and close supervision to empower students to address the world's complex social, political, and environmental challenges. Our students build interdisciplinary research projects on the topics that they are most passionate about! A degree in Global Development Studies provides pathways to a wide range of careers focused on improving lives, reducing inequality, and tackling global challenges. Graduates work in academia and research, international development and humanitarian work, government and public policy, advocacy and law, communications and journalism, and the private-sector.

Why Queen's?

As recognized academic leaders in their fields with major international research projects, our faculty uniquely bring their active research into the classroom. They provide an enriching space for our graduate cohorts to explore issues of political economy, cultural politics, global health and livelihoods, and sustainability on a global scale. Queen's graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. With world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston,



"The MA program was so accommodating after my return from medical leave and everyone was so welcoming. The supervisory support was phenomenal and made the process of writing my thesis so much more enjoyable. Overall, the program was a rewarding and academically rigorous experience." - Tineke Kipper, MA

Queen's offers a uniquely stimulating environment for graduate studies.

Program Structure

The Master of Arts in Global Development Studies has two streams: the one-year course-based stream ensures the development of conceptual thinking and analytical and interpretive skills. Students complete a Major Research Paper (MRP) of 50-60 pages, based on secondary research, dealing with a specific interdisciplinary question related to the field of development studies. The two-year thesis-based stream culminates in a full Master's thesis of 75-100 pages, defended before a committee of three examiners. The thesis will demonstrate the student's ability to produce original work using primary data often (but not necessarily) gathered through fieldwork. All students are admitted into the course-based stream and those students interested in entering the research-based stream can apply for entry during the Fall Term. Entry into the research-based stream is dependent on having an overall average of at least A-, a clear research project, and close supervisory support from a faculty member.

Research Areas

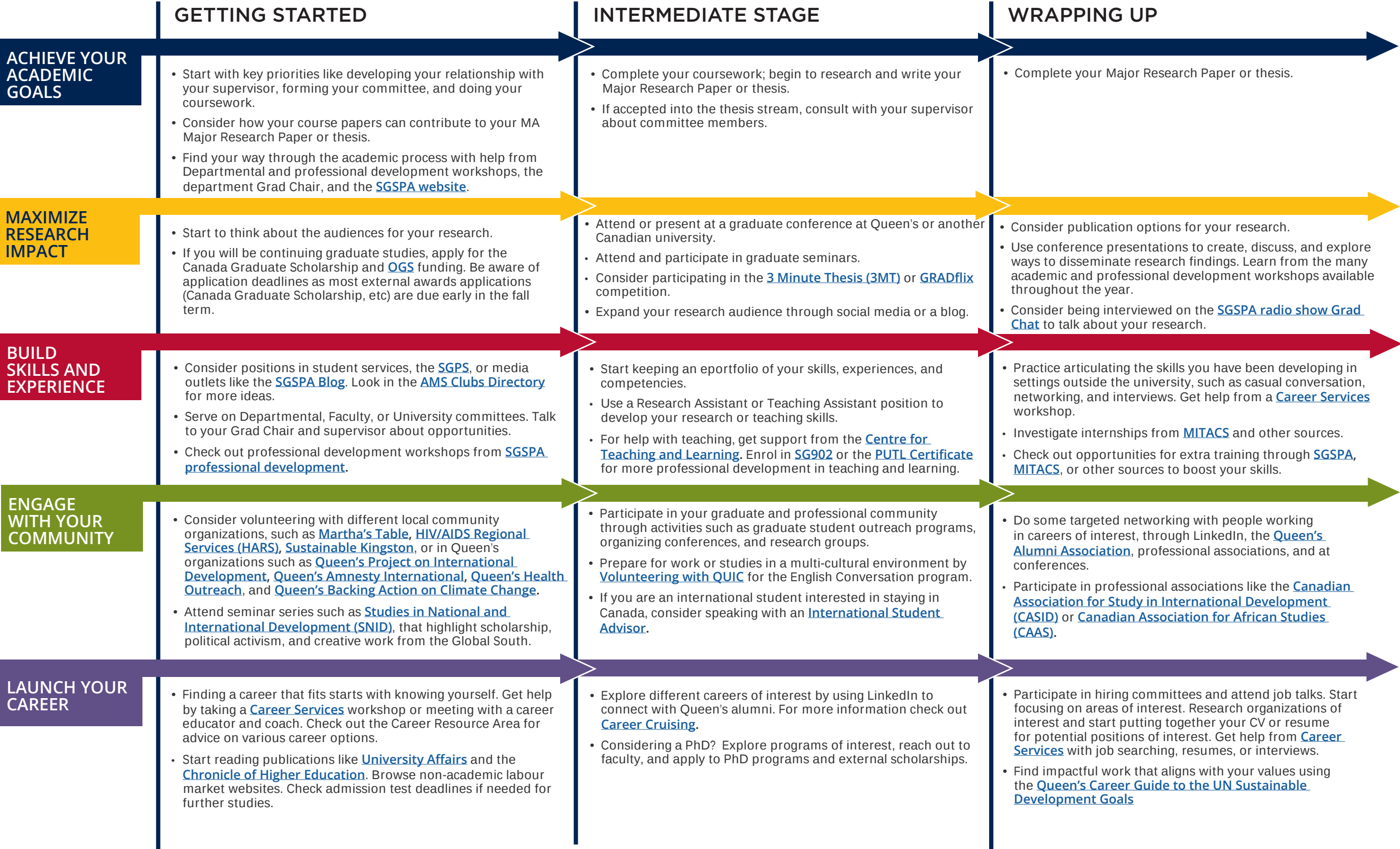
- Environment, Development and Sustainability
- Global Health and Wellbeing
- The Cultural Politics of Development
- The Political Economy of Development

Research in global development studies is interdisciplinary, tied together by commitments to social justice and a transnational lens. Student research ranges from hyper-local partnerships with local non-profits to multi-site international inquiries. Before applying, we encourage you to identify your key area(s) of research interest to make sure you are a good fit with the areas that we teach and supervise in. Domestic applicants do not need to secure a specific supervisor; however, international students must secure a supervisor prior to application due to the limited number of spaces available to international students. Please contact potential supervisors at the application stage to discuss your area of research interest, related experience, and to determine if they are accepting graduate students to supervise.



Global Development Studies MA Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

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

- Awareness**, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research, and cultural sensitivity
- Effective **communication skills** in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management**: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management**: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management**: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation**
- Perseverance**
- Independent and collaborative work experience**
- Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership**: initiative and vision while leading people and discussion

Career Possibilities

A Master's degree in Global Development Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia
- Government
- International aid work
- Law
- Media
- Public Service
- Policy research think-tanks
- International/multilateral development organizations
- Humanitarian and relief organizations
- Grassroots organizations
- Government agencies
- Philanthropic foundations

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?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on 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

- A minimum B+ average in the last two years of an Honours (4-year) bachelors program in a related social science field. Students with humanities-based backgrounds or from traditionally unrelated fields may also be considered for admission if they have completed sufficient courses in social science.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Academic writing sample (10-15 pages).
- International students must secure a supervisor prior to applying. For a list of potential supervisors, please review the DEVS faculty profiles on the DEVS website.
- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.
- Two academic reference letters.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 31st.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Mid-February and onwards.
- Late applications may be considered for domestic applicants until June 1. However, January 31 is the deadline to be considered for additional awards and scholarships that could supplement the minimum financial award. Please email the DEVS Academic Programs Assistant for further information if you will be submitting an application after January 31.

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

What about Funding?

The Department of Global Development Studies provides financial support for MA students enrolled in the one-year course-based program. The current minimum level of funding is \$16,000 for the academic year. Financial support is derived from a combination of internal and external awards and teaching assistantships. Equivalent funding for the second year of the thesis-based stream is not guaranteed. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.

