

Global Development Studies PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

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.



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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

1ST YEAR

2ND YEAR

3RD YEAR

4TH YEAR
& TRANSITIONING

ACHIEVE YOUR
ACADEMIC
GOALS

- Key priorities include coursework, building your relationship with your supervisor, and forming your committee.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your comprehensive exams and dissertation proposal.
- Look to [Student Academic Success Services](#) and [SGSPA professional development](#) for a variety of supports.
- Complete the Research Ethics online module (CORE).

MAXIMIZE
RESEARCH
IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply to [Ontario Graduate Scholarship](#), Canada Graduate Scholarship, and other external funding sources.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD
SKILLS AND
EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the [SGPS](#), or media outlets like the [Queen's Journal](#), [CFRC](#), and the [SGSPA Blog](#). For more ideas, look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#).
- Use a teaching assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by [Volunteering with QUIC](#) for the English Conversation program.

ENGAGE
WITH YOUR
COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with community organizations such as [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 seminar series such as [Studies in National and International Development \(SNID\)](#).

LAUNCH YOUR
CAREER

- Attend a [Career Services](#) workshop or meet with a career educator and coach.
- 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](#)

- Write and defend your comprehensive exams
- 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 [SGSPA](#).

- Consider presenting a paper based on course work or early stages of your research at a conference such as [Canadian Association of Studies in International Development \(CASID\)](#).
- Expand your research audience through social media.

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills and experiences.
- Enrol in [SGS902](#) or the Professional Development in University Teaching and Learning Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- 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](#).

- 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](#).
- Explore opportunities and requirements for careers of interest.

- Check out the [SGSPA writing camps](#) like Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the many academic and professional development workshops available throughout the year.
- Consider publishing elements of your research.

- Present your work at conferences such as [CASID](#), and at Queen's seminar series such as [SNID](#).
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) or [GRADflix](#) competition.
- Contact [Queen's Media Relations](#) for guidance on speaking to news outlets. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.
- Find opportunities for extra training through [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#), [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development](#), [MITACS](#), or other sources to boost your skills.

- 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. Check out [Career Services'](#) networking workshops.

- 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 CV, and begin your job search plan.

- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue academic publication options for your research.

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and [Queen's Media Relations](#).
- Consider publishing your research findings through popular media outlets in accessible formats.

- Explore opportunities to become a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in different forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from [Career Services'](#) workshops.

- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in development studies.

- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. International students interested in staying in Canada should speak with an [International Student Advisor](#).

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?

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

- 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 \$25,000 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.

