

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



"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, recent PhD Graduate

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.

Research Areas

- 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.



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.



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 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 conclusions
- Creativity 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.

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 & 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

- 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 \$25,000 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.

