Global Development Studies MA Map

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES?

To realize their commitment to making the world a better place, today’s graduates require effective analytical and communication skills combined with a globally-orientated knowledge base. To this end, the MA in Global Development Studies offers a program of transformative learning closely designed to provide the tools for effective and ethical global engagement and collaboration. With focused classes and close supervision, our students are challenged to ask important questions about equitable and sustainable development in a world defined by complex social, political, and environmental challenges. This program then empowers students to pursue interdisciplinary research projects on the diverse topics that they are most passionate about! By proactively building the skills sought by employers in Canada and internationally, the degree enables students to take their next steps on career pathways that include government and policymaking, journalism and media, social enterprise, law and the education sector.

“By studying within such a small and new program I was able to design my curriculum in accordance with my research interests.”

– Sara Korosi, MA

Why QUEEN’S?

Our faculty are recognised as academic leaders in their fields and coordinate major international research projects. By bringing their active research commitments into the classroom, they provide and enriching space for our graduate cohorts. This unique classroom experience is combined with close supervision to give students the analytical tools and thematic knowledge required to conduct original research. At a Masters level, we offer both a one-year degree and a two-year advanced programme involving field research. For students keen to further advance and apply their skills, we offer the next step in research training through our four year PhD programme in Global Development Studies.

Our positive emphasis on cross-cultural learning and social justice helps produce informed citizens who are uniquely positioned to craft positive social change in Canada and abroad. More broadly, at Queen’s graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a uniquely stimulating environment for graduate studies.

Program STRUCTURE

The Masters of Global Development Studies has two streams:

The one-year course-based stream ensures the development of conceptual thinking and analytical and interpretive skills, but does not require primary research. Students will 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.

Students do not choose between these streams before they start the program. Instead, all students are admitted into the course-based stream. Subsequently, those students interested in entering the research-based stream can apply for entry once they have begun their studies 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

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

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 and related experience and to determine if they are accepting new graduate students to supervise. Faculty profiles with their research and/or supervision interests are available on our departmental website. Once admitted, we will happily help you develop your research project and if applicable, find a suitable supervisor.

Queens university GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS
INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your Major Research Paper or thesis.
- If accepted into the thesis stream, consult with your supervisor about committee members.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- 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.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for a Grad Chat to discuss your research.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your Major Research Paper or thesis.
- Begin to think about the audiences for your research.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, Loving Spoonful, HIV/AIDS Regional Services (HARS), Sustainable Kingston or in Queen’s organizations such as Queen’s Project on International Development, Queen’s Amnesty International, Queen’s Health Outreach, Queen’s Backing Action on Climate Change.
- Attend weekly seminars series such as Studies in National and International Development (SNID), that highlight scholarship, political activism, and creative work from the Global South.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Alumni Association, Canadian Association for African Studies, Canadian Association for Teaching and Learning, MITACS, or other sources.
- Participate in professional associations like the Canadian Association for African Studies (CASED) or Canadian Association for African Studies (CAASS).

WHERE CAN I GO?

- 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:
  - Public Service
  - Government
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - Non-profit organizations
  - International aid work
  - Academia
  - Law
  - Media
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

2022-2023

Global Development Studies MA Map

GETTING STARTED

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA Major Research Paper or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from Departmental and professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGPA website.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and GOG funding. Be aware of application deadlines as most external awards applications (SSHRC, etc.) are due early in the fall term.
- Check out professional development workshops from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the SGPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on Departmental, Faculty, or University committees. Talk to your Grad Chair and supervisor about opportunities.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SG592 or the PDU Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, Loving Spoonful, HIV/AIDS Regional Services (HARS), Sustainable Kingston or in Queen’s organizations such as Queen’s Project on International Development, Queen’s Amnesty International, Queen’s Health Outreach, Queen’s Backing Action on Climate Change.
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LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area, or advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Considering a PhD? Explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
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 Individual Development Plan (IDP) 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

- 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 native language, prospective students must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).
- 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 approximately $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. See the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships and the department’s Financial Support page.