

Global Development Studies MA Map

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond



GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS →

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 holistic, globally-orientated knowledge base. In response, 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. Through focused classes and close supervision, our students are challenged to explore important questions about equitable and sustainable development in a world marked by complex social, political and environmental challenges. This process empowers students to pursue interdisciplinary research projects on the diverse topics that they are most passionate about! At the same time, by proactively building the skills sought by employers in Canada and internationally, the degree enables students to take their next steps on career pathways into government and policy, 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 in diverse countries such as India, South Africa, Cuba, and Canada. They bring these active research experiences into the classroom, offering courses on topics ranging from development, finance and trade, through to gender, climate change and beyond. We believe that this unique classroom experience combined with close supervision provides students with the analytical tools and thematic knowledge needed to undertake original research projects, either through a one-year degree or a two-



year program involving field research. For students keen to further advance and apply their skills, we offer the next step in research training through our 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 requires students to complete six courses and write a 50-60 page Major Research Paper (MRP).
- The two-year thesis-based stream requires students to complete six courses and write a 75-100 page thesis based on more extensive research typically involving fieldwork. The thesis is defended before a committee of three examiners.

All students are admitted into the course-based stream. Students interested in transitioning into the thesis-based stream apply for entry at the end of the Fall term during their first year. A transition into the two-year stream is dependent on having an overall average of at

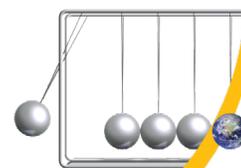
least A- in Fall term courses, a clear research project and supervisory support from a faculty member.

RESEARCH Areas

- [The Political Economy of Development](#)
- [The Cultural Politics of Development](#)
- [Indigenous Studies](#)
- [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.

School of
Graduate
Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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 [SGS website](#).

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding. Be aware of application deadlines as most external awards applications (SSHRC, etc) are due in mid-October.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the SGS 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.
- Check out professional development workshops from [Expanding Horizons](#).

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.
- 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.

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 counsellor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to do With That?* or *The Academic Job Search* from the [Career Resource Area](#) for 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- 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.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference at Queen's or another Canadian university.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- 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 SG902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queen's Connects](#) 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.

- Complete your Major Research Paper or thesis.

- 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 for a Grad Chat to discuss your research.

- 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](#).
- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences.
- Participate in professional associations like the [Canadian Association for Study in International Development \(CASID\)](#) or [Canadian Association for African Studies \(CAAS\)](#).

- 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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

- **Knowledge and technical skills**
- 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**
- **Independence** and experience as a **collaborative worker**
- **Awareness**, an 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 discussion

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.

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 SGS 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 [SGS 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 Graduate 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' information on [awards and scholarships](#) and the department's [Financial Support](#) page.



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