

Global Development Studies PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES?

The PhD program in Global Development Studies is the ideal choice for graduate students seeking to conduct 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 policy-making while opening new pathways within journalism, education, law, and the private sector. Taught by experts with global reputations, the program expands student competencies in cross-cultural research design, management, and communication and fosters an informed sense of public purpose and social justice. Students use these skills to develop research projects that produce unique knowledge for use in academia and the development sector. On completing the program, our graduates emerge with an outstanding 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 mobilisation.

Year Four: Candidates complete and defend their PhD thesis, and actively pursue knowledge mobilisation.

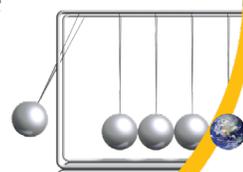
RESEARCH Areas

Faculty members in DEVS have diverse and engaging research interests that explore the intersections between four primary areas of development studies:

- The Political Economy of Development
- The Cultural Politics of Development
- Indigenous Studies
- Environment, Development and Sustainability

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](#).

School of Graduate Studies
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Global Development Studies PhD Map *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV & 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 [Expanding Horizons](#) for a variety of supports.
- Complete the [Research Ethics online module \(CORE\)](#).

- Write your comprehensive exams and submit course syllabus.
- Write and defend your thesis proposal and embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of the Expanding Horizons website.
- Apply for ethics approval through the [General Research Ethics Board](#).

- Check out the [SGS 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.

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

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

- 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 such as Twitter or a blog.

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

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

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, Studio Q, and the SGS Blog. For more ideas, look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a teaching assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Consider preparing 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.

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

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

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

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

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

- 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](#).

- 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.

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

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Attend a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to do With That?* for advice on non-academic 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.

- Start building your teaching portfolio, including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- 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.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- 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.

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

WHERE CAN I GO?

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
- Non-governmental organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- Public Service

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online [My Grad Map](#) tool.

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

- M.A., 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, and an extended statement of research

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** January 30
- **Notification of acceptance:** approximately four weeks after the application deadline

Before you start your application, please review the [application process](#) outlined on the School of Graduate Studies website.

How do I find a SUPERVISOR?

We strongly encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before 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 \$21,000 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.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#). For students applying to the DEVS PhD program, the Department is happy to review your SSHRC application prior to submission.



DEPARTMENT OF
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES

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