# Sociology PhD Map



Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS



#### 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, yet they still manage to maintain an open-door policy and 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 panels, and the annual graduate student conference in the department.

The Surveillance Studies Centre is a multidisciplinary international research centre affiliated with the department. It offers several speakers series, research seminars and workshops that facilitate collaboration between faculty and students across departments and faculties. Its current research programs focus on the social, political and ethical implications of big data surveillance, 'smart' cities, wearable technologies and drones.



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.

"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, PhD Candidate

#### **RESEARCH** Areas/Streams

- Criminology and Law
- Power, Inequalities and Social Justice
- Media, Information and Surveillance

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 him/her 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.



# Sociology PhD Map\*

The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2021-2022. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

**YEAR I** 

#### Key priorities include forming your Supervisory and Qualifying Exam committees, and coursework (normally completed in the first year).

- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodations.
- Look to **Student Academic Success Services** for a variety of supports.
- With your supervisor begin your list of Required Readings for your Qualifying Exam.

Complete the Course on Research Ethics (CORE) if doing

· Think about audiences for your research.

research regarding sensitive topics.

Attend conferences in your field.

#### YEAR II YEAR III

- proposal. Submit ethics review application (if necessary).
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of **Expanding Horizons** workshops.
- Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student Conference.

### & TRANSITIONING

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

## **YEAR IV**

#### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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 analyse 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 to 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
- Independence and experience as a collaborative
- Professionalism in all aspects of work

#### WHERE CAN I GO?

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
- **Provincial Government**
- Mental Health Commissions
- 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.

## Complete your Qualifying Exam. Defend your thesis

Present your work at graduate conferences, through

Expand your research audience through social media.

professional associations, or topic conferences.

Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for

Doctoral Field Research.

dissertation. Check out the **SGS writing** camps, such as Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.

Continue to research and write your

- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- · Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the **Queen's Media Centre** for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Sociological Association Congress, **The American Criminology Society Annual** Meeting, the Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, and more.

Practice articulating the skills you have been

#### **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

**ACHIEVE YOUR** 

**ACADEMIC** 

MAXIMIZE

**RESEARCH** 

IMPACT

**GOALS** 

• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Departmental Meeting graduate student representative for tips on getting involved.

· Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding sources.

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGPS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- For help with teaching, get support from the **Centre** for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend the department's Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP), a requirement of your degree.
- · Consider becoming a book reviewer for a journal in your specific research specialism.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multicultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
- Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

#### **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Elizabeth Frye Society and the Boys and Girls Club.
- · Follow the Sociology Department on Twitter.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Get involved with the Annual Department of Sociology Graduate Conference, Interconnection.
- Consider participating in the PhD-Community Initiative
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through **Oueens Connects** on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, American Sociological Association, British Sociological Association, plus more specialized associations within your specific field of research.
- The Department of Sociology has a **LinkedIn** group to join.

#### **LAUNCH YOUR** CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help.
- 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 **Queens** Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. For more information check out Career Cruisina.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend iob 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 industry resume 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.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

# 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 <u>SGS website</u> 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 (C.V.)
- Statment of Interest

#### **KEY DATES & DEADLINES**

- Application due: January 15th
- Notitification 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 minimum guaranteed funding package for PhD students is \$23,000 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. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$10,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships and the <a href="Department of Sociology">Department of Sociology</a> funding information.





DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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