Sociology

Sociologists investigate how societies work. We study social life at every level, from personal relationships to the functioning of institutions and nations, right up to global interconnections. Our department is widely known for its strengths in criminology and the law, media (informational and surveillance), and social inequalities and social justice. Studying Sociology at Queen’s will help you understand the structures and dynamics of societies and the complex effects they have on human behaviour, public issues, everyday life, politics, and culture.

TOp 5 REASONS to study SOCIOLOGY

1. Engage with cutting-edge research in criminal justice, media, work diversity, data, and a range of contemporary inequalities.
2. Learn to critically evaluate common sense assumptions about the societies you live in.
3. Gain transferable skills, from critical analysis to problem-solving, to leadership, research, and communication.
4. A flexible plan: take advantage of one of the many opportunities for international exchange.
5. A small, collegial department, offering lively discussion and committed mentorship.

alumni STORY

Nicole Watson graduated from Queen’s University in 2010 with her Masters in Sociology. She is currently the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture where she manages a network of over 150 representatives from more than 60 different organizations.

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

7% of alumni work in LAW & CONSULTING
8% of alumni work in HEALTH CARE
16% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT
31% of alumni work in EDUCATION

2021-22 major thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection

That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/sociology
In your first year, you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Sociology along with some electives. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

Start going deeper into the discipline of Sociology, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Law or Media Studies. Attend Degree + in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options.

Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

Join teams or clubs on campus such as Sexual Health and Resource Centre and the Queen's Project on International Development (QPID). Volunteer at nearby hospitals, Kingston charities, or organizations like Queen's Health Outreach (QHO) and Student Wellness Services. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study.

If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as the Levana Gender Advocacy Centre, Soul Food, and Community Literacy Centres.

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Make friends in your Major: collaborate, seek support, or start study group.

Join the Sociology Facebook Page. Tutor or assist other students at services like ASUS Peer Tutoring and Queen’s Learning Commons.

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Great Jobs for Sociology Majors. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about Grad School from Career Services.

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Sociology. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps for the online version with links!
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In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

What will I learn?
A degree in Sociology can equip you with:
• Research skills to conduct research, use social scientific databases, explain and interpret social research data
• Research techniques to employ relevant qualitative and quantitative research techniques to produce and analyze data
• Ability to accurately and critically evaluate existing research and programs
• Reason and argument to develop coherent and reasoned argument; deconstruct and critique arguments and evidence
• Problem-solving to approach an issue from several perspectives in a systematic manner
• Oral, written and media communication to write coherent reports, present information orally and visually in a range of media
• Resource and time management for effective prioritization of resources, skills, and time to complete projects

Where can I go?
A degree in Sociology can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s degree. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
• Communications
• Consumer research
• Criminal justice
• Data Analytics
• Health research
• Law
• Public administration
• Public relations
• Social policy and social services
• Social Work

Taking time to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Major Map using our online My Major Map tool.
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. The map just offers suggestions – you don't have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Queen's University
Faculty of Arts and Science
Mackintosh-Corry Hall D431
68 University Avenue
613-533-2162
queensu.ca/sociology