Graduate Studies FAQs

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- M.A. in a social science or humanities discipline with a relevant thematic focus in course work and research from a recognized university with first-class standing (minimum A-average)

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 school, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to 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.

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.

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, prizewinning 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.

Global Development Studies PhD Map

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, the 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 the public sector, internationally who seek highly trained graduates with innovative ideas to address pressing global challenges.

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 supervisory committee, and begin to work on their research proposal.

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.
**Global Development Studies PhD Map**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

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<th>YEAR III</th>
<th>YEAR IV &amp; TRANSITIONING</th>
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<td>• Key priorities include coursework, building your relationship with your supervisor, and forming your committee.</td>
<td>• Write your comprehensive exams and submit course syllabus.</td>
<td>• Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.</td>
<td>• Complete and defend your dissertation. Continue to pursue academic publication options for your research.</td>
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<td>• Consider how your coursework can contribute to your comprehensive exams and dissertation proposal.</td>
<td>• Write and defend your thesis proposal and embark on your substantive research.</td>
<td>• Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.</td>
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<td>• Look to Student Academic Success Services and Expanding Horizons for a variety of supports.</td>
<td>• Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops and the SGS Habitat.</td>
<td>• Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.</td>
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<td>• Complete Research Ethics online module (CORE)</td>
<td>• Apply for ethics approval through the General Research Ethics Board.</td>
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**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

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<td>• Think about audiences for your research.</td>
<td>• Consider presenting a paper based on course work or early stages of your research at a conference such as CASID.</td>
<td>• Present your work at conferences such as CASID and at Queen’s seminar series such as Studies in National and International Development (SNID).</td>
<td>• Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.</td>
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<td>• Apply to SHRE, GGS, and other external funding</td>
<td>• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.</td>
<td>• Consider participating in the 3MT competition or SGS GradChat on CFRC.</td>
<td>• Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.</td>
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<td>• Attend conferences in your field.</td>
<td>• Use a teaching assistant position to develop your skills and experience.</td>
<td>• Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.</td>
<td>• Consider publishing your research findings through popular media outlets in accessible formats.</td>
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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

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<td>• Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, OGV, and the SGS Blog. For more ideas, look in the SGS’s Clubs Listing.</td>
<td>• Hope for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.</td>
<td>• Find opportunities for extra training through Centre for Teaching and Learning; Expanding Horizons; MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.</td>
<td>• Explore opportunities to become a departmental Teaching Fellow.</td>
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<td>• Use a teaching assistant position to develop your skills and experience.</td>
<td>• Start building an eportfolio of your skills and experiences.</td>
<td>• Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help at Career Services workshops.</td>
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<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• Build your teaching skills with help from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.</td>
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<td>• Think about audiences for your research.</td>
<td>• Enrol in SGS902 or the Professional Development in University Teaching and Learning (PULT) for more professional development in teaching and learning.</td>
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**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

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<td>• 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</td>
<td>• Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, and organizing conferences.</td>
<td>• Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in development studies.</td>
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<td>• Attend weekly seminar series such as: Studies in National and International Development (SNID)</td>
<td>• Continue attending SNID seminars.</td>
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<td>• Connect to broader communities of development studies research through Canadian Association of Studies in International Development (CASID) or Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC).</td>
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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

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<td>• Take the 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.</td>
<td>• Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.</td>
<td>• Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue internships for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.</td>
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<td>• Start reading publications like University Affairs, and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.</td>
<td>• Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, or using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn. For more information check out Career Cruising.</td>
<td>• Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.</td>
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<td>• Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.</td>
<td>• Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.</td>
<td>• If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.</td>
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**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

**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
- Responsive and adaptive to changing circumstances or unanticipated outcomes
- Perseverance to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome
- Independent as well as collaborative worker
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical principles, social responsibility, reasonable research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!