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 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, 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.

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.
The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2020-2021. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

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

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Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

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 Habitat 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
- M.A. in a social science or humanities discipline with a relevant thematic focus in coursework 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 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.