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 multi-disciplinary 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.

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.

“What I find unique about the Department of Sociology at Queen’s University is the diversity of graduate student research projects and the personalized support offered alongside. The department here is just the right size; small enough to target individual student needs and large enough to dream big, and tackle those sociological questions you’ve been pondering since undergrad.”

– Mandi Veenstra, PhD Candidate
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.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
Advanced Knowledge and technical skills including:
- Qualitative/Quantitative research techniques to analyze your data.
- Critical thinking to evaluate social problems and interpret the implications of your conclusions.
- Design and conduct studies, select and effectively deploy appropriate research designs for analyzing and interpreting a variety of social phenomena.
- Program Evaluation to collect, evaluate and analyze information on 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 consider 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, interviews and focus groups.
- Understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, research and cultural sensitivity.
- Communication of complex information and arguments about social issues in appropriate formats.
- Teamwork/Leadership: working creatively 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: develop ideas, gather information, analyzing and appraising findings, drawing and acting on conclusions.
- Creativity and innovation to address complex challenges.
- Persuasion to work through challenges.
- Understanding of social ethical practices, social responsibility, research and cultural sensitivity.
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
- 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 throughout the world. They are able to draw on their graduate 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.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- 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, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodations.
- Look at Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- With your supervisor begin your list of Required Readings for your Qualifying Exam.

**YEAR I**
- Complete your Qualifying Exam. Defend your thesis proposal. Submit ethics review application (if necessary).
- Undergraduate research through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SIG5902 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 joining a teaching assistant group to join.

**YEAR II**
- Complete your Qualifying Exam. Defend your thesis 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.
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps, such as Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.

**YEAR III**
- 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.
- 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 study in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
- Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Investigate partnerships with the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SIG5902 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.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects and LinkedIn. Join the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Visit the Department of Sociology website for more information on career opportunities.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP), a requirement of your degree.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects and LinkedIn. Join the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete the Course on Research Ethics (CORE) if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding sources.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Departmental Meeting graduate student representative for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGSP, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGSP Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**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 Fry Society and the Boys and Girls Club.
- Meet with students, faculty and community organizations to 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.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counselor for help.
- Start reading publications like the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay up to date with special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

**VISIT CAREERS**
Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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
• 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.)
• Statement of Interest

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application due: January 15th
• Notification 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 $21,000 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 Department of Sociology funding information.

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