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.
Global Development Studies PhD Map

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

YEAR I
- Key priorities include coursework, building your relationship with your supervisor, and forming your committee.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your comprehensive exams and dissertation proposal.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services and Expanding Horizons for a variety of supports.
- Complete the Research Ethics online module (CORE).

YEAR II
- Write your comprehensive exams and submit course syllabus.
- Write and defend your thesis proposal and embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of the Expanding Horizons website.
- Apply for ethics approval through the General Research Ethics Board.

YEAR III
- Check out the SGS writing camps like Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the many academic and professional development workshops available throughout the year.
- Consider publishing elements of your research.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue academic publication options for your research.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

YEAR II
- Consider presenting a paper based on course work or early stages of your research at a conference such as Canadian Association of Studies in International Development (CASID).
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

YEAR III
- Present your work at conferences such as CASID, and at Queen's seminar series such as SNID.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

YEAR IV
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Consider publishing your research findings through popular media outlets in accessible formats.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

YEAR II
- None skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills and experiences.
- Build your teaching skills with help from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Enroll in SGS902 or the Professional Development in University Teaching and Learning Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

YEAR III
- Investigate internships from MITACS, and other sources.
- Find opportunities for extra training through Centre for Teaching and Learning, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

YEAR IV
- Explore opportunities to become a departmental Teaching Fellow
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from Career Services’ workshops.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

YEAR II
- 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.
- Attend weekly seminar series such as Studies in National and International Development (SNID).

YEAR III
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, and organizing conferences.
- Continue attending seminars, such as SNID.
- Connect to broader communities of development studies research through Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) or CASID.

YEAR IV
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through the Queen’s Alumni Association, Queen’s Connects, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services’ networking workshops.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in development studies.

WHERE CAN I GO?

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 ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation to address complex, multi-faceted challenges
- Responsive and adaptive to changing circumstances or unanticipated outcomes
- Persistence to work through challenges to achieve desired outcomes
- Independent as well as Collaborative worker
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions

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