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.

Program STRUCTURE

Students will complete four courses, a course in professional and pedagogical skills, a 2-part qualifying examination (written and oral), and a thesis in traditional or manuscript format to be defended before a committee of examiners.

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

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.