Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- BA Honours undergraduate degree in Sociology or equivalent with a minimum B-standing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing Sample
- Statement of Interest

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Our application window opens annually in September. The application review process begins on January 1 and continues through the Spring. Applications must be submitted by January 1 to be considered for internal awards. We start to send out offers of acceptance in early February/March. Applications received after January 1 are accepted, and successful applicants may be offered funding, on a case-by-case basis, so please reach out for more information or begin your application.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

MA students are guaranteed a minimum of $14,000 in the form of a Queen’s Graduate Award and a Teaching Assistantship. Funding is guaranteed for 2 years. Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically review your file for available resources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the Sociology Department.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOLOGY?

In general, a sociological approach engages with contemporary social problems and questions from a critical perspective. Students of sociology are trained to critically examine social dynamics and structures, and to engage with the formation of pathways towards social change. Our students at the MA level are trained (theoretically and methodologically) in advanced critical social analysis. Both micro and macro sociological approaches are covered. The Sociology graduate program at Queen’s has particular strengths in socio-legal studies and crimeology, critical sociology, and surveillance and digital media. Most of our graduates from the MA program proceed to doctoral programs throughout Canada and beyond. Others move into law, social work, or take up employment in policy analysis and research. Many graduates of the MA program remark on the intimate, supportive and cohesive culture of the Department.

Why QUEEN’S?

In addition to the benefits of a small department where students receive ample attention from faculty and staff, inside the classroom and out, Sociology at Queen’s offers an annual graduate student conference where MA students who are interested may engage in a typical conference format with many members of faculty and from the graduate program in attendance.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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School of Graduate Studies

Create an impact

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Sociology MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

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RESEARCH Areas/Streams

- Crimeology and Law
- Power, Inequalities and Social Justice
- Media, Information and Surveillance

Visit the Sociology Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas.

School of Graduate Studies

Create an impact

www.queensu.ca/sos

GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS
Consider publication options for your research.

Teamwork/Leadership: working creatively by cooperating with others in a manner which recognizes diverse views, values and cultural positions.

Organizing critical debate and discussion to define, interpret and analyse large amounts of information.

Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start to think about the audiences for your research.

Research design: to select and effectively deploy appropriate research methods.

Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in new and different situations.

Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.

Start your coursework; begin to research and write your essay or thesis.

Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your essay or thesis.

Complete your essay or thesis.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Knowledge and technical skills including:
- Qualitative/Quantitative research techniques to analyze social issues.
- Critical thinking to evaluate social problems and interactions by challenging common assumptions.
- Research design to select and effectively deploy appropriate research designs for examining and interpreting a variety of social phenomena.
- Program Evaluation to collect, evaluate and analyze information concerning the effectiveness of a wide range of projects and policies.
- Organizational behavior and management.
- Program Evaluation to collect, evaluate and analyze information concerning the effectiveness of a wide range of projects and policies.
- Organizing critical debate and discussion to define, interpret and analyze 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 to understand individual and group understandings, behaviors, needs, and motivations through observation, technique, analysis, and other feedback methodologies.

Essential transferable skills including:
- Communication of complex information and arguments about social issues in appropriate formats and a range of media.
- Teamwork/Leadership: working creatively by cooperating 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: meeting deadlines despite competing demands.
- Project management: developing ideas, gathering information, networking, and interviews.
- Networking and public relations.
- Creativity and innovation to address complex, multifaceted challenges.
- Persistence to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome.
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity.
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions with others.

WHERE CAN I GO?

Almost half of the Department’s Master’s graduates have chosen to pursue doctoral studies. Those who have not continued on to doctoral work have secured challenging positions commensurate with their advanced level skills as sociologists in:
- Research
- Policy Analysis
- Policing Analysis
- Policing and Corrections
- Marketing
- Social Justice Advocacy
- Health Care Administration
- Teaching

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.

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.