

# Sociology MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MA STUDENTS →

## 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 criminology, 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.



The Surveillance Studies Centre is a multi-disciplinary and international research centre affiliated with the Department. It offers several speakers series that have attracted leading figures in surveillance, including Edward Snowden. Its current streams include big data surveillance, drones, wearables, and social sorting.

Queen's is located in Kingston, which offers meaningful points of social and political engagement. Because of the significance Kingston holds in the federal penal system, there are many local associations concerned with prison transitions and reform. Some of our graduates work with the Elizabeth Fry Society, while others work within local prisons. There is a large and growing Boys and Girls club where members of the Queen's community interact on a regular basis. Some of our graduate students work with local shelters for women, and in feminist legal studies in Law at Queen's.

*"What makes the MA program different, perhaps unique, is the people who inhabit it. The Queen's Sociology department is full of people who are not only willing, but eager to help you reach your full potential. With small class sizes, students are encouraged to collaborate with their peers as well as supportive professors. Queen's Sociology is an educational community that I am very proud to be part of."*

– Jennifer Whitaker, MA Candidate

## Program STRUCTURE

The 2-year Master of Sociology offers 2 methods of completion:

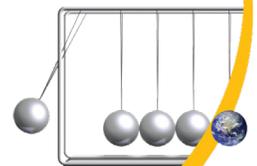
- Method I (Thesis): Two core half courses, two other half courses, and a thesis weighted at half of the total program.
- Method II (Essay): Two core half courses, four other half courses, and an essay weighted at one-quarter of the total program.

## RESEARCH Areas/Streams

- Criminology 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.

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# Sociology MA MAP\*

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)



Visit [careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps](https://careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps) for the online version with links!

\* 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](#).

# 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 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 issue a \$5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#), or see what awards are offered through the Sociology Department.



DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY

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