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
• 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?

PhD students are guaranteed a minimum of $21,000 which includes a Teaching Assistantship and a Queen's Graduate Award. Funding is guaranteed for 4 years.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from DGs, NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOLOGY?

The Department focuses on critical social inquiry and in-depth research, offering students challenging projects and world-class resources to complete them. Our faculty members are all well-published scholars with national or international reputations, yet they still manage to maintain an open-door policy and establish supportive, mentoring relationships with students.

The Sociology graduate program at Queen’s has particular strengths in socio-legal studies and criminology, critical sociology, and surveillance and digital media. Graduates of our PhD program have an outstanding record of securing full-time academic positions and successful professional careers such as in law, social work, policy analysis, and corrections. Many graduates of the PhD program remark on the intimate, supportive and cohesive culture of the Department with strong supervisory support.

Why QUEEN'S?

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.

What about help?

Queen's provides you with a breadth 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 1,100 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.
YEAⅠ

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, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodations.
• Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
• With your supervisor begin your list of Required Readings for your Qualifying Exam.

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 Exploring Horizons workshops.
• Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student conference.

YEAR III

Continue to research and write your dissertation. Contact your SSHRC, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
• Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the OUCD and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.
• Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow. This is an excellent opportunity to start a teaching dossier.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
• Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
• Present your research to graduate students and faculty or 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 online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
• Apply to SSHRC, DGS, and other funding.
• 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 SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog, or look in the 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 experimental opportunities on- and off-campus.
• Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Elizabeth Frye Society and the Boys and Girls Club.
• Follow the Sociology Department on Twitter.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
• Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop, or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or The Academic Job Search.
• Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse work-related opportunities.
• Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
Advanced Knowledge and technical skills including:
• Qualitative/Quantitative research techniques to apply to a variety of 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.

PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE
• Program Evaluation to collect, evaluate and analyse information concerning the effectiveness of a wide range of policies and projects.
• Organizing critical debate and discussion to define, interpret and explain multifaceted current issues.
• Graph Analysis to conceptualize the impact and unintended consequences of policies, and consider the role of social differentiation in creating conflict, social movements and social protest around political issues.

THE DEGREE CAN TAKE YOU TO:
• The Academic Job Search
• Queen’s Alumni Association
• The Department of Sociology has a sensitivity to understand individual and group experiences, behaviors, needs, and motivations.
• Career Services can connect you to opportunities in the field.
• Career Services can help you with your job search.
• Visit the Department of Sociology website to see where the degree can take you.

WHERE CAN I GO?
The majority of our PhD graduates who sought a position in academia have been able to secure tenure track appointments. Others have pursued research careers in:
• Informal Faculty
• Provincial Government
• Mental Health Commissions
• Think Tanks

* 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.