Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOMETRY?

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 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

Program STRUCTURE

Two core half courses, two other half courses, a qualifying examination (written and oral), and a thesis and oral defense weighted at half of the total program.

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.
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

**Sociology PhD MAP**

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### YEAR I

- **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.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
  - Expand your research audience through social media.
  - For your Qualifying Exam committees, and coursework (normally completed in the first year).

- **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, CPRC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs 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 experiential 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 counsellor for help. Check out books like “So What Are You Going to Do With That?” or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
  - Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

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### YEAR II

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - 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 Expanding Horizons workshops.
  - Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student conference.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Continue to present at conferences; Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - With help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SG501 or the PUTS certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
  - Attend the Department’s Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP). Offered every second year, and required.
  - Consider becoming a book reviewer for a journal in your specific research specialism.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
  - Get involved with the Annual Department of Sociology Graduate Conference, Interconnection.
  - Consider organizing a conference panel for the CSA/Congress.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alumni” For more information check out Career Cruising.
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

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### YEAR III

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Complete your Qualifying Exam and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
  - Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
  - Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - For opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, 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 Quick 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.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueenConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
  - Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
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### YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - 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**
  - Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
  - Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Sociological Association Congress, The American Criminology Society Annual Meeting, the Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, and more.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association for Social Anthropology, American Sociological Association, British Sociological Association, plus more specialized associations within your specific field of research.
  - The Department of Sociology has a LinkedIn group to join.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
  - Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures.
  - Get help from Career Services with job negotiating, resumés, or interviews.

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**WHERE CAN I GO?**

The majority of our PhD graduates who sought a position in academia has been able to secure tenure track appointments. Others have pursued research careers in:

- Adjunct Faculty
- Provincial Government
- Mental Health Commissions
- Think Tanks

PhD graduates in Sociology, from Queen’s are securing rewarding, full-time tenure track positions where they are able to draw upon all of their education, skills, and abilities to contribute to international scholarship and higher education. Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you make a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation. Visit the Department of Sociology website to see where the degree can take you.

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**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- Advanced 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.
- Organizing critical debate and discussion to define, interpret and explain multifaceted current issues.
- Policy Analysis to consider the impact and unintended consequences of policies, and consider the role of social differences in creating effectuating, social movements and social protest around policies.
- User research to understand individual and group understandings, behaviors, needs, and motivations through observation techniques, task analysis, and other feedback methodologies.
- Essential transferable skills including:
  - Communication of complex information and arguments about social issues in effective formats.
  - Teamwork/Leadership: working creatively by cooperating with others in a manner which enhances diverse views, voice, and cultural positions.
  - Informal management: prioritizing, organizing and synthesizing large amounts of information.
  - Time management: manage competing demands.
  - Project management: developing ideas, gathering information, analyzing and appraising findings, making decisions and acting on conclusions.
  - Creativity and innovation to address complex challenges.
  - Persistence to work through challenges.
  - Understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity.
  - Independence and experience as a collaborative partner.
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work.

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