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
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Statement of Interest

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 15th
- Notification of acceptance: Late February

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 MA students is $14,000 per year for two years. It is important to note that they are encouraged to apply for all major external and internal (where appropriate) scholarships for which they are eligible. 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 participation for funding in conferences.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC/NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one-time $5,000 award to incoming Masters students who have won 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.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in SOCIOLOGY?

The MA program in Sociology at Queen's provides advanced training for students seeking to critically examine the social world at every level, and to engage with the formation of pathways towards social change. Students are well supported to develop their theoretical knowledge and methodological skills through a combination of well-designed courses and research opportunities under expert supervision. The department is particularly well known for its strengths in criminology and the law, media, information, and surveillance, power, inequalities, and social justice.

The MA program equips students with the essential research skills in analytic thinking and data analysis, alongside communication and presentational competencies that are highly valuable for a range of careers. Our graduates often pursue doctoral research throughout Canada and beyond, or establish careers in law, media, education, development, marketing, social work, corrections, policy analysis and research. Graduates of the MA program remark on the intimate, supportive, and cohesive culture of the department, with small classes and close supervision.

Why QUEEN'S?

Our faculty are recognized as academic leaders in their fields, conducting a wide range of funded research programs that enhance the classroom experience and provide opportunities for collaborative research and training. In addition to the benefits of a small department where students receive close supervision and support from faculty and staff, Sociology at Queen's offers an annual graduate student conference where MA students can develop their organizational skills and present their research within a collegial and collaborative environment with faculty and other graduate students.

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.

Our students also have unique opportunities to engage with local institutions, communities and services. Because of the significance that Kingston holds in the federal penal system, there are many local associations concerned with prison transitions and reform. Some of our graduate's work with the Elizabeth Fry Society, while others work within local prisons, or with local shelters for women. More broadly, graduate students at Queen's gain the benefits of a close-knit intellectual community, comparative funding packages, and a lively city full of stimulating events, experiences and opportunities.

Program STRUCTURE

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

- Method I (Thesis): Students are required to complete four courses and write a thesis of 25,000 words and defend it before a committee of three examiners.
- Method II (Essay): Students are required to complete six courses and write an extended essay of between 10,000-12,000 words.

“What makes the MA program different, perhaps unique, is the people who inhabit it. 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

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.
**2019-2020**

**Sociology MA Map**

**MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

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### GETTING STARTED

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA essay or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitats.

### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

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

### WRAPPING UP

- Complete your essay or thesis.

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### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGHS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Department Committee graduate student representative for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SG5901 or the PGUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as student research programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the InterCultural Awareness Training Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGHS website. Use the SGHS website for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like the *Chronicle of Higher Education* or the *American Sociological Review*.
- Explore careers as sociologists in: Teaching, Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions with colleagues; Social Justice Advocacy; Marketing; Social Justice Advocacy; Health Care Administration; Teaching.

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### 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 programs 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 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 techniques, task 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 values, views 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, analyzing and appraising findings, drawing and acting on conclusions.
- Creativity and innovation to address complex, multifaceted challenges.
- Perseverance 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.

### WHERE CAN I GO?

Almost half of the 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](https://www.queensu.ca/sociology) 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.

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