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
- Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)
- Statement of Interest

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

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

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 PhD students is $21,000 per year for four years, and it is important to note that they must apply for all major external and internal (where appropriate) scholarships for which they are eligible. Recipients of external awards will receive funding packages higher than those who do not win external funds.

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 for participation in conferences.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, NSERC, and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal 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 Department of Sociology focuses on critical social inquiry and rigorous research, offering students advanced training in theoretical and methodological skill, enabling them to pursue challenging projects with world-class resources to complete them. Our faculty members are all well-published scholars with national or international reputations in innovative fields of inquiry, yet they still manage to maintain an open-door policy and establish supportive, mentoring relationships with students.

The department is particularly well known for its strengths in criminology and the law; media, information, and surveillance; power, inequalities, and social justice. Our students have an outstanding record of receiving additional research funding and in securing full-time academic positions and successful professional careers in law; social work; policy analysis and research, and corrections. Graduates of the PhD program stay on the intimate, supportive and cohesive culture of the department with strong supervisory support.

Why QUEEN’S?

Our faculty are recognized as academic leaders in their fields, pursuing a wide range of funded research programs that enhance the mentoring experience and provide opportunities for collaborative research and personalized training. Graduate students are taught in small seminars, in which they engage with challenging scholarship and develop their own research. Our students have developed a vibrant, supportive community through the Sociology Graduate Student Association, plus reading groups, national conference panels, and the annual graduate student conference in the department.

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.

More broadly, graduate students at Queen’s gain the benefits of a close-knit intellectual community, competitive funding packages, and a lively city full of stimulating events, experiences and opportunities.

Program STRUCTURE

Students will complete four courses, a course in professional and pedagogical skills, a 2-part qualifying examination (written and oral), and a thesis in traditional or manuscript format to be defended before a committee of examiners.

“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

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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 $656 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 waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s waterfront.
**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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 Expanding Horizons workshops.
  - Attend or present at the annual department Graduate Student conference.

- **YEAR III**
  - Continue to research 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 written from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- **YEAR I**
  - Think about audiences for your research.
  - Complete Course on Research Ethics (CORE) on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
  - Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
  - Attend conferences in your field.

- **YEAR II**
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
  - Expand your research audience through social media.
  - Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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 SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFCR, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
  - Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- **YEAR II**
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SG5002 or the PUTF certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
  - Attend the department's Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP). Offered every second year.
  - Consider becoming a book reviewer for a journal in your specific research specialization.

- **YEAR III**
  - Find 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 Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate.
  - Consider teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow. This is an excellent way to build network.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- **YEAR I**
  - 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 Fry Society and the Bow and Arrow Clubs.
  - Follow the Sociology Department on Twitter.

- **YEAR II**
  - 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 SGPS Conference.

- **YEAR III**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Sociological Association, 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**

- **YEAR I**
  - Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on career options.
  - Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week, to explore your career pathways.

- **YEAR II**
  - 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 Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum.” For more information check out Career Cruising.
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- **YEAR III**
  - 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.
  - 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 searching, resumes, or interviews.
  - If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- Advanced Knowledge and technical skills including:
  - Qualitative/Quantitative research techniques to analyze different data types.
  - 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 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.
  - Teamwork/Leadership: working creatively by cooperating with others in a team environment which recognizes diverse views, values and cultural positions.
  - Information management: prioritizing, organizing and synthesizing large amounts of information effectively, managing competing demands.
  - Project management: developing ideas, gathering information, analyzing and appraising findings, developing and carrying out plans.
  - Creativity and innovation to address complex challenges.
  - Perseverance to work through challenges.
  - 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.

**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:

- 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 the skills they have developed are able to draw upon all of their education, skills, and abilities. Some pursue international scholarship and higher education. 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.

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

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* 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.

**Sociology PhD Map**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

2019-2020