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 skills, 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 remark 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

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.

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

**CAREER LAUNCH YOUR SKILLS AND BUILD ACADEMIC RESEARCH MAXIMIZE GOALS**

**TODAY**

**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**

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

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Think about departmental committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CJPIC, and the Bloomberg. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Explore opportunities as 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 learning.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Elizabeth Fry Society and the Boys and Girls Club.
- Follow the Sociology Department on Twitter.
- 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 volunteering with the local community.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a **Career Services workshop** or meet with a career counselor 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 various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like **Graduate Student Career Week** to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR I**

- 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 II**

- Complete 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. Learn from the **Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop**.

**YEAR III**

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and workshop 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.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Sociological Association Congress, the American Criminal Justice Society Annual Meeting, the Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, and more.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interview. Get help from a **Career Services workshop**.
- Attend or present at the annual department **Graduate Student conference**.
- Consider professional associations like the Canadian 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.
- 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 celebrated academically, consider research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in studying 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 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 different groups 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 different formats.
  - Teamwork/Leadership: working creatively by cooperating with others in a manner which recognizes diverse views, values and cultural positions.
  - Information management: prioritizing, organizing and synthesizing large amounts of information.
  - Time management: manage competing demands.
  - Project management: developing ideas, gathering information, analyzing and appraising findings, drawing 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 researcher.
- 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 positions. 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 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!
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.

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.