



**MA IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY STUDIES
INFORMATION NEWSLETTER
2022-2023**

For new & prospective students

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Department website:
[brocku.ca/social-sciences/ social-justice-and-equity-studies](http://brocku.ca/social-sciences/social-justice-and-equity-studies)

Welcome to Brock University's MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies

Thanks for your interest in the MA in SJES! We are a scholarly community of graduate students and scholars working to address important political and ethical questions concerning social justice and equity.

Our student numbers are small - up to 12 new students each year - allowing for a close cohort experience and individualized attention. Students select academic mentors from over 50 affiliated faculty members who represent 16 academic departments across the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, Education and Applied Health Sciences.

Through advanced coursework, students broaden their knowledge before undertaking an original research project with faculty guidance. The breadth of expertise available to students, and the opportunity to form interdisciplinary supervisory committees, makes the SJES program unique in Canada.

The SJES program has close ties with Brock's Social Justice Research Institute, which provides students opportunities to work with preeminent scholars in the transdisciplinary field of social justice studies. SJES-organized events, such as the Niagara Social Justice Forum, bring students into connection with social movement and community organizations in the Niagara Region.

Graduates say they most appreciate the culture of collaboration, mentoring, and radical inquiry in SJES, which helps them develop as thinkers, researchers, and contributors in their fields. They also appreciate that they are taught to reflect on the relationship of scholarly inquiry to social action and supported in developing their *praxis* - ways of putting knowledge into action.

We welcome your inquiries, by email or in person. Please tell us about your interests in social justice and equity studies and consider whether you wish to apply to join this program.

Trent Newmeyer
Associate Professor, Sociology
Graduate Program Director





The MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies is a community of graduate students and scholars working to address vital political and ethical questions concerning social injustice in the global context and in everyday life.

SJES offers a small cohort experience

Contact Information

Faculty Liaison Member

The Graduate Program Director assigns an academic faculty liaison to each MA student upon entry into the program. Your faculty liaison will provide academic mentoring and address any questions about the program prior to September and during the first few months of the first academic term.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

brocku.ca/graduate-studies/contact-us

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Mackenzie Chown Complex D250

Program Administration

Graduate Program Director

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MA Program Overview

Three Options to Complete the Program



Welcome to the MA Program in Social Justice and Equity Studies!

The ability to understand and analyze struggles and inequities associated with age, ability, gender, sexuality, racism, and class has become increasingly important in the twenty-first century. This innovative interdisciplinary MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies responds to the growing need for individuals trained in the expanding field of social justice and equity scholarship by offering preparation in theory and research methods that explicitly link local, national, and global processes to social justice and equity issues.

Scheme A: Course Work and Major Research Paper

Course Work

The program of study includes:

- SJES 5P01: Graduate Seminar
- SJES 5P02: Theorizing Social Justice & Equity Studies
- SJES 5P03: Research Methods
- SJES 5P91: Major Research Paper
- Three half-credit electives

Of the three half-credit electives, two will be offered as electives within the Social Justice and Equity Studies program and one will be a course offered by another Brock graduate program, a graduate course at another Ontario university (OVGS), or a Directed Studies course. All courses must be pre-approved by the Graduate Program Director. Scheme A is usually completed in four terms.

Full-Time Students

Full-time students in Scheme A enroll in SJES 5P01 (this workshop runs over two terms), SJES 5P02, and SJES 5P03 in the fall term. In the winter term, students in Scheme A enroll in three elective courses.

Major Research Paper

To complete the requirements of SJES 5F91, each student must complete a major research paper that demonstrates capacity for independent work and original research or thought. The major paper shall be chosen in consultation with a supervisor and will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second faculty reader. Students interested in pursuing a broader range of courses should enroll in Scheme A. Full-time students complete four terms of study.

Part-Time Students

Part-time students take one of either SJES 5P02 or SJES 5P03 in the first term and at least one half-credit course per year thereafter.

Scheme B: Course Work and Major Research Paper with Co-op

The program of study mirrors Scheme A, except students also complete two work terms in the Fall and Winter of their second year. Co-op students register in SJES 5N90, a mandatory non-credit pre-employment seminar, during their first term of the program. The course provides a series of in-depth workshops to provide career training and prepare for their co-op work terms. Upon successful completion of SJES 5N90, co-op students apply for employment with organizations doing social justice work. They are not limited to work in the Niagara Region but may find suitable work elsewhere for two terms (8 months) in the summer and fall.

The co-op work terms extend the duration of the program by two terms to a total of six terms (24 months). Students normally take two electives in the second term and return from their Co-op work terms to complete the third elective in their fifth term (winter), while also writing their MPR proposal and commencing MPR research. They complete the Major Research Paper in their sixth term (summer).

The Co-op Program is open to full time students only.

Scheme C: Course Work and Thesis

Course Work

The program of study includes:

SJES 5P01: Graduate Seminar

SJES 5P02: Theorizing Social Justice & Equity Studies

SJES 5P03: Research Methods

SJES 5P91: Thesis

One half-credit elective.

Electives are offered within the Social Justice and Equity Studies program; however, subject to the approval of the Director, students may complete one elective credit offered by another Brock graduate program, a graduate course at another Ontario university (OVGS), or a Directed Studies course. Scheme C is usually completed in six terms.

Full-Time Students

Full-time students in Scheme C enroll in SJES 5P01 (note that this workshop runs over two terms), SJES 5P02, and SJES 5P03 in the fall term. In the winter term, students in Scheme C enroll in one additional elective course.

Thesis

To complete the requirements of SJES 5F90, each student must complete, and defend at a public oral examination, a thesis that demonstrates a capacity for independent work and original research or thought. The thesis topic shall be chosen in consultation with the supervisor and other members of the supervisory committee. A formal thesis proposal must be approved by the committee. Scheme C is intended for students who are prepared to do an in-depth project on a specialized topic.

Part-Time Students

Part-time students take one of either SJES 5P02 or SJES 5P03 in the first term and at least one half-credit course per year thereafter.

How to Get Started

Upon applying through the student portal on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website, you will receive a student number and an email address. You will need this information to log on to the Brock Portal in order to view the outcome of your application, accept an offer of admission and register.

Course Offerings for Fall/Winter 2022 - 2023

Core Credits

SJES 5P01: Graduate Seminar (September-April, every other week)

SJES 5P02: Theorizing Social Justice & Equity Studies (September-December)

SJES 5P03: Research Methods in Social Justice & Equity Studies (September-December)

Electives

Course offerings for 2022-2023:

SJES 5P40: Gender, Sexuality & Social Justice (January-April)

SJES 5P12: Bodies, Ableism & Disability Justice

Applications are invited starting in October.

The program application deadline is January 15.



“In my experience, the SJES MA program deconstructs nuances of social justice and equity. Therefore, students are prepared to be thoughtful, in both the theoretical and practical challenges of the call to making a difference in their respective endeavours.”

-David Sey, SJES 2014 Graduate

Registration Sequence Full Time Stream Requirements

Students may complete the MA degree requirements through either Stream A or Stream B. Students must inform the Graduate Program Director and the Administrative Coordinator by November of their first year which stream they intend to pursue and ensure that all requirements for the program are followed.

Major Research Paper	Major Research Paper with Co-op	Thesis
Fall Term (Year 1) SJES 5P01, Duration 1 SJES 5P02, Duration 2 SJES 5P03, Duration 2 Winter Term (Year 1) Elective, Duration 3 Elective, Duration 3 One elective from another graduate program, or a Directed Study (consult with Director required) Spring Term (Year 1) SJES 5F91 Fall Term (Year 2) SJES 5F91 Option to complete third elective.	Fall Term (Year 1) SJES 5P01, Duration 1 SJES 5P02, Duration 2 SJES 5P03, Duration 2 SJES 5N90, Duration 1 Winter Term (Year 1) Elective, Duration 3 Elective, Duration 3 Apply for Co-op Work terms Spring Term (Year 1) Work Term 1 Fall Term (Year 2) Work Term 2 Winter Term (Year 2) SJES 5F91 and Elective Spring Term (Year 2) SJES 5F91	Fall Term (Year 1) SJES 5P01, Duration 1 SJES 5P02, Duration 2 SJES 5P03, Duration 2 Winter Term (Year 1) Elective, Duration 3 Spring Term (Year 1) SJES 5F90 Fall Term (Year 2) SJES 5F90 Winter Term (Year 2) SJES 5F90 Spring Term (Year 2) SJES 5F90

Core Courses	
SJES 5P01 Graduate Seminar	In a small group forum, students hone their skills in developing research projects. A broad range of topics and progressive approaches to social justice and equity research are introduced through guest speakers, workshops, and student presentations.
SJES 5P02 Theorizing Social Justice and Equity Studies	Critical analysis of classical and contemporary conceptualizations of social justice and social inequality.
SJES 5P03 Research Methods in Social Justice and Equity Studies	Critical analysis of methodologies used in social justice and equity research.
SJES 5F90 Thesis	An in-depth research project involving the preparation and defense of a thesis that shall demonstrate capacity for independent work and original research or thought.
SJES 5F91 Major Research Paper	A major research paper that shall demonstrate capacity for independent work and original research or thought.

Elective Course Bank	
<i>Two of these electives are offered each year.</i>	
SJES 5P20 Domination and Resistance	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining domination and resistance in both historical and global contexts. Topics may include exploitation, colonialism, postcolonialism, globalization, and counter-hegemonic social identities.
SJES 5P25 Social Justice and the City	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining social and economic inequalities and their relation to processes of urbanization. Topics may include oppressive urbanism, cultural politics of difference, contested terrains of justice, and urban social movements.
SJES 5P30 Social Justice and Environment	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the interconnectedness of social and environmental problems, and struggles to overcome them, in the context of capitalism and globalization.
SJES 5P35 Animal Liberation and Social Justice	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining social justice beyond the limits of the human species, including issues such as animal rights, animal liberation, speciesism in relation to other forms of oppression, alternative ethical and political relationships to animals.
SJES 5P40 Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the social inequities and social movements associated with issues such as gender and sexual identities, and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.
SJES 5P45 Active Voice: Social Justice and the News Media	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the representation of social justice and equity issues in the mainstream news media and the struggle and strategies of alternative news media to intervene in those representations.
SJES 5P50 Families, Households, and Social Justice	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining historical and current social inequities, social movements, and state policies associated with gendered and generational family relations and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.
SJES 5P55 Labour, Workers, and Social Justice	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining historical and current social movements arising out of worker's experiences and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.
SJES 5P60 Human Rights and Social Justice	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the historical development and implementation of legal initiatives in the broad field of social justice and equity at local, national, and global levels.
SJES 5P65 Race, Ethnicity, Indigeneity, and Social Justice	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the domination and resistance of racialized, ethnicized, and indigenous peoples and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.
SJES 5P70 Social Justice and the Arts	Theories, case studies, and other texts examining how social justice and equity issues emerge in literary texts, plays, films, music, and other media, and how the arts and media are linked to struggles for social justice at local, national, and global levels.
SJES 5P80 Directed Study	Specialized study on an individual basis under the direction of a faculty supervisor.
SJES 5V12 Directed Study	Specialized study on an individual basis under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Taught in conjunction with an honours seminar. Permission of the Graduate Director and supervisor required.
SJES 5V80-5V89 Selected Topics in Social Justice and Equity Studies	A topic in social justice and equity studies that will vary by instructor.

Funding Available to MRP and Thesis Stream Students

Graduate Fellowships and Teaching Assistant positions are offered to full time domestic and international students in the Major Research Paper and Thesis Streams. The difference is in the number of terms for this funding. A Major Research Paper stream is funded for four terms (September to December of the following year) and a Thesis stream is funded for six terms (September to August for two years). Those students who do not complete their projects within this funded period are responsible for full tuition costs with no funding assistance and Teaching Assistant positions are not offered on a preferential basis to students who are beyond their funded period.

Tuition and Ancillary Fees (based on 2020/21 tuition information) For more information on tuition and ancillary costs, please refer to: brocku.ca/finance/students/graduate	
Full time Domestic student tuition fees per term	
Cohort	MA (research stream)
Year 1	\$2,725.41
Year 2	\$2,725.41
Full time student Ancillary Fees	
Health Services	\$29.55
UHIP (Int'l Students)	\$720.00 per year
Athletics Fee	\$16.05 per term
Recreation Fee	\$3.62 per term
Zone Fitness Fee	\$12.05 per term
Zone Expansion Fee	\$17.00
Graduate Health & Dental	\$498.75
Mental Health & Wellness Fee	\$20.00
Universal Transit Pass	\$272.32
Grad. Student Assoc.	\$24.00 per term

Tuition Costs & Ancillary Fees

"The strength of the program for me was in the small class sizes and the dedication and commitment of the faculty to close assessment, mentorship, and student development. If there is a risk here, it is in spoiling students who then move on to other institutions and programs where this is not the case! It is, of course, a 'risk' worth taking."

-Aaron Franks, 2008 SJES Graduate

Financial Assistance Available

Teaching Assistantships

In your first year in the program, the Graduate Program Director assigns you Teaching Assistant positions in the Fall and Winter terms. After your first year, you are required to apply for Teaching Assistant positions yourself; however, you receive preferential hiring according to the CUPE Collective Agreement as long as you remain in your funded period. If you remain in the program after your funded period has ended, a Teaching Assistant position is not guaranteed. Keep in mind that there are limited Teaching

Assistant positions available over the Spring/Summer term. You should be prepared to cover your tuition and living expenses without the income of a Teaching Assistant position during this period.

Research Assistantships

Professors may hire assistants from their own research budgets. This is done on an individual basis. If you are interested in a Research Assistantship with a professor, please contact them directly.

External Scholarships

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) may be available to eligible applicants. These scholarships are due in October. The Faculty of Graduate Studies will have more information and workshops on how to complete these applications. Start thinking about your research now in preparation for these competitions.

Internal Funding and Bursaries

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Students' Association have available bursary funds that are intended to assist full-time graduate students with unanticipated or non-typical financial needs. Please refer to their website for further information.

brocku.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/financial-resources/internal-awards



Brock University's interdisciplinary MA program in Social Justice and Equity Studies is unique in Canada. The emergence of the field of Social Justice and Equity Studies reflects recognition of the links between power and knowledge in the university. Social Justice and Equity Studies seeks to enact an emancipatory politics of knowledge in favouring voices and perspectives that have been historically marginalized and who are actively resisting domination. These legacies and commitments inform the teaching and research done under the auspices of the SJES program at Brock and the criteria for affiliation and admission to the program. The program unites scholars from distinct academic disciplines to provide an exciting breadth and diversity of perspectives. The program is made up of participating faculty from Child and Youth Studies; Communication, Popular Culture and Film; Marketing, International Business & Strategy; Education; Dramatic Arts; English Language and Literature; Geography; History; Labour Studies; Political Science; Recreation and Leisure Studies; Sociology; Visual Arts; Sport Management and Women's and Gender Studies. Students will be equipped to pursue doctoral studies and to offer their expertise as policy makers or policy consultants to social advocacy and social movement organizations as well as a wider public.

Unique Features of the Program

Independent reviewers in 2012 ranked the MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies "Category 1 Caliber: Good Quality with National Prominence"

Niagara Social Justice Forum



Hosted by the Social Justice and Equity Studies graduate program at Brock University, the annual Niagara Social Justice Forum includes a day-long program of concurrent activities, including workshops, performances, exhibits, and information tables in a fair-like atmosphere. Workshops attract people from Brock's campus and the surrounding community. All of the workshops are proposed and organized by an open call to people and groups on campus and in the community committed to social justice.

General Information

Study Space

There is a graduate lab available for the sole use of the Social Justice and Equity Studies students. You will find six computers, one printer, a small fridge, a microwave, and a kettle available for your use. Many students use the lab as a collaborative meetings space.

In addition, there is a Graduate Study Room, Meeting Room, and lockers available for graduate student use only on the 6th floor of the James A. Gibson Library. There are also many computer labs available to you scattered throughout the campus.



Program Standards

The program expects students to maintain both a satisfactory level and rate of performance while they are enrolled in the program. Students are expected to maintain a minimum B- (70%) cumulative average in each term.

The program also expects students to complete their requirements within a reasonable period of time. The Faculty of Graduate Studies allows a maximum of three years (full-time students) for completing MA programs. Students not making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degrees may be required to withdraw.

Continuous Registration

Students must register each term until they have received their degree. Students must be prepared to provide medical documentation for any prolonged illness. If students need to interrupt their studies, they may be eligible for an Inactive Term or Leave of Absence.

Thanks for your interest in the MA in SJES.

socialjustice@brocku.ca