



# **Sociology Graduate Program Handbook**

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This booklet is intended to provide information on graduate study in the Department of Sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and to provide general information on extra-departmental matters pertaining to graduate students in the department. It is intended to introduce the Ph.D. program to prospective applicants and to aid them in deciding whether or not to pursue the application process.

If, after reading this booklet, you would like to apply to the doctoral program, we encourage you to apply online

[www.grad.berkeley.edu/prospective](http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/prospective)

For further questions please contact the Graduate Admissions Advisor:

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Sociology Department online: <http://sociology.berkeley.edu/>

UCB Graduate Division online: <https://grad.berkeley.edu/>

# I. Introduction

For over 50 years Berkeley's Department of Sociology has been world-renowned for its excellence. Always ranked among the top few departments, its historical combination of intellectual diversity and originality continues to flower. At Berkeley, students experience the variety of international sociology and make their own contribution to that variety.

The special character of Berkeley's graduate program is its emphasis on individual interests, combined with rigorous training in theory and method. Rejecting orthodoxy, the department's structure and culture support students who pursue their own intellectual concerns, stimulated and helped by the faculty and their peers. The department encourages theoretical ambition and original empirical research. It provides in-depth training in:

Culture	Demography	Development
Economic Sociology	Ethnicity and Race	Ethnographic Methods
Family	Gender	Immigration
Labor and Work	Organizations	Political Sociology
Quantitative Methods	Sexuality	Social History
Social Movements	Social Psychology	Inequality and Poverty
Theory	Urban Studies	Environment
Science and Technology	Global Sociology	Health and Medicine
Education		

Our PhD students have been extraordinarily successful in obtaining research and teaching positions in research-oriented universities; recent graduates currently hold faculty positions at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, Northwestern, UCLA, Columbia, Cornell, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCSF, UCSC, Syracuse, USC, Arizona, Washington, Illinois Urbana-Champaign, MIT, Georgetown, Boston U, SUNY Albany, UMass Amherst, William and Mary, Tufts and Oregon. Students have also taken jobs at more teaching-oriented schools, such as the Cal State campuses, Oberlin, Wellesley, Barnard, Boston College, Wesleyan and Sarah Lawrence. Outside the US, students have taken jobs at McGill (Montreal), University College (Dublin), University of Cambridge, University of Auckland, University of Johannesburg, Universidad Carlos III (Madrid) and Tsinghua (Beijing). A smaller but significant number have pursued careers in research institutes, business, government, and non-profits.

The academic program in sociology begins with the regularly scheduled courses and seminars. They are augmented by individually designed reading courses, as well as by departmental colloquia, personal advising and supervision by faculty, informal study groups with peers, a student-organized conference, and teaching opportunities at the undergraduate level.

Development of research expertise is fostered through course offerings in the logic of research, basic statistics, and optional courses covering a wide range of methods. In addition, department faculty is affiliated with thirty research institutes of UC Berkeley. Research assistantships, awarded through these institutes, are a common part of many students' training.

## **II. Admission**

The graduate program in sociology is intended to lead to the awarding of the Ph.D. degree. Applicants are not admitted to pursue the M.A. degree only, although the M.A. is awarded to students in the course of working toward the Ph.D. Students with the M.A. or some other advanced degree may also apply. Applications are considered once a year for fall admission only. The department is strongly committed to increasing ethnic diversity in the discipline.

Beginning in September applications are made available for the following academic year. All applicants (including international students) must submit the following:

- An online application
- Statement of purpose
- Personal history statement
- One pdf set of official transcripts
- GRE scores (optional for Fall 2026)
- Three letters of recommendation (preferably from social science faculty familiar with the applicant's recent academic work)
- Written academic work in English.

Fall 2026 admissions application deadline is December 1, 2025, at 8:59 pm PST. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain that the application is complete and all letters have been submitted. All material should be here by the December deadline. In the last five years, the department has been able to admit only 8% of applicants.

It is not possible to apply concurrently to more than one department at UCB. Before deciding to apply to the Department of Sociology, you may wish to consider other graduate programs that may be of interest before applying.

## **III. Academic Progress**

The graduate program in sociology consists of three phases. In the first phase, which is expected to take two years and culminates in the M.A. degree, students become acquainted with major sociological theories, basic sociological methods and two or more subfields of the discipline through a minimum of 25 units of coursework and preparation of a Master's paper. The second phase of work, which is expected to take two years, involves a minimum of 9 further units of coursework. It culminates in the Qualifying Examination, covering two subfields and theory. This milestone is expected to be completed by the end of the fourth year. The final phase is the Ph.D. dissertation, preparation of a dissertation prospectus and advancement to candidacy, are expected to follow promptly after satisfactory completion of the qualifying examination. Students are expected to complete all work for the Ph.D. degree by the end of the sixth year of graduate study.

## **V. Financial Aid**

Through departmental grants and university-level fellowships, the Department makes every effort to put together attractive multi-year funding packages for our accepted students. At the same time, we strongly encourage students to apply for outside fellowship support as, in some cases, it can be very generous funding or welcome additional money for existing support. There are many agencies not connected with the University that provide financial aid to students pursuing higher degrees.

The Graduate Division maintains an online database of over 300 of such extramural funding, which is available to students who are already in residence. For newly admitted and current students to the program, the department has created a funding database specifically designed and available for only our own Sociology Ph.D. students here at Berkeley. It has hundreds of easily searchable links to funding sources applicable for our graduate students to facilitate searching for appropriate funding both within the University and outside.

The following funding opportunities are of particular interest for Sociology graduate students. Many of these fellowships have been awarded to those in our current or incoming cohorts.

Here are potential funding sources some of which depend on your unique background:

### **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships**

<http://www.nsfgrfp.org>

Last year, NSF has paid \$37,000 plus fees per year for up to 3 years. Many of our students have been awarded NSF's, and we strongly encourage students to apply. The deadline varies slightly from year to year, but the anticipated deadline is usually early November. Please check the website for the exact date.

### **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)**

<http://grad.berkeley.edu/flas/>

Incoming students apply for FLAS fellowships by completing the required field in the online Graduate Application for Admission and Fellowships for UC Berkeley. You would have to give a short description of the relevance of your language study to your chosen research and career.

### **ASA Minority Fellowship Program**

<https://www.asanet.org/diversity-equity-inclusion/minority-fellowship-program/>

Through its Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), the American Sociological Association (ASA) supports the development and training of sociologists of color in any sub-area or specialty in the discipline. Annual stipend of \$20,000.

### **Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Scholarship**

<https://www.accessandequity.org/congressional-hispanic-caucus-scholarships/>

CHCI's scholarship opportunities are afforded to Latino students in the United States who have a history of performing public service-oriented activities in their communities and who demonstrate a desire to continue their civic engagement in the future.

### **American Indian Graduate Center**

<https://accessscholarships.com/scholarship/american-indian-graduate-center-aigc-graduate-fellowship/>

Fellowships for American Indian and Alaskan Native students from federally recognized tribes. Amount of award is need-based.

### **Japanese American Citizens League**

<https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants>

Awards up to \$8,000. Check their website for deadlines, or call 202-223-1240.

### **American Association of University Women (AAUW) Career Development Grants**

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/american-dissertation-fellowship-program/>

Women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing for publication for eight consecutive weeks. Funding: \$25,000

### **Point Foundation**

<https://pointfoundation.org/point-apply/apply-now/>

Point Foundation (Point) is the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) students of merit. Point promotes change through scholarship funding, mentorship, leadership development, and community service training.

### **Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans**

<https://www.pdsoros.org/apply>

Each fellowship supports one to two years of graduate study in any field and in any advanced degree-granting program in the United States. Each award is for up to \$25,000 in stipend support, as well as 50 percent of required tuition and fees, up to \$20,000 per year, for one to two years. The first year of Fellowship funding cannot be deferred.

### **Human Studies Fellowships**

<http://www.theihs.org/humane-studies-fellowships#>

The fellowships support students in variety of fields, including economics, philosophy, law, political science, history, and sociology. Awards up to \$10,000 and fellowship winners may re-apply for each year of their studies.

### **Financial Aid for International Students**

<https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study/finance-your-studies>

We highly value diversity in our cohort and encourage qualified international students to apply to our program. We make every effort to pool various funds together for our accepted international students. However, as our resources are limited, we strongly encourage students to apply for outside fellowship support and awards from their own countries. Many international students have successfully financed every year of their graduate study through a combination of departmental and university-level funds, extramural fellowships, awards from their countries, and departmental employment.

### **Fulbright Foreign Student Program**

<https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-programs>

Fulbright Exchange Program is run by the U.S. Department of State. It offers merit-based grants for foreign (non-U.S.) citizens to come to the U.S. Most Fulbright grants are fully-funded; benefits include transportation to the host country, monthly maintenance for the length of the grant and tuition. Fulbright operates on a yearly application cycle, which generally opens approximately 15 months before the anticipated start of the grant with a deadline approximately 11 or 12 months before the grant's start date.

### **P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship**

<http://www.peointernational.org>

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund is for female graduate students pursuing full time study in the US or Canada who have at least one full year of their program remaining and promise to return to their home country upon completing their degree. Several UC Berkeley graduate students have received this renewable scholarship in the past. Amount: Maximum of \$12,500 annually

### **International Graduate Student Parent Grant**

<https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/financial-aid/grad-student-financial-aid>

All registered international graduate students who have a child living with them in the Bay Area are eligible to apply. Grants will be awarded based on financial need and changes in the applicant's financial situation. Applications are accepted during the Graduate Student Financial Aid application period

### **Internal Grants:**

#### **ISSI Graduate Fellows Program**

[https://issi.berkeley.edu/Graduate\\_Fellows\\_Program](https://issi.berkeley.edu/Graduate_Fellows_Program)

\$10,000 and \$15,000 per year

**Institute for International Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant**

<https://iis.berkeley.edu/funding-opportunities/pre-dissertation-research-grant>

\$5,000/summer

**Center for Race and Gender Graduate Student Grants**

<https://www.crg.berkeley.edu/student-grants/>

up to \$250 - \$1,000 for research

**Synar Fellowships from the Institute for Governmental Studies**

<https://igs.berkeley.edu/student-opportunities/awards-grants/synar-fellowship>

\$3,000 for research

The Office of Financial Aid at UC Berkeley has established these average costs of living for students during the nine-month academic year. This budget provides sufficient money for most students in most circumstances. Actual expenses will vary depending upon lifestyle, priorities and obligations. This budget is revised every year to account for inflation. See the Graduate Division website for any updated figures here: <https://registrar.berkeley.edu/tuition-fees/>

Please note that through departmental grants and university-level fellowships, the Department makes every effort to create an attractive funding package for every accepted student that generally covers tuition and fees for five years.

In the last number of years most all the entering students have received 6-year funding packages comprised of a mix of university and departmental fellowships as well as academic teaching or research work.

However, as both the University and the Department of Sociology have limited resources to support incoming students, we encourage students to apply for outside fellowship support. There are many agencies not connected with the University that provide financial aid to students pursuing higher degrees. These fellowships can serve to supplement Berkeley funding and are often very generous.

**C. PROPOSED GRADUATE STUDENT EXPENSE BUDGET**

The Office of Financial Aid at UC Berkeley has established these average costs of living for students during the nine-month academic year. This budget provides sufficient money for most students in most circumstances. Actual expenses will vary depending upon lifestyle, priorities and obligations. This budget is revised every year to account for inflation. Find updated budgets here: <http://financialaid.berkeley.edu/cost-attendance>

2025-2026  
Office of Financial Aid Student Budget  
Direct Costs Charged by UC Berkeley  
(9 Months)

	<b>On Campus</b>	<b>On Campus w/Dependents</b>	<b>Off Campus</b>
Housing and Utilities	\$16,659	\$21,150	N/A
Food	\$7,806	\$13,464	\$8,624
Personal	\$2,468	\$4,358	\$2,682
Transportation	\$2,802	\$3,554	\$3,166
<b>Total Living Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,735</b>	<b>\$42,526</b>	<b>\$14,172</b>

<b>2025 – 2026 Tuition and Fees</b>		
	<b>Fall 2025</b>	<b>Spring 2026</b>
In State Student Tuition and Fees (CA residents)	\$8,601.75	\$8,601.75
Health Insurance	\$3,924	\$3,924
<b>TOTAL for CA Residents</b>	<b>\$12,525.75</b>	<b>\$12,525.75</b>
Supplemental Non-Resident Tuition and Fees	\$7551	\$7551
<b>TOTAL for Out of State Resident or International Student</b>	<b>\$20,076.75</b>	<b>\$20,076.75</b>

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## **V. Academic Employment**

### READERSHIPS

The department hires graduate students to assist faculty in reading and evaluating papers and examinations in large undergraduate courses. Readers are usually hired on a semester basis. Readers need not be registered during their period of employment; however, registered graduate students serving as readers are restricted to half-time employment. The current pay for readers who hold at least the bachelor's degree is \$21.36 per hour; they also receive a full remission fee (NRST will not be covered).

### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP (TA)

Teaching experience is an integral and important part of graduate student training. Prospective employers increasingly request a portfolio of teaching experience and philosophy along with the dissertation and publications when they evaluate job applicants. After their first year of graduate study, students can apply to be a Teaching Assistant in a large lecture course. After teaching four semesters, they can apply to teach their own undergraduate seminar.

The current salary for TAs ranges from \$3,795.00 to \$4,027.00 per month for five months; it comes with a full in-state fee remission. The salary depends on college-level teaching experience. This salary assumes a work week of 20 hours, which is the standard in this department. Teaching Assistants lead discussion sections, attend lectures, hold office hours and assist in reading and evaluating student work. They must be registered during the semester of their employment.

### RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

There is no central administrative source for the awarding of research assistantships. The University has a number of research institutes where a variety of projects are being conducted. Many of the research grants that support this work provide funds for the employment of graduate student research assistants who work together with the faculty associated with the projects. The current salary for research assistants ranges from \$2,995.00 to \$4,350.00 per month, in three steps for a 20-hour work week. The salary includes a full in-state

fee remission. The salary level depends on two factors: previous experience as a research assistant and the nature of work being performed in the research assistantship.

A few of the research institutes maintain files of research assistant applications for the use of faculty members who wish to hire assistants; however, in most cases, research assistants are hired directly by faculty members with whom the students have already done academic work. Thus, it is incumbent upon students to initiate ties to faculty members with whom they desire to work as research assistants. It is usually difficult for entering students to arrange research assistantships for their first year.

## FACULTY FIELDS

The year signifies the year the faculty member joined the department. Individual faculty members' web site may be accessed from the Sociology Department's web page:

<http://sociology.berkeley.edu/regular-faculty>

**Braun, Robert** – Assistant Professor, 2018

Altruism and social solidarity; comparative historical sociology; peace, war and social conflict; political sociology; sociology of religion; social movements and collective behavior

**Brown, Eliza** – Assistant Professor, 2023

Economic Sociology; Gender and Sexualities; Medicine; Reproduction; Science and Technology Studies

**Canizales, Stephanie** – Assistant Professor, 2024

International migration and immigrant integration; Children, youth, and families; Inequality and mobility; Qualitative Methods

**Cohen, Daniel Aldana** – Assistant Professor, 2021

Climate emergency; political economy; eco-apartheid; inequalities of race and class; urban studies; political social

**Fischer, Claude** - Professor, 1972

Personal networks; social history; social psychology; technology; urban

Flores, Luis – Assistant Professor, 2025

Economic Sociology; Political Economy; Comparative-Historical Methods; Housing & Labor; Law; Social Theory

**Fourcade, Marion** - Professor, 2003

Economic sociology; culture; political sociology; comparative methods; knowledge and science

**Fox, Cybelle** - Professor, 2009

Race and ethnicity; immigration; American welfare state; historical sociology; political sociology

**Hammer, Ricarda** – Assistant Professor, 2023

Anticolonial Politics, Empire, Citizenship, Global and Transnational Sociology, Sociology of Race & Racism, Historical Sociology, Social Theory, Du Boisian Methodologies

**Harding, David** - Professor, 2013

Poverty; inequality; causal inference; mixed methods; incarceration and prisoners reentry; education; neighborhood effects; urban communities; adolescence

**Haveman, Heather** – Professor, 2006

Organizations; economic sociology; historical sociology; entrepreneurship; organizational demography; gender, careers and social mobility

**Johnson-Hanks - Jennifer**, Professor, 2007

Population; culture; family

**Lagos, Danya** – Assistant Professor, 2020

Sex and gender, demography, survey methods, health, social change, embodiment

**Lara-Millan, Armando** – Assistant Professor, 2016

Historical ethnography; urban austerity; medicine; law; criminal justice; organizations; economic sociology

**Lie, John** – C.K. Cho Professor, 2003

Social theory; political economy; East Asia

**Lockhart, Jeffrey** - Assistant Professor, 2025

Science, Knowledge and Technology; Gender and Sexuality; Computational Social Science; Archival Data

**Yan, Long** – Assistant Professor, 2018

Global and transnational sociology; contentious politics; health and medicine; international development; organizations

**Loveman, Mara** – Professor, 2013

Comparative and historical sociology; political sociology; ethnoracial politics; development; demography; Latin America

**Mora, G. Cristina**–Chancellor’s Professor, 2011

Race and ethnicity; culture, organizations; immigration; religion

**Mpondo-Dika, Ekeidi** – Assistant Professor, 2023

Emotions, Poverty, Family and Personal Relationships, Mental Health

**Petersen, Trond**– Professor, 1995

Organizations; social stratification; inequality; economic sociology, comparative studies; quantitative methods

**Ray, Raka** – Professor and Dean, Social Sciences, 1993

Gender; postcolonial sociology; emerging middle classes; South Asia; inequality; qualitative research methods; social movements

**Riley, John Dylan** – Professor, 2004

Historical sociology; political sociology; social theory

**Michael Rodriguez-Muniz** – Associate Professor, 2022

Race and ethnicity; sociology of knowledge and culture; Latinx politics and identity; political sociology; Du Boisian sociology; ethnographic and qualitative methods

**Sabbagh-Khoury, Areej** – Associate Professor, 2023

Research interests: Political Sociology, Historical Sociology, Knowledge Production, Social Theory, Colonialism and Settler Colonialism, Citizenship

**Sanchez-Jankowski, Martin** - Professor, 1984

Sociology of Poverty; race and ethnicity; social violence; methodology

**Swidler, Ann** - Professor, 1987

Professor of the Graduate School

Culture; religion; theory; institutionalization; African responses to HIV/AIDS

**Tugal, Cihan** – Professor, 2005

Political sociology; social movements; religion; Islam and the Middle East; global sociology; poverty and class; social theory; ethnography

**Voss, Kim** – Professor, 1986

Labor; social movements; inequality; higher education; political sociology; historical sociology

**Wacquant, Loïc** - Professor, 1994

Incarnation, the penal state, “race” as a principle of social vision and division, comparative urban inequality and marginality; extreme social systems; politics of reason; classical and contemporary social theory

## VI. AFFILIATED FACULTY

**Albiston, Catherine R**- Professor, Law and Sociology

Gender, law and social change, law and society, social movements, employment discrimination, work/family policy, legal profession, public interest law

**Chen, Carolyn** – Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies

Religion, race, Ethnicity, Immigration

**Mascarenhas, Michael** – Associate Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management

Environment sociology; environment justice; environmental racism; globalization and development

**Srivastava, Sameer** – Assistant Professor, Organizational Behavior / Sociology Organizational sociology and theory, network analysis, culture and cognition, economic sociology, research design and methods