

A PLACE TO **BECOME**

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH  
**A DISABILITY STUDIES DEGREE?**



Employers want people who can identify problems, analyze the situation critically, and develop innovative solutions. Disability Studies is built around a constructive, applied approach so that our graduates have repeated practice in these areas. Our graduates are ready to identify social, legal and physical barriers facing disabled people and propose creative alternatives. Increasing accessibility laws mean that Disability Studies is in demand in many organizations. Our graduates are already involved in these roles/fields:

**Education & Recreation**

- Teacher, Professor, Educational Assistant
- Curriculum Adaptation
- Special Education
- Deaf/Blind Itinerant, ASL Interpreter
- Camps: Inclusion Manager, Counsellor

**Applied Health & Social Services**

- Social Worker
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Personal/Disability Support Worker/Supervisor
- Sports and Recreation: inclusive program design
- Speech & Language Pathology
- Psychology and Medicine

**Media**

- Marketing & Advertising
- Journalism & Communications
- Film, TV & Web Access Assessor

**Non-Governmental Organizations**

- Employment Counselor
- Recreational Programming
- Advocacy, Fundraising
- Mental Health Supports

**Law**

- Lawyer
- Policy Maker

**Business**

- Human Resources
- Accessibility Training
- Accessible Product Design

**Further Studies /Research**

- Disability Studies
- Rehabilitation Sciences
- Education
- Psychology
- Developmental Services
- Autism/Behavioural

A PLACE TO  
**BELONG**



Disability Studies has been committed from day one to listening to local community members and centering the life experiences and perspectives of disabled people. Students visit them on class trips and learn from them as guest speakers, and Professors listen to service organizations that support them on our Advisory Council and in course collaborations. Partners include:

**DS COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- Amethyst School
- Blizzard Sledge Hockey
- Cheshire Support Services
- Community Living
- Creative Arts Open Studio
- Down Syndrome Association
- Electric Wheelchair Hockey
- Fanshawe College- DSW
- Goodlife Fitness
- Hutton House
- L'Arche
- LDCSB
- Learning Disabilities Association
- Participation House
- SARI Therapeutic Riding
- Special Olympics
- Track 3 Boler Ski School
- TVDSB
- Western Swimming with a Mission
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Woodeden Camp
- YMCA North London

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
**THE DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM**

👉 [kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies](https://kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies)

**WELLNESS RESOURCES**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

👉 [kings.uwo.ca/wellness](https://kings.uwo.ca/wellness)

PROGRAM **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Students participate directly in shaping their studies to suit a range of career paths
- Inquiry-based learning emphasizes analysis that leads to better solutions, not just criticism
- Active learning and cases where students apply course concepts with community partners
- Courses integrate universal design principles ensuring broad accessibility
- NEW: capstone course where students synthesize concepts into a research project or a project designed with and for a community partner
- Professors from diverse areas of expertise including anthropology, education, sociology, media studies, law, bioethics, health sciences, religious studies, policy, and more
- Professors are leading researchers and committed to mentor students to develop their gifts, skills, and capacity as change-agents

# Disability Studies

**Rethinking disability, mental health, and related social institutions**



## What is Disability Studies (DS)?

Disability Studies (DS) is a dynamic interdisciplinary program with an important vision: a more inclusive world for everyone. Our program creates space to rethink common medicalized approaches to disability using innovative academic and grassroots ideas. Through coursework, cases, and real world experiences, we mentor students to reimagine creative ways to make social, legal, policy and built environments to be more welcoming and accessible. We empower students to become leaders who are both motivated and able to make systems change happen.

[kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies](https://kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies)

# EXPERIENCE GUIDE



**A Place to Be, A Place to Become**

**Learn more:**  
[kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies](https://kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies)



@kingsatwestern

Find our Facebook group:  
Disability Studies at King's





THE DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM **IS FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO:**

- Make the world a more inclusive place
- Become change agents and problem solvers
- Expand awareness of disability rights and justice
- Develop strong analysis and communication skills
- Learn through real-life cases and experiences

LEARNING **OUTCOMES:**

The academic and practical learning that takes place in the DS program has lifelong application. Students are well-prepared, informed and active citizens. Their knowledge, insights and experiences are valuable in many careers and sectors. DS aims for the following learning outcomes:

**KNOWLEDGE:**

- Understand the old focus on medicalizing and ‘fixing’ disabled people
- Imagine disability as difference, capacity, or gift instead of as deficit, dysfunction or problem
- Analyze systems, laws, and attitudes that give rise to unequal opportunities and oppression
- Strategies to increase justice, social innovation, and inclusion
- Recognize contemporary concerns for disabled people and know how to address these issues
- Propose innovative alternatives to address inequality and inclusion

**SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:**

- Question and unsettle common societal understandings of impairment and disability
- Identify and analyze ableism with an eye to developing a constructive response
- Understand the roots of disabling attitudes, policies and structures and learn to address them
- Learn how and when to use diverse perspectives for particular goals
- Familiarity with common issues and existing best practices through case studies
- Advocacy, self-advocacy and leadership for change

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Conversation and collaboration with fellow students in various fields with diverse life experiences
- Learn directly from the expertise of individuals’ lived experiences with disability
- Participate in programming developed with community partners
- Undertake small research projects (optional: present at conference)
- Synthesize learning through capstone projects

ALUMNI **PROFILE**



**Sarah Crittenden**  
*BA honours 2018 – Disability Studies and Psychology*  
**Graduation Year:** 2018

“What you learn in DS goes beyond the classroom. You can use the knowledge and skills for the rest of your life.”

**CURRENT CAREER**

I am in my second year at Osgoode Hall Law School. I am in a disability and human rights law intensive with ARCH this year, building on my research assistant role last year.

A PLACE TO **BE**

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	GRADUATING YEAR
<b>THINK</b> Imagine, Create	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Meet with Faculty during office hours</li><li>▪ Join KAMP to meet upper year student mentors</li><li>▪ Review your program progression requirements and plan for a successful degree path</li><li>▪ Sign up for the Co-Curricular Record</li><li>▪ Check out our services offered by Counselling and Student Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Check out the wealth of undergraduate research opportunities on campus</li><li>▪ Be a notetaker through the King's Accessibility Services</li><li>▪ Attend the Learning Skills Services Drop-in Sessions</li><li>▪ Make sure you do your Intent To Register (ITR)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Attend Graduate School Education Sessions</li><li>▪ Sign up for the Life After King's Mentoring Program</li><li>▪ Attend the employer information sessions and Career Fairs</li><li>▪ Finalize your portfolio to share with graduate schools and employers</li></ul>
<b>DISCOVER</b> Possibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Attend summer academic orientation</li><li>▪ Attend Orientation Week Activities at King's and at Western</li><li>▪ Visit the Career Counsellor at King's to review potential career opportunities with your degree</li><li>▪ Sign up for intramurals, join a club at King's and check out the Western Mustangs games</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Check out the Life after King's Series</li><li>▪ Become a Soph or Off-Campus Don to support fellow students at King's</li><li>▪ Explore your interests by volunteering on campus</li><li>▪ Meet with your academic counsellor to make key academic decisions</li><li>▪ Think about writing for the Regis or the Western Gazette</li><li>▪ Review leadership roles offered by King's and Western</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Participate in local, national and global challenges and competitions (Map the System, World's Challenge)</li><li>▪ Meet with faculty to talk about graduate school and reference letters</li><li>▪ Check out Pillar Nonprofit Network “Nonprofit Career Talks”</li><li>▪ Meet with career services to review resume and job search tools</li></ul>
<b>ENGAGE</b> In Local and Global Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Attend King's International inter-cultural events</li><li>▪ Volunteer for events such as St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, The Centre for Social Concern, or The Gender, Justice and Community Summit</li><li>▪ Consider joining the KUCSC as a first year or program rep</li><li>▪ Apply for residence and participate in the living learning communities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Explore opportunities such as research assistant roles and scholarships</li><li>▪ Consider different ways to build engaged learning and international experience into your degree</li><li>▪ Visit and take in opportunities offered by Innovation Works</li><li>▪ Consider volunteering with the Inter-faith Peace Camp</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Contribute to the King's Undergraduate Research Journal</li><li>▪ Meet with alumni for informational interviews</li><li>▪ Conduct informational interviews with organizations you would like to work for</li></ul>

LEARN **MORE ABOUT**  
**THE DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM**  
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THE KING'S ANNUAL **CHECKLIST**

- ☐ Check our programs offered by Student Affairs
- ☐ Learn to use the many library resources
- ☐ Check out Career Connect jobs, on-campus jobs, & financial aid
- ☐ Track your degree requirements with an Academic Dean's Office counsellor
- ☐ Get to know your Professors by meeting in their office
- ☐ Get engaged in student clubs, council & volunteering (see Chaplaincy)
- ☐ Attend the many great speakers, panels and events at King's

ALUMNI **PROFILE**



**Hillary Hartwig**  
*BA Honours 2018 Disability Studies & Social Work*  
**Graduation Year:** 2018

“Disability Studies is extremely influential in shaping my perspective on access and inclusion. It is a big part of what I contribute to my workplace.”

**CURRENT CAREER**

I am currently a Family Home Coordinator at VON Canada and have been amazed at their caring programs and how they welcome my DS insights to our work.

LEARN **MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI**

➔ [kings.uwo.ca/alumni](https://kings.uwo.ca/alumni)