Disability Studies Studying disability, mental health, and related social institutions

Disability Studies (DS) is a dynamic interdisciplinary program with an important mission: 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 more welcoming and accessible.

We empower students to become leaders who are both motivated and able to make systems change happen.

Learn more: kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies

@kingsatwestern

Find our Facebook group Disability Studies at Kings

kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies

EXPERIENCE GUIDE
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 analytical 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 self-prepared, informed and active citizens. Their knowledge, skills and experiences are valuable in many careers and sectors. DS offers the following learning outcomes:

KNOWLEDGE:
• Understood the old focus on medicalizing and ‘fixing’ disabled people
• Imagine disable 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 these
• 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 variety of fields with diverse life experiences
• Learn directly from the expertise of individual lived experiences with disability
• Participate in programming developed with community partners
• Undertake small research projects (optional: present at conference)
• Synthesize learning through capstone projects

A PLACE TO BE

THINK
Imagine, Create

FIRST YEAR
• Meet with faculty during office hours
• Join King’s Academic Mentoring Program (AMP) to meet upper year student mentors
• Review your program progression requirements and plan for a successful degree path
• Sign up for the Co-Curricular Record
• Meet with your academic counsellor
• Check out our services offered by Counseling and Student Development

MIDDLE YEARS
• Check out the wealth of undergraduate research opportunities on campus
• Sign up to the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Portal
• Attend the Learning Skills Services Drop-in Sessions
• Make sure you do your intake to Register (ITR)

GRADUATING YEAR
• Attend Graduate School Education Sessions
• Sign up for the Life After King’s Mentorship Program
• Attend the employer information sessions and Career days
• Enroll or take classes to share with graduate schools and employers

DISCOVER Possibilities

• Attend summer academic conferences
• Attend Orientation Week Activities at King’s and at Western
• Meet with your career counsellor at King’s to review potential career opportunities with your degree
• Meet with your advisor/counselor to discuss your future plans
• Meet with alumni for informational interviews
• Meet with faculty at a teaching assistant/Lab assistant role last year.

ENGAGE In Local and Global Community

• Attend King’s International inter-cultural events
• Volunteer for events such as St. Joseph’s Hospitality Centre, the Centre for Social Concerns, or The Goddess Justice and Community Summit
• Attend King’s International Year, building on my research assistant role last year.
• Work in groups to develop a capstone project, such as research assistant roles and scholarships
• Consider different ways to build engaged and international experience into your degree
• Visit and take in opportunities offered by Innovation Works
• Consider volunteering with the Interfaith Peace Camp

ALUMNI PROFILE
Sarah Crittenden @ 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 currently the Director of Osgoode Hall Law School. I am in a disability and human rights law intensive with ADRS this year, building on my research assistant role last year.

ALUMNI PROFILE
Hillary Hartwig @ 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 my workplace.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM
 kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ALUMNI
 kings.uwo.ca/alumni

THE KING’S ANNUAL CHECKLIST

☐ Check out programs offered by Student Affairs
☐ 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

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