

Law LLM Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR LLM STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in LAW?

The Queen's Master of Laws (LLM) degree is a nine- to twelve-month program that deepens students' legal knowledge and research skills with a view to further studies at the doctoral level or careers in research, policy work, or legal practice.

Students have considerable freedom to design a course of study that meets their needs and aspirations.

Why QUEEN'S?

The Queen's graduate program in Law is a unique program focused on the student. We have chosen to keep our program purposefully small. The result is an intimate Law School community in which students are able to develop intellectually under the personal mentorship of some of the leading legal scholars in Canada and the world. Our Faculty consists of leading legal scholars whose work has been influential nationally and internationally and who take seriously the responsibility of mentoring graduate students.

Program STRUCTURE

The Master of Laws is offered in 3 methods of completion:

- **Method I - Thesis:** two mandatory graduate seminars plus one additional course and a master's thesis not to exceed 35,000 words in length, exclusive of footnotes, endnotes, bibliography, appendices, tabulated data, tables of cases, and tables of contents, that must be defended orally before an examination committee.
- **Method II - Mini-Thesis:** two mandatory graduate seminars plus three additional courses and a substantial graduate research project (or "mini-dissertation") of 13,000-18,000 words.
- **Method III - Paper:** two mandatory graduate seminars plus five additional courses and a graduate paper of 9,000-10,000 words.



"As part of my LLM studies at Queen's, I had the great fortune of attending the Spring International Study Program in Public International Law at the Herstmonceux Castle in the UK. This program enabled me to get a three-course head start on my LLM, while providing the opportunity to visit European international human rights organizations and criminal tribunals. I loved every minute of these studies and travels: this was a remarkable learning experience, a unique opportunity to embark on the path of international human rights education."

All LLM students are required to take two graduate seminars, Legal Research Methods and Perspectives and Advanced Legal Research, and complete a research project under the guidance of a faculty supervisor.

FIELDS of Study

A supervisor will be assigned to each student prior to the beginning of the LLM program. You may visit the [Law website](#) and indicate, on the application, any faculty you feel would be appropriate for your area of research. Teaching and supervision is available in a wide range of research areas.

PRACTICING in Canada

Please note that obtaining an LLM or PhD in Canada does not qualify students who do not have an LLB or JD from a Canadian university to practice law in Canada. International students who are interested in practicing law in Canada should contact the National Committee on Accreditation.



GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

Graduate Studies FAQs

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.

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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- JD/LLB or equivalent with a minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Research proposal or statement of the subject area in which the applicant would like to research.
- A statement of your career objectives and reasons for wanting to pursue graduate studies in Law.
- One or two writing samples that demonstrate your research and writing abilities, written originally in English and, preferably, in an academic context.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the [English language proficiency requirements](#) in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 15 to apply for funding. Later submissions are accepted.
- **Notification of acceptance:** After March 15.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

Master's students will receive merit-based funding, often enough to cover tuition costs.

Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 top-up to Master's winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on [awards and scholarships](#).

