Ph.D. Map
FAQs

What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- MA in Philosophy with an A- (80%) average to be competitive.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest
- Writing sample (maximum 10-15 pages)
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application deadline: February 2 is the deadline to qualify for funding, but applications will continue to be accepted beyond this date.
- Notification of acceptance: early March.
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Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

How do I find a supervisor?

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Philosophy Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.

Ph.D. Career Outcomes in Canada

A PhD in Philosophy can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education — the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academia and teaching
- Government sector
- Journalism
- Law
- Private sector

How do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different — the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PHILOSOPHY?

The Department of Philosophy at Queen’s University has faculty working in a wide variety of fields, including political philosophy, ethics, bioethics, feminism, contemporary metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, continental philosophy and the history of philosophy. The colloquium series is one of the best anywhere, with well-attended talks by internal and external speakers every Thursday during the term, and occasional extra lectures.

Why QUEEN’S?

Queen’s offers high quality graduate programs that aspire to give students both a solid general education in philosophy and opportunities for specialized work on topics of students’ choosing. The Queen’s faculty is very productive in a broad range of areas of research. The small size of the graduate programs allows for individual attention and a collegial atmosphere.

“The Philosophy department is both intimate and vibrant — offering the benefits of smaller classes with the advantages of a diverse faculty.”

— Christine Esselmont, MA, PhD

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.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both ‘quaint’ and ‘eclectic’, Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

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.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): coursework and thesis

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Department of Philosophy

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www.queensu.ca/philosophy

705-683-1282
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exams.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your field exams and dissertation proposal.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.
- Attend the highly-regarded Philosophy guest speaker series, the Philosophy Colloquium.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete: ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGSP, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal CFRC TV and the SGSP Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSP901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Coalition of Kingston Communities, Vision for Kingston, local food banks, Boys and Girls Club, Elizabeth Fry Society, Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, or the Maritime Museum.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fits starts with knowing yourself. Take the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGSP website, and using Queen's Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR II

- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.

YEAR III

- Complete and defend your thesis.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Waterloo PGSAA Conference - University of Alberta Philosophy Graduate and Postgraduate Conference - York University's Graduate Conference in Philosophy - University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (EMT).

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the Skills and Experience workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Philosophical Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Knowledge and technical skills in areas of specialization
Communication: effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences
Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands
Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
Creativity and innovation: to address complex, multifaceted challenges
Perseverance to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome
Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!