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 Political Studies Department website to read about fields of study and learn more about supervisor interest 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 and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.

What about funding?

All incoming MA students (including students in the Collaborative MA in Political and Legal Thought), who are registered as full-time students, are guaranteed a funding package. Typically this consists of graduate awards and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres.

"I have really appreciated my time as an MA student in the Political Studies department at Queen's. Small in size, the department fosters a sense of community and mutual support. Yet, the department remains highly competitive, boasting professors and students at the tops of their fields."

— Maria Krause, MA, PhD candidate

Why QUEEN'S? Why KINGSTON?

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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

The 1-year Master’s of Political Studies is offered with two options:

- MA course work and Major Research Paper
- Collaborative MA in Political and Legal Thought: students in the Collaborative Program will complete 4 term-length courses in the field of Political Thought (out of a total of 6 required courses) as well as complete a Major Research Paper in an area relevant to the specialization.

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# Political Studies M.A. Map

### GETTING STARTED

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your Major Research Paper.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Consider positions in student services, the SQPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal CFRC GTV or the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) to get involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Centre for Studies on Democracy and Diversity, the Centre for International and Defence Policy (CINDP), and the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like "So You Want to Go into Consulting: Advice for Graduates" to learn about 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Complete your coursework, begin to research, and write your Major Research Paper.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) Conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Attend the Departmental Speaker Series.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SDG901 or the PDTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- 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 QAC's Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Explore different careers of interest by studying alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum".
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

### WRAPPING UP

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Complete your Major Research Paper.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference or Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN).

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' networking workshops.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Political Science Association.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

**Knowledge and technical skills**
- in area 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 apprise 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!