Why GRADUATE STUDIES in POLITICAL STUDIES?

The Department of Political Studies at Queen’s University has long been known for its graduate programs. We are small enough to provide our students with a highly personalized graduate experience, and our faculty are strong, diverse, and well recognized for their research so that we can provide a well-rounded education that gives our graduates a solid basis for a wide range of careers. The department is particularly well known for its strength in the study of ethnically divided and diverse societies.

Why QUEEN’S?

As one of Canada’s premier departments of political science, we are committed to both research and teaching. Our faculty are actively engaged in a wide range of research activities and projects, and highly visible in the discipline both in Canada and abroad. And we are no less committed to our students.

“I have really appreciated my time as an MA student in the Political Science 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

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.

FIELDS of Study

• Canadian Politics
• Comparative Politics
• Gender and Politics
• International Relations
• Political Theory

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.
GETTING STARTED

- 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 workshops, the Department Grad Chair, and the SGS Habitat.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your Major Research Paper.
- 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.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your Major Research Paper.
- 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).
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A graduate degree in Political Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - Research skills: analyze and assess arguments about policy and institutions, based on their empirical and normative components.
  - Analytical writing skills: write in a clear, succinct, explanatory and persuasive manner.
  - Effective verbal communication skills.
  - Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information.
  - Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands.
  - Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions.
  - Creativity and innovation.
  - Perseverance.
  - Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
  - Awareness: understanding of 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 discussion.

WHERE CAN I GO?

- A Master's degree in Political Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
  - Academia and teaching.
  - Policy analytics.
  - Law.
  - International and non-profit organisations.
  - Politics.

- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
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.

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 SGS HABITAT 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
- 4 year undergraduate degree in Political Science (or equivalent).
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: Late January (see Political Studies website).
- Notification of acceptance: From late March to early April.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?
All incoming MA students (including 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 teaching assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRc and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the Political Studies Department.