

Public Administration MPA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MPA STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION?

The Public Administration graduate program is a bridge between the academic world and the world of public affairs. Our multi-disciplinary MPA programs are focused on policy analysis, development and implementation, preparing new and experienced professionals for rewarding careers in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our graduates have gone on to hold positions as ministers and senior officials in municipal, provincial and federal governments. They also provide leadership in hospitals, community organizations and national associations across Canada. Others still work for consulting firms in the private sector.

Why QUEEN'S?

The School of Policy Studies offers a rich and rewarding learning experience that is unsurpassed in Canada and matched only by the best public policy programs in the world. Through high quality interactive teaching and integrated learning, we enhance leadership in public policy by providing students the inspiration, skills, competencies and connections to become better contributors to the public good. The MPA curriculum includes core courses in economics, policy analysis, governance, management and quantitative methods. Through elective courses, students apply their skills to the analysis and resolution of concrete policy and management problems.

EXPERIENTIAL Learning

Experiential learning is an important aspect of Queen's MPA programs and we strive to incorporate the practical application of skills as a major component of the learning experience. Participate in unique opportunities to link theory and practice, to move from the academic to the applied. Our students participate in study tours in Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto and Washington. These study tours are an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of policy in a variety of sectors – public, private and nonprofit.



CAREER Support

Queen's School of Policy Studies offers one of the most comprehensive career support programs anywhere. Our workshops, one-on-one mentoring, alumni networking events are all designed to help our students realize their goals and ambitions.

Program STRUCTURE

Degrees Offered & Method of Completion:

- Master of Public Administration (1 year): 12 half-credit courses or 10 half-credit courses plus a research project.
- Professional Master of Public Administration (2.5 years, part time): 10 half-credit courses.
- Combined Master of Public Administration/ Juris Doctorate (4 years): course work and the opportunity to participate in the certificate program at the Queen's International Study Centre in Public International Law at Queen's Herstonceux castle in England or an international study exchange to pursue broader opportunities.

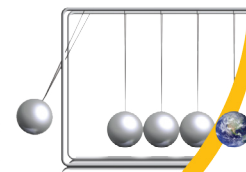
Visit the [School of Policy Studies](#) website to learn more about the program and its opportunities.

"The MPA provided a unique blend of academic and professional experience and supported the development of fundamentals skills that I use on a daily basis working on health care policy and strategy implementation. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to learn from outstanding professors in a dynamic environment and benefit from great experiences provided throughout the program."

– Madelaine Meehan, BAH'14, MPA'16



School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
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Public Administration MPA MAP*



MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Take elective courses or opt into completing an optional master's project to gain skills necessary in analyzing or resolving policy issues.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from the School of Policy Studies and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional workshops, the Program Director and the [SGS Habitat](#).

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Attend conferences organized by the School of Policy Studies, such as the [Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration \(CAPP\)](#) Research Conference, the [Kingston Conference on International Security](#), or the [Canada-UK Colloquium](#).

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Participate in the study tours with policy leaders in Kingston, Toronto, Ottawa, and Washington, DC to gain insight on practical policy experiences.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as United Way, Boys and Girls Club, Community Foundations and more.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student [Career Week](#) to explore your career pathways.
- Participate in the monthly professional foundations workshops organized by the School of Policy Studies.

- Read publications and attend weekly speaker series to acquaint yourself with the world of public affairs.
- Join the Queen's Public Administration case study team.

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Consider applying for the MPA Internship program, which allows you to combine formal studies with on-the-job training through a four-month cooperative education placement at a government agency.
- Attend site briefings with senior policy analysts in Ottawa, Toronto, and Washington, DC to enhance your knowledge of international policy issues.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's [Intercultural Competency Certificate](#).
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the [School of Policy Studies website](#) and the [SGS website](#), and using [QueensConnects](#) 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.

- Complete your coursework and your optional master's project.

- Participate in skills workshops put on by the School of Policy Studies.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, [Expanding Horizons](#), [Mitacs](#), or other sources to boost your skills.
- Participate in an international exchange to Ghana or to Shanghai to gain global competencies.

- Participate in targeted networking opportunities offered through the School of Policy Studies.
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Institute of Public Administration Canada](#).

- Survey the School of Policy Studies job board for opportunities in areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from the School of Policy Studies with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A professional degree in Public Administration can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

Strategic Thinking:

- Articulate the political, institutional, legal, and administrative context in which policy is made and implemented.
- Recognize the values and principals of Canadian democracy.

Engagement & Communication:

- Engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- Demonstrate high quality, professional verbal and written communication skills.
- Prepare high quality written and oral material.

Analysis & Application:

- Apply relevant theories, principles and techniques of policy analysis to identify and assess public policy issues and devise options to resolve them.
- Identify, synthesize, analyze and integrate relevant and appropriate sources of information.

Professionalism, Collaboration, & Leadership

- Demonstrate and apply the ethics and values of public service.
- Develop and complement creative and collaborative approaches to public service leadership.

WHERE CAN I GO?

A Master's degree in Public Administration can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- The private sector (Includes consulting, financial services, and professional associations.
- Health
- Not-for-profits
- Education
- Government

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

Graduate Studies FAQs

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.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum upper second class standing (B+ average) in the last 2 years of study. Competitive applicants must have an A- or 3.7 GPA in the last two years of study.
- **MPA/J.D. applicants** must have completed a Bachelor's honours degree, with an A-average or 3.7 GPA in the last two years and an LSAT score above the 80th percentile.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest.
- A GRE test examination is required if your previous degree is from a non-Canadian university.
- 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 deadlines:

- **MPA Program:** February 1.
- **MPA/J.D. Program:** January 15 (through School of Graduate Studies for MPA), November 1 (through OLSAS for Law).

Notification of acceptance: no later than May 15.

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

What about FUNDING?

M.P.A. students are not guaranteed a minimum funding, but there are some internal Queen's graduate Awards available that vary from \$1000- \$10,000.

We encourage all students to 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 on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#).



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

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