M.PL. Map

FAQs

What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

• 4 year Bachelor or Honours degree.
• Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (B+ average), with preference for those with a first class standing (A average) in the final 2 years of undergraduate study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

• Statement of interest.
• Two letters of reference.
• Numeracy skills and the ability to solve basic math problems using algebra and geometry.
• If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

• Application due: January 31 (international students)/March 1 (domestic students) but applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
• Notification of acceptance: 6 weeks after the application has been received.

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

How do I find a supervisor?

Supervisors are matched late in the first year, based upon the final topic of the student's report or thesis proposal and the availability and research skills of the particular faculty members. Most students preparing a thesis or Master’s research report find a research supervisor from among the regular or adjunct faculty of the School.

What about funding?

There is no guaranteed funding for M.PL. students. However, students may apply for Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions in the Department of Geography and Planning. Most students also undertake a paid professional internship from among the regular or adjunct faculty of the School.

Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers such as:

• City planner
• Community development officer
• Conflict resolution mediator or negotiator
• Doctoral studies
• Economics development officer
• Environmental planner
• Geographic Information System planner
• Health planner
• Heritage coordinator
• Industrial planner
• Land use planner
• Municipal planner
• Planning director
• Planning consultant
• Policy analyst
• Real estate analyst
• Recreation and park planner
• Regional planner
• Resource development officer
• Social planner
• Transportation planner
• Urban designer

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

Urban Planning M.PL. Map

Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

Where do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked upon 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 URBAN PLANNING?

The School of Urban & Regional Planning (SURP) in the Queen’s Department of Geography and Planning emphasizes excellence in teaching, with high faculty-student engagement and courses that capitalize on the considerable planning experience of our energetic faculty. This is a professional education program that also has a significant research component. It is officially recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners as a key stage toward earning the Registered Professional Planners designation.

Why QUEEN’S?

“My experiences at Queen’s University opened many doors for me, and prepared me for entering the industry with a solid background of planning theory and practical applications.”

– Michelle Taggart, M.PL

Your instructors will be a team of exceptional professors. The core faculty combine years of professional experience with strong research skills and a passion for promoting learning. Their books are used as core texts in planning courses across Canada and several have been honoured with university teaching and professional service awards.

Over the past five years, more than 90% of our students have obtained paid professional internships during the summer term in the middle of the M.PL program. And over 90% of our graduates have obtained planning related employment within six months of graduation. About half of SURP graduates work in the public sector, with policy agencies at the federal and provincial levels or as planners at local and regional governments.

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 1,100 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.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both “historic” 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. M.PL students use Kingston as a case study for medium-sized cities and as a base for comparison of Montreal (300 km away), Toronto (200 km) and Ottawa (180 km). We visit all three cities with field trips in first term.

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

There are three methods of completion for the Master’s of Urban and Regional Planning:

• Method I course work and thesis.
• Method II course work only. Most students also complete a paid summer internship.
• Method III: course work only. Most students also complete a paid summer internship.

Areas of SPECIALIZATION

• Environmental Services
• Health & Social Planning
• Land Use & Real Estate

School of Graduate Studies

Create an impact

www.queensu.ca/gradstudies

GRAD MAP FOR M.PL. STUDENTS
**SUMMER**
- Literature review and start research proposal.
- Complete a paid professional internship related to planning.
- 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.
- Attend or present at a conference such as the Canadian Institute of Planners.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Update your Plan of Study.
- Complete your research proposal (Term 4).
- Possible international exchange (Term 5).
- Complete your coursework, Master's Report or Thesis.

**TERMS 4 AND 5**
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Association of Planning Students.
- Start to think about the audiences for your research (Term 5).

**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**
- Knowledge and technical skills:
  - Human Settlements
  - History and Principles of Planning
  - Government and Law
  - Issues in Planning and Policy-Making
  - Processes of Planning and Policy-Making
  - Plan and Policy Implementation
- Critical Thinking:
  - Quantitative and qualitative analysis
  - Identifying patterns and trends
  - Thinking at various geographic scales
  - Designing scenarios and plans
- Communication:
  - Written communication
  - Oral communication
  - Graphic communication
  - Information technology (GIS, CAD)
- Professionalism:
  - Managing complexity, uncertainty and change
  - Learning from practice
  - Handling ethical dilemmas

**TERMS 1 AND 2**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your Advisor, preparing your Plan of Study, and doing your required coursework.
- Identify a research topic and supervisor (Term 2).
- Complete a master's research project through research in your field.
- Apply for Exchange Programs and International Experience Awards (Term 2).
- Complete your research proposal (Term 4).
- Possible international exchange (Term 5).
- Complete your coursework, Master's Report or Thesis.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding for Year 2.
- Prepare a proposal for a conference presentation.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars in the Department of Geography and Planning.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Canadian Institute of Planners, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources (Term 1).

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on SURP departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Queen's Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) for tips on getting involved.
- Start keeping an e-portfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.
- Investigate internships from SURP, Mitacs and other sources (Term 1).
- Complete a professional internship.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CPIC, QTV and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Tour Kingston, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa with SURP field trips.
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Institute of Planners.
- Attend your first professional conference (Term 1).
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Social Planning Council.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Find a career that fits with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor.
- Update (or prepare) your LinkedIn page (Term 1).
- Start reading publications like Plan Canada and browse planning job web sites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials (Term 2).
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen's Connects 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 reached out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships. Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- 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.