Application 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 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), 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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 31 (international students)/March 1 (domestic students)
- but applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Notification of acceptance: Typically 6 weeks after the application is received.

What about FEES?
There is no guaranteed funding for MPL 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 in the summer between first and second year.

Many students typically receive Queen's Graduate Awards, based on class standing. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

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?

Your instructor 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.

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.

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 and research report.
- 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

Supervisors are matched late in the first year, based upon the final topic of the student’s research 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 among the regular or adjunct faculty of the School.

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 MPL 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.

Why 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 advisement of 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.
**SUMMER**

- Attend your first professional conference (Term 1).
- Update (or prepare) your LinkedIn page (Term 1).
- Consider publication options for your research.

**LAND USE PLANNER**

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connect 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. Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**MUNICIPAL, RECREATION, OR PARK PLANNER**

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Institute of Planners.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.

**INCIDENTAL INCLUSION OF DIVERSE PEOPLE AND VALUES**

**QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS**

**SOCIAL PLANNER**

- Prepare a proposal for a conference presentation.
- Consider participating in the National Planning Conference.
- Start to think about the audiences for your research (Term 5).

**COMPLETE YOUR COURSEWORK, MASTER’S REPORT OR THESIS.**

- Update your Plan of Study.
- Complete your research proposal (Term 4).
- Possible international exchange (Term 5).
- Complete your coursework, Master’s Report or Thesis.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A professional degree in Urban Regional Planning can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

**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

**Social Interaction and Leadership:**
- Mediation, facilitation, negotiation, and conflict resolution
- Inclusion of diverse people and values
- Teamwork and team-building
- Relations to bosses, officials and the public

**Communication:**
- Written, oral, graphic communication
- Information technology (GIS, CAD)

**Professionalism:**
- Managing complexity, uncertainty and change
- Learning from practice, and handling ethical dilemmas

### WHERE CAN I GO?

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
- Disposal studies
- Economics development officer
- Environmental planner
- Geographic Information System planner
- Health planner
- Heritage coordinator
- Industrial planner
- Land use planner
- Municipal, recreation, or park planner
- Planning director or consultant
- Policy or real estate analyst
- Regional planner
- Resource development officer
- Social planner
- Transportation planner
- Urban designer

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