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 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.

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 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.

“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, MPL

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.

“Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies”

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact

www.queensu.ca/sgs
### 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), if student is undertaking a thesis or dissertation.
- Apply for Exchange Programs and International Experience Awards (Term 2).

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding for Year 2.
- Attend a proposal for a conference presentation.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars in the Department of Geography and Planning.
- 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 eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Check out professional development workshops from Mitacs, Horizon Expanding, and other sources (Term 1).
- Participate in public visioning exercises for local projects.
- Attend your first professional conference (Term 1).
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Social Planning Council.
- Expand your research audience through social media.

### 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 professional visioning exercises for local projects.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a 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 websites. 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).

### SUMMER

- Literature review and start research proposal.
- Complete a paid professional internship related to planning.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- 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.

### TERMS 4 AND 5

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

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A professional degree in Urban and 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
- Team-work and team-building
- Relations to business, officials, and the public
- Communication:
  - Written, oral, graphic communication
- Information technology (GIS, CAD)

### 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
- Doral studies
- Economics development officer
- Environmental planner
- Geographic Information System planner
- Health planner
- Heritage coordinator
- Industrial planner
- Land 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 have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Graduate Studies FAQs

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); 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: 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.

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

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.