

Law PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in LAW?

The Queen's Law PhD program is a four-year program of advanced scholarly research and writing, culminating in a dissertation.

Doctoral students are a key part of our vibrant intellectual community: some teach courses in the law school and work in collaboration with faculty members on research projects. They are invited to participate in faculty workshops, lectures and seminars, and engage intellectually with other students and faculty.

"As part of my LLM studies at Queen's, I had the great fortune of attending the Spring International Study Program in Public International Law at the Herstmonceux Castle in the U.K. This program enabled me to get a three-course head start on my LLM, while providing the opportunity to visit European international human rights organizations and criminal tribunals. I loved every minute of these studies and travels: this was a remarkable learning experience, a unique opportunity to embark on the path of international human rights education."

- Margaret Denike, LLM

Why QUEEN'S?

The Queen's graduate program in Law is a unique program focused on the student. We have chosen to keep our program purposefully small. The result is an intimate Law School community in which students are able to develop intellectually under the personal mentorship of some of the leading legal scholars in Canada and



the world. Our Faculty consists of leading legal scholars whose work has been influential nationally and internationally and who take seriously the responsibility of mentoring graduate students.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): limited course work in first year, qualifying exam and an oral defence of doctoral dissertation.



PRACTICING in Canada

Please note that obtaining an LLM or PhD in Canada does not qualify students who do not have an LLB or JD from a Canadian university to practice law in Canada. International students who are interested in practicing law in Canada should contact the National Committee on Accreditation.

FIELDS of Study

A supervisor will be assigned to each student prior to the beginning of the PhD program. You may visit the Law website and indicate, on the application, any faculty you feel would be appropriate for your area of research. Teaching and supervision is available in a wide range of research areas.



**GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**
queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Graduate Studies FAQs

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 SGSPA website 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

- LLM or equivalent with a minimum A- average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Research proposal or statement of the subject area in which the applicant would like to research.
- A statement of your career objectives and reasons for wanting to pursue graduate studies in Law.
- One or two writing samples that demonstrate your research and writing abilities, written originally in English and, preferably, in an academic context.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 15 to apply for funding. Later submissions are accepted.
- **Notification of acceptance:** After March 15.

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

What about FUNDING?

As of the 2025-26 academic year, doctoral students are guaranteed minimum funding of \$21,000 per year for years 1-4, plus opportunities for teaching and research assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. For the 2025-26 academic year, Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.



Graduate Program Coordinator

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