

Philosophy PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Philosophy?

The Department of Philosophy at Queen's University has faculty working in a wide variety of fields, including political philosophy, ethics, bioethics, feminism, contemporary metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, continental philosophy, and the history of philosophy. The department's colloquium, which meets weekly during the term, affords the opportunity for graduate students to interact with distinguished visiting scholars in a wide variety of philosophical fields.

Why Queen's?

Queen's offers high quality graduate programs that aspire to give students both a solid general education in philosophy and opportunities for specialized work on topics of students' choosing. Queen's Philosophy faculty are very productive in a broad range of areas of research. The small size of the graduate programs allows for individual attention and a collegial atmosphere.



"The Philosophy department is both intimate and vibrant – offering the benefits of smaller classes with the advantages of a diverse faculty." – Christine Esselmont, MA, PhD

At Queen's, the philosophy graduate students form an active and supportive community. They organize their own colloquium series at which they present work-in-progress, and they participate in departmental reading and research groups, such as the Political Philosophy Reading Group that meets regularly throughout the year. All students are members of the Philosophy Graduate Student Association, which selects representatives to serve on various departmental committees. The historic city of Kingston, with its vibrant downtown, is a great place to live and study, and the University is proud of its attractive campus situated on beautiful Lake Ontario.

Program Structure

PhD (4 years): coursework and thesis.

Areas Research

- Applied Ethics
- Epistemology & Metaphysics
- Ethics
- Philosophy of Language
- Social & Political Philosophy

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying. Visit the Philosophy Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest, and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.



Philosophy PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Philosophy can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills** in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management:** prioritize, organize, and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management:** Meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management:** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation**
- Perseverance**
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker**
- Awareness**, an understanding of sound ethical practices, **social responsibility**, responsible research, and **cultural sensitivity**
- Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership:** initiative and vision leading people and discussion

Career Possibilities

A PhD in Philosophy can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academia and teaching
- Government sector
- Journalism
- Law
- Private sector

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 make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

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?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on 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

- MA in Philosophy or equivalent.
- **Grade requirements:** an A- average is normally required to be competitive.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest
- Writing sample (maximum 10-15 pages)
- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** February 2 is the deadline to qualify for funding, but applications will continue to be accepted beyond this date.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Early March.

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

What about Funding?

Currently, minimum funding guarantee for PhD students is \$23,000. The department will nominate students for internal awards.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.

