

Political Studies MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Political Studies?

The Department of Political Studies at Queen's University has long been known for its graduate programs.

We are small enough to provide our students with a highly personalized graduate experience, and our faculty are strong, diverse, and well recognized for their research so that we can provide a well-rounded education that gives our graduates a solid basis for a wide range of careers.

The department has various strengths, including ethnically divided and diverse political systems, gender and politics, political institutions such as federalism and political parties, international relations, and political behaviour.



"I have really appreciated my time as an MA student in the Political Science department at Queen's. Small in size, the department fosters a sense of community and mutual support. Yet, the department remains highly competitive, boasting professors and students at the tops of their fields." — Maria Krause, MA, PhD

Program Structure

We offer three options for the Master's of Political Studies:

- **MA in Political Studies:** Students will complete 6 term-length courses and complete a Major Research Paper.
- **MA in Political and Legal Thought:** Students in this collaborative program will complete 4 term-length courses in the field of Political Thought (out of a total of 6 required courses) as well as complete a Major Research Paper in an area relevant to the specialization.
- **MA in Political Studies with concentration in Nationalism, Ethnicity, Peace, and Conflict:** Students in this concentration will complete 3 term-length courses in the area of this concentration (out of a total of 6 courses) as well as a Major Research Paper in an area relevant to this concentration.

Fields of Study

- Canadian Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender and Politics
- International Relations
- Political Theory

Visit the [Political Studies Department website](#) to read about fields of study and learn more about supervisor interest areas. Although not a prerequisite, you may reach out to potential supervisors to discuss areas of mutual interest.



Why Queen's?

As one of Canada's premier departments of political science, we are committed to both research and teaching. Our faculty are actively engaged in a wide range of research activities, and are highly visible in the discipline both in Canada and abroad. We are no less committed to our students.



Political Studies MA Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

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 Political Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Research skills:** analyze and assess arguments based on their empirical and normative components
- Analytical writing skills:** write in a clear, succinct, explanatory, and persuasive manner
- Effective verbal communication skills**
- 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 Master's degree in Political Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA graduates choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's graduates are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and teaching
- International and non-profit organizations
- Law
- Policy analytics
- Politics
- PR and communications

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can provide you with 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

- 4 year undergraduate degree in Political Science (or equivalent).
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 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:** January 22nd, 2027
- **Notification of acceptance:** March

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

What about Funding?

Each offer of admission guarantees a minimum level of funding for the duration of the student's period of funding-eligibility (one year for MA students). This funding typically consists of graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

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.

