

Urban Planning MPL Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

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.



"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



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. 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.

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

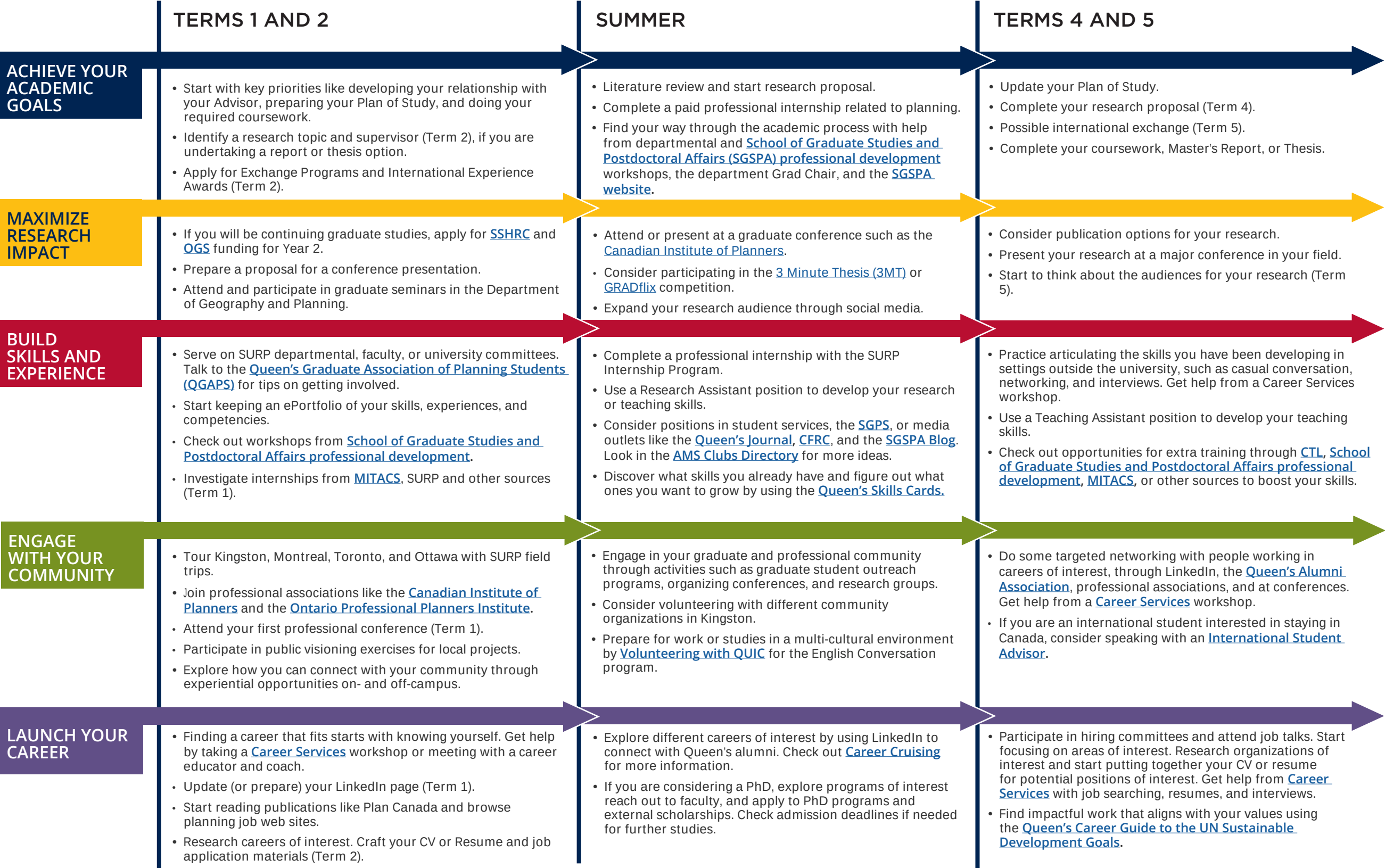
- Environmental Services
- Health & Social Planning
- Land Use & Real Estate

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.



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 professional degree in Urban Regional Planning can equip you with:

- 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 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

Career Possibilities

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
- Doctoral 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 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

- 4 year Bachelor or Honours degree.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum of B+ average, with preference for those with an A-average or better in the final two 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 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.

DEADLINES

- Application Deadline for ALL applicants, including Canadian citizens, permanent residents, landed immigrants, and international applicants:
 - March 1 for admission consideration with grants and financial awards.
 - After March 1, applications MAY be considered on a rolling basis if there are spots still available.
- Notification of Acceptance:
 - For complete applications received by March 1: April 1
 - For applications received after March 1: 6 weeks or longer
- Formal Acceptance by Applicant on SGSPA portal:
 - May 1 OR four weeks from receiving a notice of acceptance from SURP Admissions Coordinator, whichever is earlier, unless otherwise mentioned in the notice.
- Payment of Acceptance Deposit
 - In order to secure an offer of admission to our program, a student must pay a \$500 acceptance deposit in the first week of June. The Graduate Assistant will inform accepted students of the exact due date for the acceptance deposit and how to make the payment.

What about Funding?

There is no guaranteed funding for MPL students. That said, many students typically receive Queen's Graduate Awards, based on class standing. Additionally, 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.

For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.