

Law LLM

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Law?

The Queen's Master of Laws (LLM) degree is a nine- to twelve-month program that deepens students' legal knowledge and research skills with a view to further studies at the doctoral level or careers in research, policy work, or legal practice.

Students have considerable freedom to design a course of study that meets their needs and aspirations.

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

Program Structure

The Master of Laws is offered in 3 methods of completion:

- **Method I - Thesis:** two mandatory graduate seminars plus one additional course and a master's thesis not to exceed 35,000 words in length, exclusive of footnotes, endnotes, bibliography, appendices, tabulated data, tables of cases, and tables of contents, that must be defended orally before an examination committee.
- **Method II - Mini-Thesis:** two mandatory graduate seminars plus three additional courses and a substantial graduate research project (or "mini-dissertation") of 13,000-18,000 words.
- **Method III - Paper:** two mandatory graduate seminars plus five additional courses and a graduate paper of 9,000-10,000 words.
- All LLM students are required to take two graduate seminars, Legal Research Methods and Perspectives and Advanced Legal Research, and complete a research project under the guidance of a faculty supervisor.



"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 UK. 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

Fields of Study

A supervisor will be assigned to each student prior to the beginning of the LLM 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.

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.



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?

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

- JD/LLB or equivalent with a minimum B+ 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 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 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?

Master's students will receive merit-based funding, often enough to cover tuition costs. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.

