

# Law PhD

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

### 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.



### 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

"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

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.

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.

### 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



# 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

- 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 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?

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

