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.

“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

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.

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.

RESEARCH Areas

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

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 him/her 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.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): coursework and thesis.
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include coursework, identifying your research interests and confirming your supervisor and committee. Consider how your coursework can contribute to defining your dissertation research.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.

YEAR I
- Write and defend your thesis proposal, and embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, professional development.
- Present work at the Departmental Research Seminar.
- Participate in the student-run speaker series: the Graduate Student Colloquium.

YEAR II
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out SGS writing camp, such as Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.

YEAR III
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Coalition of Kingston Communities, Vision for Kingston, local food banks, Elizabeth Fry Society, Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, or the Marine Museum.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities.
- Continue your professional development. Participate in the student-run speaker series: the Graduate Student Colloquium.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Waterloo PGSA Conference, University of Alberta Philosophy Graduate and Postgraduate Conference, York University Graduate Colloquium in Philosophy, University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference.
- Attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

YEAR IV
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Philosophical Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Alumni Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGSMA.
- Find a career that starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by Queens Connects on LinkedIn with Queen's alumni.
- For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queens Alumni Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGSMA.
- Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics.
- The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.
### 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 native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

**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?**

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. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the Philosophy Department.