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. 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.

"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

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): coursework and thesis.

RESEARCH Areas

- Ethics
- Social & Political Philosophy
- Epistemology & Metaphysics
- Philosophy of Language
- Applied Ethics
2021-2022

Philosophy PhD Map

YEAR I

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.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for supports. Attend the highly-regarded Philosophy guest speaker series: the Philosophy Colloquium.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position for the online version with links!

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Coalition of Kingston Communities, Vision for Kingston, local food banks, Boys and Girls Club, Elizabeth Fry Society, Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, or the Marine Museum.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So You’re Growing Up, Go Do What With That from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- 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 Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

WRITE AND DEFEND YOUR THESIS PROPOSAL

- Write and defend your thesis proposal, and embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.
- Present work at the Departmental Research Seminar.
- Participate in the student run speaker series: the Graduate Student Colloquium.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

YEAR III

CONTINUE TO REGULARLY WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out SGS writing camps, 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 Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- 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.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A graduate degree in Philosophy can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - Knowledge and technical skills
  - Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
  - 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

WHERE CAN I GO?

- A PhD in Philosophy can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.
  - Academia and teaching
  - Government sector
  - Journalism
  - Private sector

- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and networks can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

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**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 SGS professional development framework and the new Individual Development Plan (IDP) 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 SGS website for available resources.

**What is the community like?**

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about 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**
- 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’ information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the Philosophy Department.

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