Why GRADUATE STUDIES in POLITICAL STUDIES?

The Department of Political Studies at Queen's University has long been known for its graduate programs. We are small enough to provide our students with a highly personalized graduate experience, and our faculty are strong, diverse, and well recognized for their research so that we can provide a well-rounded education that gives our graduates a solid basis for a wide range of careers. The department is particularly well known for its strength in the study of ethnically divided and diverse societies.

Why QUEEN’S?

As one of Canada’s premier departments of political science, we are committed to both research and teaching. Our faculty are actively engaged in a wide range of research activities, and are highly visible in the discipline both in Canada and abroad. We are no less committed to our students.

“I have really appreciated my time as an MA student in the Political Science department at Queen’s. Small in size, the department fosters a sense of community and mutual support. Yet, the department remains highly competitive, boasting professors and students at the tops of their fields.” — Maria Krause, MA, PhD candidate

Program STRUCTURE

We offer three options for the Master’s of Political Studies:

- **MA in Political Studies**: Students will complete 6 term-length courses and complete a Major Research Paper.
- **MA in Political and Legal Thought**: Students in this collaborative program will complete 4 term-length courses in the field of Political Thought (out of a total of 6 required courses) as well as complete a Major Research Paper in an area relevant to the specialization.
- **MA in Political Studies with concentration in Nationalism, Ethnicity, Peace, and Conflict**: Students in this concentration will complete 3 term-length courses in the area of this concentration (out of a total of 6 courses) as well as a Major Research Paper in an area relevant to this concentration.

FIELDS of Study

- Canadian Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender and Politics
- International Relations
- Political Theory

Visit the [Political Studies Department website](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs) to read about fields of study and learn more about supervisor interest areas. Although not a prerequisite, you may reach out to potential supervisors to discuss areas of mutual interest.
2021-2022
Political Studies MA Map*

GETTING STARTED

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your Major Research Paper.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS website.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework.
- Begin to research and write your Major Research Paper.
- Finalize your Major Research Paper topic in consultation with your supervisor.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your Major Research Paper.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference or Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASAN).
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Political Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Problem-solving skills: analyze and solve complex problems and make informed decisions.
- Communication skills: articulate ideas and arguments effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- Research skills: conduct independent research, design and execute studies, and synthesize information.
- Analytical skills: analyze data and use evidence to support arguments.
- Critical thinking skills: evaluate and interpret information, and make reasoned judgments.
- Time management skills: organize and prioritize tasks, and meet deadlines.
- Leadership skills: lead and influence others, and manage projects.
- Networking skills: build and maintain professional relationships.

WHERE CAN I GO?

A Master’s degree in Political Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and teaching
- Policy analysis
- Law
- International and non-profit organizations

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can provide you with a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4 year undergraduate degree in Political Science (or equivalent).
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- 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: Late January (see Political Studies website).
- Notification of acceptance: March

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate Studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

Each offer of admission guarantees a minimum level of funding for the duration of the student’s period of funding-eligibility (one year for MA students). This funding typically consists of graduate awards and teaching assistantships. We encourage applicants to apply for additional funding through external scholarships, e.g. SSHRC. Incoming graduate students who win SSHRC awards are automatically provided a one time top-up award by Queen's.

For more information, please visit: queensu.ca/politics/graduate/ma-programs

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. With over 130 graduate programs throughout more than 50 departments and research centres, you will find friends, peers and support among our graduate students. 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.