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 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

MASTERS OF ARTS (MA)

GETTING STARTED

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Start to think about the audiences for your research.
• If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and Ontario Graduate Scholarship funding.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• 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 for more ideas.
• Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSSSA) to get involved.
• Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

• Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
• Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the Centre for Studies on Democracy and Diversity, the Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP), and the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations.
• Find a career that fits with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or The Academic Job Search 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.
• Check admission deadlines if taking further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

• Complete your coursework.
• Begin to research and write your Major Research Paper.
• Finalize your Major Research Paper in consultation with your supervisor.
• Consider publication options for your research.
• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
• Attend the Departmental Speaker Series.
• Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSSSA) Conference.
• Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
• Attend the Departmental Speaker Series.
• Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking a course in diversity and inclusion.
• 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.
• Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
• Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

WRAPPING UP

• Complete your Major Research Paper.
• 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 (ASN).
• 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.
• Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
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• Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
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WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Political Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
• Research skills: analyze and assess arguments about policy and institutions, based on their empirical and normative components
• Analytical writing skills: write in a clear, succinct, explanatory and persuasive manner
• Effective verbal communication skills: 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
• 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 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 analytics
• Law
• International and non-profit organizations
• Politics
• Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can provide you with a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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