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 two 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.

FIELDS of Study

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

We encourage you to think about your area of research interest and to identify potential supervisors before applying. Visit the Political Studies Department website to read about fields of study and learn more about supervisor interest areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, you should be in contact to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. You may have the opportunity to meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students, where you can further discuss related interests.
2020-2021
Political Studies MA Map *

GETTING STARTED

ACQUIRE 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 Habitat.

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.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSSGA) 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, QFCRC 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 (PSSGA) to get involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Enroll in SG502 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and other sources to boost your skills.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects or LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Political Science Association.

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 (CIPD), and the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations.
- Participate in graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Political Science Association.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- Finding a career that fits starts 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

- Complete your coursework.
- Begin to research and write your Major Research Paper.
- Finalize your Major Research Paper topic in consultation with your supervisor.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your MA Map. Review your Grad Map as a tool.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Enroll in SG502 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSSGA) 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.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your Major Research Paper.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- 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.
- 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects or LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Political Science Association.

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: priorities, 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
- Perserverance
- 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 School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

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](http://queensu.ca/politics/graduate/ma-programs)

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Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

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 Habitat 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. 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 page.