**Application FAQs**

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- 4 year Bachelor or Honours degree.
- Grade requirements: minimum of B+ average, with preference for those with an A average or better in the final two years of undergraduate study.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
- Statement of interest.
- Two letters of reference.
- Numeracy skills and the ability to solve basic math problems using algebra and geometry.
- 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 Urban and Regional Planning requires the following minimum scores: (1) TOEFL (paper-based): 600 (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (25/30), Speaking (25/30), Reading (25/30), Listening (25/30); for a total of 100/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score); (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (4) PTE Academic: 65.

**KEY DATES & DEADLINES**
- Application due: January 31st (international students) / March 1 (domestic students), which must include all supporting documents. However, late applications from domestic students may be considered on a rolling basis until all spots are filled.
- Notification of acceptance: Typically 6 weeks after the application is received.

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

**What about FUNDING?**

There is no guaranteed funding for MPL students. However, students may apply for Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions in the Department of Geography and Planning. Most students also undertake a paid professional internship in the summer between first and second year.

Many students typically receive Queen’s Graduate Awards, based on class standing. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

**Urban Planning: MPL Map**

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in URBAN PLANNING?**

The School of Urban & Regional Planning (SURP) in the Queen’s Department of Geography and Planning emphasizes excellence in teaching, with high faculty-student engagement and courses that capitalize on the considerable planning experience of our energetic faculty. This is a professional education program that also has a significant research component. It is officially recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners as a key stage toward earning the Registered Professional Planners designation.

**Why QUEEN’S?**

Your instructors will be a team of exceptional professors. The core faculty combine years of professional experience with strong research skills and a passion for promoting learning. Their books are used as core texts in planning courses across Canada and several have been honoured with university teaching and professional service awards.

**Program STRUCTURE**

There are three methods of completion for the Master’s of Urban and Regional Planning:
- Method I: course work and thesis.
- Method III: course work and research report.
- Method III: course work only. Most students also complete a paid summer internship.

**Areas of SPECIALIZATION**
- Environmental Services
- Health & Social Planning
- Land Use & Real Estate

Over the past five years, more than 90% of our students have obtained paid professional internships during the summer term in the middle of the MPL program. And over 90% of our graduates have obtained planning-related employment within six months of graduation. About half of SURP graduates work in the public sector, with policy agencies at the federal and provincial levels or as planners at local and regional governments.

**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. Range 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 SOS 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. 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 Discover Kingston page.

**Application 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.

“**My experiences at Queen’s University opened many doors for me, and prepared me for entering the industry with a solid background of planning theory and practical applications.**”

– Michelle Taggart, MPL
### Achieve Your Academic Goals
- **SUMMER**
  - Literature review and start research proposal.
  - Complete a paid professional internship related to planning.
  - 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.
- **TERMS 4 AND 5**
  - Update your Plan of Study.
  - Complete your research proposal (Term 4).
  - Possible international exchange (Term 5).
  - Complete your coursework, Master’s Report or Thesis.

### Maximize Research Impact
- **TERMS 1 AND 2**
  - If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding for Year 2.
  - Prepare a proposal for a conference presentation.
  - Attend and participate in graduate seminars in the Department of Geography and Planning.
  - Serve on SURP departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Queen’s Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) for tips on getting involved.
  - Start keeping an effortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
  - Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.
  - Investigate internships from MITACS, SURP and other sources (Term 1).

### Build Skills and Experience
- **SUMMER**
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Institute of Planners.
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Expand your research audience through social media.
- **TERMS 4 AND 5**
  - Consider publication options for your research.
  - Present your research at a major conference in your field.
  - Start to think about the audiences for any activity on the map for graduation.

### Engage with Your Community
- **SUMMER**
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
  - Consider volunteering with different community organizations in Kingston.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QICIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- **TERMS 4 AND 5**
  - 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.
  - If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

### Launch Your Career
- **SUMMER**
  - Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
  - If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
  - Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- **TERMS 4 AND 5**
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

### What Will I Learn?
A professional degree in Urban Regional Planning can equip you with:
- **Knowledge and technical skills:**
  - Human Settlements
  - History and Principles of Planning
  - Government and Law
  - Issues in Planning and Policy-Making
  - Processes of Planning and Policy-Making
  - Plan and Policy Implementation
- **Critical Thinking:**
  - Quantitative and qualitative analysis
  - Identifying patterns and trends
  - Thinking at various geographic scales
  - Designing scenarios and plans
- **Social Interaction and Leadership:**
  - Mediation, facilitation, negotiation, and conflict resolution
  - Inclusion of diverse people and values
  - Team work and team building
  - Relations to bosses, officials and the public
- **Professionalism:**
  - Managing complexity, uncertainty and change, learning from practice, and handling ethical dilemmas

### Where Can I Go?
A Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers such as:
- City planner
- Community development officer
- Conflict resolution mediator or negotiator
- Doctoral studies
- Economics development officer
- Environmental planner
- Geographic Information System planner
- Health planner
- Heritage coordinator
- Industrial planner
- Land use planner
- Municipal, recreation, or park planner
- Planning director or consultant
- Policy or real estate analyst
- Regional planner
- Resource development officer
- Social planner
- Transportation planner
- Urban designer

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