Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours BA 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 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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: February 2.
- Notification of acceptance: Early March.

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

What about FUNDING?

All admitted students to the Master’s of Philosophy program are offered a funding package consisting of a grant and a teaching assistantship.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically consider you for funding from our department if you meet the requirements. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarship, or see what awards are offered through the Philosophy Department.

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, feminist, contemporary metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, continental philosophy and the history of philosophy. The Department is proud of its active and supportive community. The small size of the graduate programs allows for individual attention and a collegial atmosphere. The MA is a 12 month program, unique amongst Canadian MA programs to have courses and a thesis component to be completed in one year.

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 is 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 MA is a 12 month program, unique amongst Canadian MA programs to have courses and a thesis component to be completed in one year.

At Queen’s, the philosophy graduate students form an active and supportive community. They organize their own colloquium series at which they present work in progress, and they participate in departmental reading and research groups, such as the Political Philosophy Reading Group that meets regularly throughout the year. All students are members of the Philosophy Graduate Student Association, which selects representatives to serve on various departmental committees. The historic city of Kingston, with its vibrant downtown, is a great place to live and study, and the University is proud of its attractive campus situated on beautiful Lake Ontario.

Program STRUCTURE

The 12-month Master’s of Philosophy is offered with 2 options:
- Option I: 6 term-length courses, thesis and oral defense.
- Option II (specialization in Political and Legal Thought): 6 term-length courses, four of which to be taken in the field of Political and Legal Thought, major research paper.

RESEARCH Areas
- Ethics
- Social & Political Philosophy
- Epistemology & Metaphysics
- Philosophy of Language
- Applied Ethics

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Philosophy Department website for available resources.

For prospective students.

Queen’s University
Graduate Studies
Department of Philosophy
Graduate Assistant

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**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

**Project management**
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest.
- Time management
  - Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a consultation.
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading publications or attending professional conferences.
- Leadership
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through events like the Student-run speaker series, the Graduate Student Association (PGSA) Directory, and Queen's Journal.
  - Consider putting an article in a journal, taking a course, or a blog.
- Creativity
  - Consider how your course papers can contribute to your thesis or major research paper.
- Knowledge
  - Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your thesis or major research paper.
- Effective communication skills
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.
- Social responsibility
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Alumni Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences: Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Critical thinking
  - Consider publication options for your research.
- Perseverance
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Waterloo PGSA Conference, University of Alberta Philosophy Graduate and Postgraduate Conference, York University's Graduate Conferences in Philosophy, University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference, and other sources to boost your skills.
- Information management
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.
- Networking
  - 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.
- Professionalism
  - Consider putting an article in a journal, taking a course, or a blog.
- Independence
  - Complete your thesis or major research paper.
- Interdisciplinary
  - Consider publication options for your research.
- Technological
  - Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your technical skills.