**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. 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.

The Philosophy department is both intimate and vibrant – offering the advantages of a diverse faculty.

– Christine Esselmont, MA, PhD

**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 are very productive in a broad range of areas of research.

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.

**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, feminism, contemporary metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, continental philosophy and the history of philosophy. The department’s colloquium, which meets weekly during the term, affords the opportunity for graduate students to interact with distinguished visiting scholars in a wide variety of philosophical fields.

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

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

- MA 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, (3) 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: February 2 is the deadline to qualify for funding, but applications will continue to be accepted beyond this date.
- Notification of acceptance: Early March.

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

**What about FUNDING?**

Minimum funding guarantee for PhD students is $23,000. The department will nominate students for internal awards.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on **awards and scholarships**, or see what awards are offered through the Philosophy Department.
**Philosophy PhD MAP**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

**YEAR I**
- **ACQUIRE ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Key priorities include coursework, identifying your research interests and confirming your supervisor and committee. Consider how your coursework can contribute to defining your dissertation research.
  - Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
  - Keep up with Student Academic Success Services for support. Attend the highly-regarded Philosophy guest speaker series: the Philosophy Colloquium.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Think about audiences for your research.
  - Complete ROMEO on-line module on research ethics if doing research with living or sensitive topics.
  - Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
  - Attend conferences in your field.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA) for tips on getting involved.
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
  - Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - 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.
  - Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career consultant for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? 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 Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**
- **ACQUIRE ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Write and defend your thesis proposal, and embark on your substantive research.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of the Expanding Horizons.
  - Present work at the Departmental Research Seminar.
  - Participate in the student-run speaker series: the Graduate Student Colloquium.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
  - Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
  - Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SSS901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - 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 QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
  - Explore different careers in the humanities by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through the Ask an Alum form. For more information check out Career Success.
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**YEAR III**
- **ACQUIRE ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
  - Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
  - Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Waterloo PGSA Conference, University of Alberta Philosophy Graduate and Postgraduate Conference, York University’s Graduate Conference in Philosophy, University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference.
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT).

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Apply to teach as a departmental teaching fellow in Year IV.
  - Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connect on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services Workshop.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Philosophical Association.
  - Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- **ACQUIRE ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
  - Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work for supervision.
  - Review submission and examination guidelines.
  - Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
  - Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - 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.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
  - Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - 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.
  - Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
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- **MY GRAD MAP**
  - Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- A graduate degree in Philosophy can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - Knowledge and technical skills
  - Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
  - 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
  - Perseverance
  - 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 PhD in Philosophy can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.
  - Academia and teaching
  - Government sector
  - Journalism
  - Law
  - Private sector
  - Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you find a smooth transition to the work of world after graduation.

- *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.*