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.

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. The small size of the graduate programs allows for individual attention and a collegial atmosphere.

“The Philosophy department is both intimate and vibrant – offering the benefits of smaller classes with the advantages of a diverse faculty.”
– Christine Esselmont, MA, PhD

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.

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

Visit the Philosophy Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): coursework and thesis.

RESEARCH Areas

- Ethics
- Social & Political Philosophy
- Epistemology & Metaphysics
- Philosophy of Language
- Applied Ethics
**Philosophy PhD MAP**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

**Achieve Your 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 your responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for supports. Attend the highly regarded Philosophy guest speaker series: the Philosophy Colloquium.

**Maximize Research Impact**
- Explore how you can connect 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.
- Use the Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**Build Skills and Experience**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGA) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Kingston Journal, CFRC, and the SGS 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 workbook, or meet with a career counselor 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.

**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 make a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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

Application FAQs

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,
  - 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
  - IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or
  - 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.

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. 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 Discover Kingston page.

Susanne Cliff-Jüngling, Graduate Assistant
(613) 533-2182
gradphil@queensu.ca
queensu.ca/philosophy