**Application FAQs**

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

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- 4 year undergraduate degree in Political Science (or equivalent).
- Academic standing: 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.

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**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.

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**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

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**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 may wish to contact them to discuss your interest in graduate work and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for
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.

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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

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: 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 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.

* 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.