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. The department is particularly well known for its strength in the study of ethnically divided and diverse societies.

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.

"Upon setting foot in the Department, I found an open and supportive community of graduate students, as well as a genuinely helpful and caring faculty. The almost daily contact with fellow graduate students and faculty forced me to stay focused on research and helped me to complete the dissertation in a timely manner."

— Rémi Léger, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full-time): Students will complete coursework, field exams in two fields, a thesis proposal, a second-language examination, thesis, and thesis defence.

FIELDS of Study

- Canadian Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender and Politics
- International Relations
- Political Theory

Before applying, you should identify your area of research interest and think about potential supervisors. 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, contact them and tell them about 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 prospective students.
**Political Studies PhD MAP**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

**YEAR I**
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services. Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PGSSA).

**YEAR II**
- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons and SGS Habitat.
- 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).

**YEAR III**
- 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.

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

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

**YEAR II**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMED online module on research ethics.
- If doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**YEAR III**
- 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.

**YEAR IV**
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

**YEAR II**
- Serve on departmental or university committees.
- Talk to the Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PGSSA) to get involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**YEAR III**
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in the community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSS901 or the PUTF certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**YEAR IV**
- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- 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 study in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QUC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

**YEAR II**
- Participate in activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

**YEAR III**
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueensConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

**YEAR II**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or The Academic Job Search 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 III**
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**YEAR IV**
- Volunteer for hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

**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.
  - 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 Political Studies can take you 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
  - Policy analysis
  - 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.

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

*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.*
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• M.A. in Political Science, Political Studies, or an equivalent.
• Grade requirements: minimum A- 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 (four years for PhD 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/phd-program

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL STUDIES

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