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 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 *

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

### YEAR I
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - 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 (PSGSA).

### YEAR II
- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Think about audiences for your research.
  - Complete ROMEO 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.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) to get involved.
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's 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 Centre for Studies on Democracy and Diversity, the Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP), and the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations.

- **LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
  - 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 Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA)’s Annual Conference or Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN).
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

- **POLITICAL STUDIES**

### YEAR III
- **CONTINUE YOUR Educational JOURNEY**
  - 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).

- **ADVANCE YOUR Community Engagement**
  - 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 & TRANSITIONING
- **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.
    - Communication: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands.
    - Professional development: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions.
    - Creativity and innovation: creativity and experience as a collaborative worker.
    - 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 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
  - Policy analytics
  - Law
  - International and non-profit organizations
  - Politics
  - Take 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.

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

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. With over 130 graduate programs throughout more than 50 departments and research centres, you will find friends, peers and support among our graduate students. 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.