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 career 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 SOS, 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 120 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, stimulating 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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- 4 year undergraduate degree.
- Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (B+ average) in the last 2 years of study. Competitive applicants must have an A- or 3.7 GPA in the last two years of study.
- MPA/J.D. applicants must have completed a Bachelor’s honours degree, with an A-average or 3.7 GPA in the last two years and an LSAT score above the 80th percentile.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of interest.
- A GRE test examination is required if your previous degree is from a non-Canadian university.

If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, listening, and reading. 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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

Application deadlines:
- MPA Program: February 1.
- MPA/J.D. Program: January 15 (through School of Graduate Studies for MPA), November 1 (through OLSAS for Law)

Notification of acceptance: no later than May 15.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate Studies application process: awards and scholarships.

What about FUNDING?

M.P.A. students are not guaranteed a minimum funding, but there are some internal Queen’s graduate Awards available that vary from $1000 - $10,000.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government graduate Awards available that vary from $1000- $10,000.

MPA/J.D. students are not guaranteed a minimum funding, but there are some internal Queen’s tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

Public Administration MPA Map

APPLYING TO AND NAVIGATING GRADUATE STUDIES

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION?

The Public Administration graduate program is a bridge between the academic world and the world of public affairs. Our multi-disciplinary MPA programs are focused on policy analysis, development and implementation, preparing new and experienced professionals for rewarding careers in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our graduates have gone on to hold positions as ministers and senior officials in municipal, provincial and federal governments. They also provide leadership in hospitals, community organizations and national associations across Canada. Others still work for consulting firms in the private sector.

Why QUEEN’S?

The School of Policy Studies offers a rich and rewarding learning experience that is unsurpassed in Canada and matched only by the best public policy programs in the world. Through high quality interactive teaching and integrated learning, we enhance leadership in public policy by providing students with the inspiration, skills, competencies and connections to become better contributors to the public good. The MPA curriculum includes core courses in economics, policy analysis, governance, management and quantitative methods. Through elective courses, students apply their skills to the analysis and resolution of concrete policy and management problems.

EXPERIENTIAL Learning

Experiential learning is an important aspect of Queen’s MPA programs and we strive to incorporate the practical application of skills as a major component of the learning experience. Participate in unique opportunities to link theory and practice, to move from the academic to the applied. Our students participate in study tours in Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto and Washington. These study tours are an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of policy in a variety of sectors – public, private and nonprofit.

“...The MPA provided a unique blend of academic and professional experience and supported the development of fundamentals skills that I use on a daily basis working on health care policy and strategy implementation. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to learn from outstanding professors in a dynamic environment and benefit from great experiences provided throughout the program.”

- Madelaine Meehan, BAH’14, MPA’16

Program STRUCTURE

Degrees Offered & Method of Completion:
- Master of Public Administration (1 year): 12 half-credit courses or 10 half-courses plus a research project.
- Professional Master of Public Administration (2.5 years, part time): 10 half-credit courses.
- Combined Master of Public Administration/ Juris Doctorate (4 years): course work and the opportunity to participate in the certificate program at the Queen’s International Study Centre in Public International Law at Queen’s Herstmonceux castle in England or an international study exchange to pursue broader opportunities.

Visit the School of Policy Studies website to learn more about the program and its opportunities.
# Public Administration MPA MAP *

## GETTING STARTED
- Take elective courses or opt into completing an optional master’s project to gain skills necessary in analyzing or resolving policy issues.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from the School of Policy Studies and Expanding Horizons professional workshops, the Program Director and the SG5 Habitat.

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE
- Read publications and attend weekly speaker series to acquaint yourself with the world of public affairs.
- Join the Queen’s Public Administration case study team.
- Participate in targeted networking opportunities offered through the School of Policy Studies.
- Complete your coursework and your optional master’s project.

## WRAPPING UP
- Participate in skills workshops put on by the School of Policy Studies.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Ottawa, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Participate in an international exchange to Ghana or to Shanghai to gain global competencies.
- Survey the School of Policy Studies job board for opportunities.

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## WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A professional degree in Public Administration can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

**Strategic Thinking:**
- Articulate the political, institutional, legal, and administrative context in which policy is made and implemented.
- Recognize the values and principals of Canadian democracy.

**Engagement & Communication:**
- Engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- Demonstrate high quality, professional verbal and written communication skills.
- Prepare high quality written and oral material.

**Analysis & Application:**
- Apply relevant theories, principles and techniques of policy analysis to identify and assess public policy issues and devise options to resolve them.
- Identify, synthesize, analyze and integrate relevant and appropriate sources of information.

**Professionalism, Collaboration, & Leadership**
- Demonstrate and apply the ethics and values of public service.
- Develop and complement creative and collaborative approaches to public service leadership.

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## WHERE CAN I GO?
A Master’s degree in Public Administration can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- The private sector (Includes consulting, financial services, and professional associations.
- Health
- Not-for-profits
- Education
- Government

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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*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.