Why GRADUATE STUDIES in LAW?

The Queen's Law PhD program is a four-year program of advanced scholarly research and writing, culminating in a dissertation.

Doctoral students are a key part of our vibrant intellectual community: some teach courses in the law school and work in collaboration with faculty members on research projects. They are invited to participate in faculty workshops, lectures and seminars, and engage intellectually with other students and faculty.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Queen's graduate program in Law is a unique program focused on the student. We have chosen to keep our program purposefully small. The result is an intimate Law School community in which students are able to develop intellectually under the personal mentorship of some of the leading legal scholars in Canada and the world. Our Faculty consists of leading legal scholars whose work has been influential nationally and internationally and who take seriously the responsibility of mentoring graduate students.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): limited course work in first year, qualifying exam and an oral defence of doctoral dissertation.

FIELDS of Study

You will not need to engage a supervisor immediately; however we recommend that you visit the Law website and investigate our faculty to ensure a good fit with your research topic. Teaching and supervision is available in a wide range of subject areas.

PRACTICING in Canada

Please note that obtaining an LLM or PhD in Canada does not qualify students who do not have an LLB or JD from a Canadian university to practice law in Canada. International students who are interested in practising law in Canada should contact the National Committee on Accreditation.

“As part of my LLM studies at Queen’s, I had the great fortune of attending the Spring International Study Program in Public International Law at the Herstmonceaux Castle in the U.K. This program enabled me to get a three-course head start on my LLM, while providing the opportunity to visit European international human rights organizations and criminal tribunals. I loved every minute of these studies and travels: this was a remarkable learning experience, a unique opportunity to embark on the path of international human rights education.”

– Margaret Denike, LLM
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- LLM or equivalent with a minimum A- average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Research proposal or statement of the subject area in which the applicant would like to research.
- A statement of your career objectives and reasons for wanting to pursue graduate studies in Law.
- One or two writing samples that demonstrate your research and writing abilities, written originally in English and, preferably, in an academic context.
- 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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 15 to apply for funding. Later submissions are accepted.
- Notification of acceptance: After March 15.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

PhD students receive a minimum $20,000 per year, plus opportunities for teaching and research assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one-time $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.