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.
### Year I

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exam, 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).

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete [CORE online module](#) on research ethics if doing research with human or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, NSG, 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, CFCF, 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.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services 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*.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- 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 QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alumni." For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**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**
- **PERSISTENCE:**
- **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.

### Year II

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- 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).

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- 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.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- 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 SGS902 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

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

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- 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 QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alumni." For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- 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.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews from faculty positions and apply for post-doctoral fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other advances. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering employment abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

### Year III

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- 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. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTF, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Invest investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Political Science Association.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider applying for professional positions and post-doctoral fellowship opportunities. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

### Year IV

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

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Participate in the School of Graduate Studies for a Graduate Chat to discuss your research interests.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Political Science Association.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Graduate Chat to discuss your research interests.

### Transitions

- Review your time to graduation and make any necessary adjustments. Meet with your supervisor to discuss your research.
- Submit your comprehensive exam successfully.
- Plan your next steps. Meet with your supervisor to discuss your research.
- Plan your next steps. Meet with your supervisor to discuss your research.
- Plan your next steps. Meet with your supervisor to discuss your research.
- Plan your next steps. Meet with your supervisor to discuss your research.

---

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.