**Urban Planning MPL Map**

**Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies**

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in URBAN PLANNING?**

The School of Urban & Regional Planning (SURP) in the Queen’s Department of Geography and Planning emphasizes excellence in teaching, with high faculty student engagement and courses that capitalize on the considerable planning experience of our energetic faculty. This is a professional education program that also has a significant research component. It is officially recognized by the Canadian Institute of Planners as a key stage toward earning the Registered Professional Planners designation.

**Program STRUCTURE**

There are three methods of completion for the Master’s of Urban and Regional Planning:

- Method I: course work and thesis.
- Method II: course work and research report.
- Method III: course work only. Most students also complete a paid summer internship.

**Areas of SPECIALIZATION**

- Environmental Services
- Health & Social Planning
- Land Use & Real Estate

Supervisors are matched late in the first year, based upon the final topic of the student’s report or thesis proposal and the availability and research skills of the particular faculty members. Most students preparing a thesis or Master’s research report find a research supervisor from among the regular or adjunct faculty of the School.

**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 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 HANDBOOK 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 130 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 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 with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown community, with the campus nestled in the core.

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

- 4 year Bachelor or Honours degree.
- Grade requirements: minimum of B average, with preference for those with an A-average or better in the final two years of undergraduate study.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Statement of interest.
- Two letters of reference.
- Numeracy skills and the ability to solve basic math problems using algebra and geometry.
- 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 Urban and Regional Planning requires the following minimum scores: (1) TOEFL (paper-based): 600, (2) TOEFL iBT Writing: 25/30, Speaking: 23/30, Reading 25/30, Listening 25/30, for a total of 100/120 (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 and a 7.0 for each test band), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

**Key Dates & Deadlines**

- Application due: March 1st (Domestic & International students), which must include all supporting documents. However, late applications from domestic students may be considered on a rolling basis until all spots are filled.
- Notification of acceptance: Typically 6 weeks after the application is received.

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

**What about FUNDING?**

There is no guaranteed funding for MPL students. However, students may apply for Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions in the Department of Geography and Planning. Most students also undertake a paid professional internship in the summer between first and second year. Many students typically receive Queen’s Graduate Awards, based on class standing. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

**For MPL Students**

- The School of Graduate Studies offers employment within six months of graduation. Our graduates have obtained planning-related employment within Canada and several have been honoured with university teaching and professional service awards.

**Application FAQs**

**Why QUEEN’S?**

Your instructors will be a team of exceptional professors. The core faculty combine years of professional experience with strong research skills and a passion for promoting learning. Their books are used as core texts in planning courses across Canada and several have been honoured with university teaching and professional service awards.

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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 130 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 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 with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown community, with the campus nestled in the core.

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**For MPL Students**

- The School of Graduate Studies offers employment within six months of graduation. Over the past five years, more than 90% of our students have obtained paid professional internships during the summer term in the middle of the MPL program. And over 90% of our graduates have obtained planning-related employment within six months of graduation. About half of SURP graduates work in the public sector, with policy agencies at the federal and provincial levels or as planners at local and regional governments.

**Application FAQs**

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WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A professional degree in Urban Regional Planning can equip you with:
- Knowledge and technical skills:
  - Human Settlements
  - History and Principles of Planning
  - Government and Law
  - Issues in Planning and Policy-Making
  - Processes of Planning and Policy-Making
- Critical Thinking:
  - Quantitative and qualitative analysis
  - Identifying patterns and trends
  - Thinking at various geographic scales
  - Designing scenarios and plans
- Social Interaction and Leadership:
  - Mediation, facilitation, negotiation, and conflict resolution
  - Inclusion of diverse people and values
  - Team-work and team-building
  - Relations to bosses, officials and the public

WHERE CAN I GO?
A Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers such as:
- City planner
- Community development officer
- Conflict resolution mediator or negotiator
- Doctoral studies
- Economic development officer
- Environmental planner
- Geographic Information System planner
- Health planner
- Heritage coordinator
- Industrial planner
- Land use planner
- Municipal, recreation, or park planner
- Planning director or consultant
- Policy or real estate analyst
- Regional planner
- Resource development officer
- Social planner
- Transportation planner
- Urban designer

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

### Master of Planning (MPL)

**SUMMER**
- Literature review and start research proposal.
- Complete a paid professional internship related to planning.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.
- Update your Plan of Study.
- Complete your research proposal (Term 4).
- Possible international exchange (Term 5).
- Present your research at a major conference in your field.
- Start to think about the audiences for your research (Term 5).
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Use a Teaching Assistant position to develop your teaching skills.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Attend workshops hosted by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute or the Canadian Institute of Planners.
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**TERMS 1 AND 2**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your Advisor, preparing your Plan of Study, and doing your required coursework.
- Identify a research topic and supervisor (Term 2), if student is undertaking report or thesis option.
- Apply for Exchange Programs and International Experience Awards (Term 2).
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding for Year 2.
- Prepare a proposal for a conference presentation.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars in the Department of Geography and Planning.
- Serve on SURF departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Queen's Graduate Association of Planning Students (QGAPS) for tips on getting involved.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.
- Investigate internships from SURF, Mitacs and other sources (Term 1).
- Complete a professional internship with the SURF Internship Program.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Institute of Planners.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Tour Kingston, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa with SURF field trips.
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.
- Attend your first professional conference (Term 1).
- Participate in public visualization exercises for local projects.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counsellor.
- Update (or prepare) your LinkedIn page (Term 1).
- Start reading publications like Plan Canada and browse planning job web sites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SURF website, and using Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum." If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships. Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- Update your Plan of Study.
- Complete your research proposal (Term 4).
- Possible international exchange (Term 5).
- Present your research at a major conference in your field.
- Start to think about the audiences for your research (Term 5).
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
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- Geographic Information System planner
- Health planner
- Heritage coordinator
- Industrial planner
- Land use planner
- Municipal, recreation, or park planner
- Planning director or consultant
- Policy or real estate analyst
- Regional planner
- Resource development officer
- Social planner
- Transportation planner
- Urban designer

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

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
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- Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials (Term 2).

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Complete a professional internship with the SURF Internship Program.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
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