What are the key advantages of pursuing graduate studies in urban planning at Queen's University?

**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.

**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.

**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.

“...opened many doors for me, and prepared me for entering the industry with a solid background of planning theory and practical applications.”
– Michelle Taggart, MPL

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.
**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).
- Complete your coursework, Master’s Report or Thesis.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- 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.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through clubs, workshops, the department Grad Chair and the Expanding Horizons.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Literature review and start research proposal.
- Complete a professional internship with the SURP Internship Program.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- 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 for more ideas.
- Complete your professional conference (Term 1).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations in Kingston.
- Participate in public envisioning exercises for local projects.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Inter-cultural Awareness and Training Certificate hosted by QUC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- 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.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through clubs, workshops, the department Grad Chair and the Expanding Horizons.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Literature review and start research proposal.
- Complete a professional internship with the SURP Internship Program.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- 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 for more ideas.
- Complete your professional conference (Term 1).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations in Kingston.
- Participate in public envisioning exercises for local projects.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Inter-cultural Awareness and Training Certificate hosted by QUC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- 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.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through clubs, workshops, the department Grad Chair and the Expanding Horizons.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Literature review and start research proposal.
- Complete a professional internship with the SURP Internship Program.
- Use a Research Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- 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 for more ideas.
- Complete your professional conference (Term 1).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations in Kingston.
- Participate in public envisioning exercises for local projects.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Inter-cultural Awareness and Training Certificate hosted by QUC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- 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.
Application FAQs

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 (25/30); 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: January 31st (international students) / March 1st (domestic 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.