



PhD Students' Handbook

2023 - 2024

Department of Political Studies

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Doctoral program of the Department of Political Studies at Queen's University! The Department's faculty and staff are committed to ensuring that your time as a graduate student at Queen's will be both challenging and rewarding. Our faculty are thrilled that you chose our Department and look forward to working with you. This Handbook aims to provide a comprehensive guide to the PhD Program offered by the Department.

The Handbook is intended to supplement the general regulations of the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA), which may be found in the SGSPA Calendar, available at: <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/graduate-studies/>

We are here to assist you. Please reach out to Dr. Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Graduate Chair, for any questions about academics and funding (gradchair.pols@queensu.ca), and to Mikhaila Graf, Graduate Assistant for everything else (gradpols@queensu.ca). My door, virtual or otherwise, is also always open (polshead@queensu.ca).

Once again, welcome to Political Studies at Queen's.

Jonathan Rose

OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT:

Department Head:	Jonathan Rose
Undergraduate Chair:	Kyle Hanniman
Departmental Manager:	Kyle Hodder
Undergraduate Assistant:	Cynthia MacIntosh
Graduate Chair:	Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant
Graduate Assistant:	Mikhaila Graf
Office Program Assistant:	Allison Hannah
Events & Communications Assistant:	Rachel Lang

Field Convenors:

- Canadian Politics: Elizabeth Baisley
- Comparative Politics: John McGarry
- International Relations: Wayne Cox
- Political Theory: Colin Farrelly
- Gender and Politics: Margaret Little

Unit Research Ethics Board, Chair: Danielle Delaney

2. THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The Ph.D. program requires the successful completion of a minimum of six three-unit courses; field examinations in two fields; the demonstration of translation competence in a language other than English; the presentation and defence of a thesis proposal; and the writing and defence in an oral examination of a dissertation that meets SGSPA requirements.

Faculty Advisor

On admission, each doctoral student will be assigned an Advisor from the student's primary field of interest, based on the information provided by the student's application. During the first two terms in the program, the Advisor provides program advice and mentorship and helps the student develop a thesis topic. Beginning in the fourth term, the Advisor is responsible for supervising the completion of the thesis proposal. The Advisor will normally be appointed as the student's thesis Supervisor following the successful defence of the thesis proposal in the fifth term. Incoming students should consult with their Advisor before or during initial registration on the selection of courses and fields.

Courses

Ph.D. students normally take a total of six courses in their first two terms, including POLS 900 Methods of Political Studies, field courses in their two areas of concentration, and three other three-unit courses generally in their first and second fields. For more information on course work, see Section 3.

Field Examinations

Ph.D. students are examined in each of two fields of concentration drawn from Canadian politics; comparative politics; political theory; international relations; and gender & politics. For more information on the field examinations, see Section 4.

Language Competence

Ph.D. students must satisfy the department that they are able to read and understand professional literature in a language other than English. For information on the language requirement, see Section 5.

Thesis

In the fourth and fifth terms after initial admission, students prepare and present a thesis proposal for examination under the supervision of their Advisor, and then proceed to the preparation of a dissertation for defence. For more information on the doctoral thesis, see Section 7.

3. COURSE SELECTION AND GRADING

The doctoral program requires the successful completion of six three-unit courses normally taken in the first two terms after initial registration, including POLS 900 and two field courses in the student's two areas of concentration.

Course Selection

Course selection should be made in consultation with the student's Faculty Advisor, and approved by the Graduate Chair. Each incoming graduate student will meet briefly with the Graduate Chair during the first week of September to discuss course selection. Students may take one or exceptionally two courses from outside the department with permission of the Graduate Chair and following consultation with their supervisor and field convenor.

Check individual departments' websites for availability of courses. Some departments you may consider are: [School of Policy Studies](#), [Law](#), [Philosophy](#), [Global Development Studies](#), [Gender Studies](#), [Geography](#), and [History](#).

Graduate students cannot register themselves in their courses through the student system (SOLUS); all course requests must go through the POLS Graduate Assistant. Registration in courses from other departments may require an Academic Change form; for more information, please contact the Graduate Assistant.

The non-credit Course of Research Ethics (CORE) is mandatory for all graduate students who will engage in research involving human subjects. It is a web-based tutorial providing familiarity with and practical application of Canada's national standard of ethics for research (as outlined in the Tri-Council Policy Statement). For more information and to access the course please go to <https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>.

POLS 900 Methods of Political Studies

This course is intended to prepare students for scholarly research. It deals with approaches to the discipline of political science and problems of research design. The course must be taken by all doctoral students. Doctoral students who have already taken a similar course at the MA level may be exempted by the Graduate Chair. If so, they must choose another graduate course to make up the total of six required for the degree.

Course Marks

Final course marks are given in letter grades. Where instructors enter percentage grades:

F : < 70 %
B- : 70-72 %
B : 73-76 %
B+ : 77-79 %
A- : 80-84 %
A : 85-89 %
A+ : 90+ %

Minimum Performance

Doctoral students must obtain an average of B on their Political Studies courses in order to proceed to the field examinations. Students who fail to meet this requirement may be required to withdraw from the program. A student who fails a course is normally required to withdraw.

Late Assignments and "Incomplete" Grade (IN)

The department expects all students to submit assignments by the declared deadline. Without prior agreement, instructors are not required to accept late papers and will submit a grade at the end of term based on work actually received. In the event that unforeseen events prevent submission of work students, should notify their instructor immediately, and request academic consideration for extenuating circumstances. Normally, such arrangements will be worked out on a case-by-case basis with the instructor, following the guidelines established by SGSPA: <https://www.queensu.ca/grad-postdoc/grad-studies/policies>

In any case, missing work must be submitted no later than 15 May for Fall Term courses, or 15 August for Winter Term courses. If the missing work has not been submitted by these deadlines, a partial mark will become the final mark. University regulations are that a grade of IN will automatically lapse to an F (Fail) at the end of the term following the term in which the course was taken, if no change of grade has been

submitted by then. The period for which an IN may remain on the record can sometimes be extended, in exceptional cases and with the agreement of SGSPA.

Appeals of Grades

If a student wishes clarification about, or is dissatisfied with, an assigned grade in a graduate course, they should first discuss the matter with the course instructor, who will review the work in question. This discussion should take place within 14 days of the grades being available. If the instructor agrees to change a grade, a change-of-grade form shall be processed in the usual manner.

If the instructor confirms the original grade, and if the student is still dissatisfied, the student should appeal in writing to the Graduate Chair, stating the grounds on which the grade should be raised. The Graduate Chair will initiate a review of the grade. The review process is for the paper to be graded / regraded by two faculty members in the field, one of whom is the original instructor. These two grades plus any comments or supporting materials then go to the Head of department, who decides what the final grade will be. In principle, this grade could be higher or lower than the original grade. The Graduate Chair or Head will inform all parties of the result of the review in writing, with a copy to the Dean of SGSPA.

Further appeal of an assigned grade can be made only on the basis of a specific procedural error(s) made in the grade review procedures of the department. Such an appeal would be lodged with the Academic Appeal Board of SGSPA as outlined in the Graduate Calendar: <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/graduate-studies/> (at "Appeals Against Academic Decisions").

4. FIELD COURSES AND FIELD EXAMINATIONS

General

Students are admitted into a particular primary field, with an Advisor from that field. Students must choose a second field at the start of their first term, in consultation with their Advisor and the Graduate Chair. Changes are possible, provided they do not entail delay in the student's progress, and the student receives the approval of the Graduate Chair.

Doctoral students are required to write field exams in both of their fields of concentration. The purpose of the field examinations is to ensure that candidates are (1) prepared to teach university-level courses in their two fields, and (2) ready to engage in dissertation research. The exams test students' knowledge of the main literature and debates in their two fields. Students should be able to explain succinctly and clearly the main concepts, questions, and schools of thought in the field. Students should be able to engage critically in the field's debates, identifying objections and possible responses to different positions. Students should also be able to apply the theories in question to specific cases.

Field exams are generally based on topics and readings covered in the field courses (POLS 910, 960, and 980), but may include additional readings to be specified by the relevant Field Convenor before the end of Winter term. If no field course is offered (as in Political Theory and Comparative Politics), exams will be based on courses taken within the field, supplemented with a limited number of additional readings.

Timing and Format

Students write field examinations at the beginning of Term 4. For the first field, the student takes a written and oral exam. For the second field, only a written exam is required. Only those students who have completed all work in six courses will be permitted to write the field examinations. The exams are evaluated as Fail, Pass, or Pass with Distinction.

The written exams normally take place in the computer lab in Gordon Hall and are written without books, notes or other assistance over four hours. The oral examination for the first field is normally held one week after the written examination in the same field. In the oral examination, candidates are questioned on their written answers and on matters related to their preparation generally. They can expect to be asked to expand on incomplete answers but should not bring in and read additional written statements. The examination board will evaluate the first field's written and oral exams together as Fail, Pass, or Pass with Distinction.

An oral examination for the second field may be warranted when the second field written exam requires further clarification. The Graduate Chair and Supervisor will contact students to arrange an oral if applicable.

If a candidate fails a field exam, he or she may rewrite it in January. To the extent possible, the candidate will be examined by the same board. If a student fails any two attempts at the same field exam (primary or secondary field), the department will recommend to SGSPA that he or she withdraw from the program.

5. LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

Candidates for the Ph.D. must satisfy the department that they are able to read and understand professional literature in a language other than English. For students in Canadian politics, that language must be French. For students in other fields, the language is normally one appropriate for their research field. Students for whom English is a second language may seek exemption from the language requirement; they should consult the Graduate Chair.

The examination of translation competence in a language other than English will involve the translation of a passage of approximately 400-500 words, drawn from a journal article. The student may use a standard dictionary, and within two hours must convey accurately, in grammatical and idiomatic English, the substantive content of the passage. The exam will be evaluated by up to two faculty members appointed by the Graduate Chair, normally including the supervisor.

In accordance with SGSPA regulations, the language requirement should be fulfilled at least ONE YEAR prior to the date of defence of the thesis.

6. ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW

The progress of each doctoral student in the first year of the doctoral program (PhD1) is reviewed at the outset of Term 3 by the Head and the Graduate Chair in consultation with the student's Advisor.

Beginning in the second year of the doctoral program, students must submit an annual progress report by July 1 each year, outlining their activity in the previous year. These reports will be submitted to the student's adviser/supervisor, asking for their written comments.

The Graduate Chair will discuss the report with the student's Faculty Advisor or Supervisor and the Head. If the student's progress is unsatisfactory, the Graduate Chair will write a full assessment of the student's progress and invite the student to meet with them to discuss the student's progress. If progress is judged to be unsatisfactory for two successive years, the department will recommend to SGSPA that the student be required to withdraw from the program.

The standard time limit for a PhD is four years, or 12 terms. However, it is common for students to take a fifth year, particularly if their research requires extensive field work. Requests for Time Limit Extensions to Year 5 are at the discretion of the department and are normally approved. During Year 5 the department is generally able to offer some Teaching Fellowships for students to teach their own undergraduate seminar. Requests for Time Limit Extensions beyond Year 5 are made to SGSPA, based on a recommendation of the department. Students wishing to make such a request should submit to the POLS

Graduate Assistant a Time Limit Extension Request Form signed by their Supervisor, including all necessary documentation, for approval by the Graduate Chair / Head so as to reach SGSPA before the end of term 15.

7. THE DOCTORAL THESIS

The Thesis Proposal

Students should begin working on their thesis proposal in Term 4, after the field examinations have been passed, under the supervision of their Faculty Advisor.

A thesis proposal is normally 12,000 to 15,000 words in length, or roughly 30-40 pages. It should specify the principal question to be examined, and, when applicable, the main hypotheses to be tested. The thesis proposal should explain how this question is related with the main literature in the area of the thesis topic, and how the thesis will contribute new knowledge to the field. For empirical theses, the proposal should describe the kinds of data which will be gathered to answer the research question(s) as well as the probable sources of information or data (e.g. library or archival resources, field work, survey data, etc.). Finally, the proposal should contain a proposed chapter outline of the dissertation together with an appropriate bibliography of works to be consulted.

Ideally, the thesis proposal defence should occur by the end of the 5th Term after admission. The thesis proposal will be examined by a three-person committee including the student's Advisor. Normally all of the members of the committee are from within the department, or cross-listed in the department, but proposal boards may include up to one member who is entirely external to the department. Composition of the proposal board is determined by the Advisor and Graduate Chair in consultation with the student. It is normally up to the Advisor to approach other faculty members to secure their agreement to participate in the proposal defence; the Graduate Assistant will then handle the scheduling. Students are required to submit a PDF and four paper copies of the thesis proposal to the Graduate Assistant.

The examination board will seek assurance that the student is well-equipped to handle the project, and that adequate resources of time, supervision, literature, documents, and data or interview subjects are in hand or can readily be arranged. If the examination committee is satisfied with the proposal, the student will be notified that they can proceed to the thesis writing stage and the formal appointment of the thesis Supervisor will be made.

Should the committee not be satisfied, the proposal will not be accepted, and must be revised and resubmitted within one month. If the committee is not satisfied with the re-examination, the student will normally be asked to withdraw from the program.

Ethics Approval

If a thesis topic involves living human participants a submission to the General Research Ethics Board is required. Research that relies only on publicly available information does not require ethics review, but research based on interviews or any other gathering of data that is not publicly accessible generally does. Students who think they may be affected should consult with their Faculty Advisor and / or the Chair of the Unit (POLs) Research Ethics Board. Ethics guidelines and the forms for the submission are available at: <https://www.queensu.ca/vpr/home>.

Students who will be engaged in research involving human subjects must take the web-based course of Research Ethics (CORE): <https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>.

Field Work Safety

Research involving field work will require a Field Research Safety Planning Record. Students should not embark on fieldwork without first acquainting themselves with the Off-Campus Activity Safety Policy

(OCASP) and completing the necessary forms. Guidelines and forms are available at: <https://www.safety.queensu.ca/ocasp/>

Resources for Research/Field Work Travel

SGSPA offers several travel awards of up to \$3000 each for Ph.D. students. Doctoral candidates may also compete for the Timothy C.S. Franks Research Travel Award if they want to travel outside North America. Additional funds may be available from the Department. Please see the Awards section of the Grad School's website for more information: <https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/graduate-calendar/awards-and-financial-assistance> .

Relationship with Thesis Supervisor

The Supervisor oversees the preparation of the thesis. Students should consult frequently with their Supervisor on the progress of their thesis. Students should feel free to seek advice on how to overcome challenges they encounter during their work. The timeframe for completing various tasks should also be a frequent topic of conversation between Supervisor and student. While supervisors are committed to monitoring and facilitating student progress, primary responsibility for a student's progress lies with the student.

For information on the respective roles and responsibilities of supervisors, supervisory committees, students, graduate chairs and departments please refer to SGSPA's *Guide to Graduate Supervision*, available in PDF: <https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/current-students/graduate-supervision> .

Style Guide for Theses

Doctoral dissertations must conform to the "General Forms of Theses." This document and guidelines for submission of the final revised thesis may be found at: <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/graduate-studies/>, under the heading "Thesis". The department permits both the "Traditional" and "Manuscript" or article-based formats; for more information about the Manuscript format, see the "POLS Guidelines for Article-Based Dissertations," available at https://www.queensu.ca/politics/sites/polswwww/files/uploaded_images/Article-Based%20Dissertation%20Guidelines.pdf .

Ph.D. theses should be no more than 120,000 words, including footnotes and bibliography. Theses that exceed these limits may be refused an examination. For examination purposes, photocopying paper is sufficient; there is no need to have the thesis bound at this point.

For instructions on style, students are advised to consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), which serves as the style guide for theses submitted to the Department of Political Studies.

Thesis Submission, Defence and Fees

Students must be registered in the graduate program in the term in which they defend their theses or dissertations.

Arranging the thesis defence often takes longer than anticipated, especially if the defence is to take place in the summer. Students should submit the required number of final copies of the thesis to the Graduate Assistant at least **six weeks** before the preferred examination date.

The Thesis Examining Committee is comprised of (at a minimum) the Supervisor, the Head of Department or Head's Delegate (typically Delegate), an Internal Examiner (a faculty member from the department), an Internal/External examiner (a Queen's faculty member from outside of the department), and an External Examiner – an academic from outside of Queen's. The defence is Chaired by someone

from outside the department selected by SGSPA, but the Chair's functions are procedural rather than substantive, primarily timekeeping, note-taking, and refereeing. According to SGSPA rules, all members of the examining committee except for the Supervisor must be at arm's length from the student so as to avoid conflict of interest, as would arise for example in the case of co-authorship of thesis chapters with the student, or a personal or family relationship. In addition, the External Examiner must not have published with the Supervisor within the last 5 years. It is normally up to the student's Supervisor to identify and secure the agreement to participate of a suitable External Examiner; the Graduate Assistant then handles the scheduling. Members of the Thesis Examining Committee are officially recommended by the Head and appointed by the Dean, though in practice the Head's recommendation follows consultation with the Supervisor.

To avoid paying fees for an additional term, students should plan to have the defence at least two weeks before the end of the first month of the term. For exact dates check the Registrar's website: <http://www.queensu.ca/registrar/financials/refunds>.

8. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funding Packages

Offers of admission to the doctoral program in Political Studies at Queen's University include a guaranteed minimum level of financial support, which may come from a variety of different sources, including Teaching Assistantships, Research Assistantships, Queen's Graduate Award or Fellowship, and/or external scholarships or awards. Receipt of an external award may lead to funding from internal sources being reduced, but the student's total funding package will be at least as high as their guaranteed minimum. The funding guarantee applies only as long as the doctoral student is registered full-time, active, and making satisfactory progress through their program. In accordance with SGSPA regulations, doctoral students are guaranteed funding for four years at the level indicated in their offer of admission, provided that they make themselves available for Queen's employment as specified in their offer of admission (normally a TAship or RAship). Please note that if a student declines an offer of employment from the University or any other component of their funding package, the student forfeits that component of their funding package for that year and their funding will be adjusted accordingly. In addition, to continue to qualify for the minimum guarantee, students must apply for all major external and internal scholarships for which they are eligible.

Students should take care to budget their finances to last twelve months. This is especially important in relation to stipends for TAships, which are paid in equal monthly installments for the duration of the term. The department does not have the funds to assist students who encounter financial emergencies during the summer months.

Teaching Assistantships

Offers of financial support typically include a TAship. A full TAship is for 260 hours over two terms; a half-TAship is for 130 hours, either over one term or over the academic year. TAships involve duties such as preparation of course materials, library support work, tutoring, marking, and undergraduate counselling. Included in your TA hours will be at least two mandatory (paid) TA-training sessions.

Teaching assistants are typically assigned to courses in August for the academic year, in accordance with the posting provisions of the PSAC 901 Collective Agreement (Art. 12.12). The department's instructional needs are the primary determinant of assignments and are usually based on enrolments in first and second year undergraduate courses as well as the prospective TA's ability to assist in different courses. All TAs are evaluated by means of a student questionnaire at the end of each term. The professor in charge of the course will discuss evaluations with the Teaching Assistants following the end of term.

In its decisions on hiring Teaching Assistants, the department adheres to the Collective Agreement (CA) between the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) on behalf of Graduate Teaching Assistants and

Teaching Fellows and Queen's University, which can be found on the Human Resources website at <http://www.queensu.ca/humanresources/employee-tools/unions-and-associations>. Please ensure you become familiar with all aspects of the Collective Agreement.

External Components of Financial Support

University and Departmental regulations require that all eligible Ph.D. students apply for external funding, particularly Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS). The deadlines for these two usually fall in October and in January, respectively; information and assistance are provided by the department, but students are responsible for meeting the deadlines.

International students are not eligible for SSHRC funding. However, international students are eligible for a separately established Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) competition which takes place in May/June of each year. Visa students are also urged to approach their home governments, Canadian non-governmental organizations, and international organizations and foundations.

Students should consult the awards section of the SGSPA Calendar: <https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/current-students/funding-awards-scholarships-and-bursaries>, and apply for specially mentioned fellowships, prizes and awards. Note in particular the Rickerd and Good fellowships. Failure to apply for external awards generally disqualifies a student from consideration for University Fellowships (but not other types of funding, such as Queen's Graduate Awards and TAsHips).

Travel Awards

Full-time graduate students are eligible to apply for the student conference travel award of each academic year (September 1 to August 31). Awards may be used to provide partial support for travel, accommodation, food and registration fees associated with a recognized conference at which the student is presenting an authored or co-authored paper or poster. The student must be registered full time and within their funding eligible years in a graduate degree program at the time of the conference. The application form is available on our forms webpage <http://www.queensu.ca/politics/forms> and must be submitted and approved prior to the conference. Doctoral students should also be aware of the Dean's Travel Awards and the Timothy C.S. Franks Research Travel Award. A call for applications for these two awards will be sent to doctoral students.

Limit on Employment

Students must consult with their Supervisor and the Graduate Chair before accepting any employment that will or might bring their hours of paid employment, including any teaching or research assistantship, to a total greater than ten per week (averaging the hours worked over an academic year). If it is judged that the employment would make it impossible for the student to maintain his/her studies on a full-time basis, the student will be required to apply for part-time status. For more information about employment while a full-time student, please see the SGSPA calendar at <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/graduate-studies/admission-registration/> under "Study Status."

9. RESIDENCE

The SGSPA regulation regarding residence states that "to become fully involved in a field of study and to be satisfactorily in contact with members of the Department and students in the field, it is necessary to be studying on a full-time basis and be full-time on-campus for some part of the degree program" (see <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/graduate-studies/general-regulations> under "Residence Requirement"). The general expectation in the department is that doctoral students will maintain full-time on-campus status throughout the period of guaranteed support (12 terms). This expectation applies most strongly in the early years of the program, when the student is taking courses, teaching, and formulating their dissertation proposal, less so in later years, during the final stages of writing.

10. [FACILITIES](#)

Student Space

The department provides office space for all doctoral students. Assigned office space will typically be shared with other graduate students, depending on availability of space. All offices are connected to the university's network via ethernet and WIFI. Offices are intended primarily for work and study; the department has a lounge for faculty and graduate students to use for socializing. Students should contact Allison Hannah (MC C321) for their office allotment.

Mailboxes

Each graduate student on campus has a mailbox in the General Office.

Photocopier

All incoming graduate students are issued an account number for use of the photocopier in the Political Studies general office. The department will allow each student to photocopy up to 250 copies at no cost. When a student has reached the 250-copy limit, they are required to purchase an additional 250 copies, for which there is a charge of \$15.

11. [RESEARCH CENTRES](#)

The department is affiliated with a number of research centres, which focus on some of our main strengths. These centres bring in guest speakers, hold seminars, and more broadly, provide an opportunity for established scholars and students to engage in intellectual activity around shared interests. Sometimes, additional Research Assistantship opportunities become available through the centres. Be sure to get involved!

The Centre for International and Defence Policy ([CIDP](#))

The CIDP was established in 1975 as an interdisciplinary research centre within the School of Policy Studies. The Centre's research interests focus on defence policy, homeland security policy, and Canada's international policy. The Centre offers no courses but welcomes the active involvement of graduate students who have complementary research interests.

The Centre for the Study of Democracy and Diversity ([CSDD](#))

The CSDD is an interdisciplinary Centre aimed at advancing research and teaching about democracy and diversity, broadly conceived, including diversity of philosophy, religion, race, gender, ethnicity and nationality.

The Institute of Intergovernmental Relations ([IIGR](#))

This IIGR was established to provide a centre for research into the problems of intergovernmental relations in Canada and elsewhere. The Institute does not offer courses or grant degrees but is pleased to support the work of graduate students with an interest in federalism.

Canadian Opinion Research Archive ([CORA](#))

CORA makes available commercial and independent surveys to the academic, research and journalistic communities. Founded in 1992, CORA contains hundreds of surveys including thousands of discrete items collected by major commercial Canadian firms dating back to the 1970s. The CORA website includes readily accessible results from these surveys, tracking Canadian opinion over time on frequently asked survey questions, as well as tabular results from recent Canadian surveys, and more general information on polling. Individuals conducting research for non-commercial purposes can obtain access to the CORA electronic holdings and conduct searches of the database. Researchers can conduct the full range of bivariate and multivariate analysis on data through the Nesstar interface.

12. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Student Code of Conduct

Graduate students are subject to the [Student Code of Conduct](#). The Preamble to the Code states that

“students are expected to adhere to and promote the University’s core values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and personal responsibility in all aspects of University life, academic and non-academic. It is these core values that are intended to inform and guide Student conduct as they foster mutual respect for the dignity, property, rights and well-being of others” (sec. i).

The Code is a behavioural contract (sec. ii). By registering at Queen's, students accept the right of the University to set standards of conduct, and to impose sanctions for conduct found to have violated those standards. The Code sets out these standards and procedures. The Code applies to non-academic misconduct both on University property and off University property, where students are taking place in sanctioned events, or students' conduct has a substantial connection to legitimate interests of the University, or a student represents, or would reasonably be perceived as representing, the University. The Code also applies to communication via electronic media, where there is a clear connection to the University community.

Sexual Violence and Harassment

Queen's is committed to protecting its members against sexual violence, and all forms of harassment, both as a matter of principle and as an element of academic freedom. Such protection is also a legal duty under Ontario and Federal law.

Queen's has a [Policy on Sexual Violence](#), which defines consent and lays out procedures for handling complaints under the Student Code of Conduct.

According to Queen's Senate [Harassment/Discrimination Complaint Policy and Procedure](#):

“Queen's University recognizes that all members of the University Community have the right to be free from harassment and discrimination. This includes sexual harassment, harassment based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, creed and sexual orientation or analogous grounds. Such harassment and discrimination has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's or a group's work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working, living or academic environment.”

Sexual harassment involves the attempt by one person to assert power over another by "engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct of a sexual nature that is known or ought to be known to be unwelcome" ([Ontario Human Rights Code](#)). Sexual harassment can include but is [not limited to](#):

- asking for sex in exchange for improving a test score
- repeatedly asking for dates and not taking “no” for an answer
- making comments about a person's physical attractiveness
- sharing pornography or sexual pictures (including online)

Human Rights and the Human Rights Office

As Teaching Assistants, or Research Assistants, many graduate students will also be employees of the university. As such, they are covered by [Ontario Human Rights Code](#), as well as the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act, and the University's (interim) [Workplace Harassment & Discrimination Policy](#).

The Queen's [Human Rights Office](#) offers a confidential service that assists individuals or groups at Queen's who wish to pursue informal or formal routes of complaint resolution following an incident of sexual violence, harassment or discrimination. If you have questions or would like to discuss a concern about violence, harassment, or discrimination, you can contact the Queens' Human Rights Office (613-533-6886; hrights@queensu.ca).

The Student-Instructor Relationship

The university vests considerable power in instructors, who have a professional responsibility to act in the best pedagogical interest of their students. When instructors become involved in intimate relationships with their students, it creates risks of favouritism and bias, both actual and perceived, and can undermine the trust upon which the student-instructor relationship depends. Sexual and romantic relationships between instructors and students are generally incompatible with educator's professional responsibility. For this reason, the department strongly discourages intimate friendships as well as romantic or sexual relationships between instructors and students.

Intimate relationships between instructors and students over whom the instructor exercises pedagogical, supervisory, financial, or administrative authority constitute a conflict of interest and should be avoided. Where they occur, such relationships should be disclosed to Head of Department.

Professional Standards

It is the instructor's responsibility to maintain professional standards in their relationships with students.

It is always inappropriate to:

- comment on a student or colleague's physical appearance or attractiveness
- use language, gestures, humour or innuendo which could be interpreted to suggest that bias, discrimination, preferential treatment, sexual practices, or other non-academic criteria will be used in evaluating academic work
- use humour which, regardless of intent, could be interpreted to be offensive; issues such as ethnic or religious practices, sexual activities or preferences, or academic bias should not be subject to jest or sarcasm
- act in an unprofessional manner, including any of the above, at events organized by and/or for members of the Department; this includes social events or off campus.

It is advisable to:

- maintain a high level of professionalism and set an positive example of inclusive, respectful conduct at all times, especially at University or Departmental events
- remember that in addition to high-quality research and teaching, there is an expectation of collegiality; the latter demands professionalism, a cooperative and inclusive attitude, as well as fairness, and the appearance of fairness.
- take seriously any suggestions or complaints from colleagues or students about your behaviour or comments.

Labour Relations

Labour relations are governed by the Collective Agreement (CA) between the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) on behalf of Graduate Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows and Queen's University. The procedure for grievances is governed by Article 11 of the [Collective Agreement](#). In

general, concerns should first be brought to the attention of the employment supervisor for informal resolution, prior to filing a formal grievance according to the procedures laid out in 11.05.

Privacy of Student Files

Student files are held in the Main Office. In accordance with the Ontario Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), a student's file is accessible only to the student herself/himself, the Graduate Assistant, the Head, the Graduate Chair, and faculty members who sit on committees requiring examination of the files (normally the Graduate Studies Committee).

In accordance with FIPPA, students have access to all the contents of their file except documents written in confidence about them, such as letters of reference. Faculty members other than those mentioned above must have the student's written permission to consult his/her file.

Links

- https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/uslcwww/files/uploaded_files/policies/board/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf
- <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/board-policies/policy-sexual-violence-involving-queens-university-students>
- <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/harassmentdiscrimination-complaint-policy-and-procedure>
- <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/sexual-harassment-employment-fact-sheet>
- <https://www.queensu.ca/humanrights/advisory-issues/sexual-harassmenthttp://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>
- <http://www.queensu.ca/humanrights>
- <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/graduate-studies/>

13. ADVISING AND OTHER RESOURCES

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) maintains a Peer Academic Advisor program. This service provides free and confidential advice, strategies for self-advocacy and referrals to graduate students at Queen's University. For more information, see <https://sgps.ca/paa/>.

Queen's University International Centre ("QUIC") provides non-academic advising to international students. Students may contact an International Student Adviser at isa@queensu.ca. For more information about QUIC's services, see <http://quic.queensu.ca>.

The University Ombudsman provides independent, impartial and confidential advice to all members of the university, in the goal of facilitating the informal resolution of concerns and complaints. Students may contact the Ombudsman at ombuds@queensu.ca. For more information, see <https://www.queensu.ca/ombuds/>.

APPENDIX I: Progress Benchmarks

Prior to Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty Advisor in primary field appointed to offer program advice
Term 1 (Fall Y1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirmation of secondary field, in consultation with Advisor and Graduate Chair ▪ Enrolment in POLS900 and two other courses, including field courses or other courses that fulfill field requirement ▪ Applications for SSHRC (October) and OGS (January)
Term 2 (Winter Y1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enrolment in three courses (including field courses, if applicable)
Term 3 (Summer Y1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings with Field Convenors and other faculty in preparation for field exams at start of Term 4
Term 4 (Fall Y2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field Exams held from end of August to end of September at start of Year 2. ▪ Preparation of thesis proposal
Term 5 (Winter Y2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thesis proposal examination ▪ Head confirms supervisor ▪ Research / field work begins
Terms 6-10 (Y3-Y4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research / field work ▪ Examination of language competence
Term 11 (Winter Y4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First (rough) draft of thesis completed ▪ Preparation of final version of thesis, for defence
Term 12 (Summer Y4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal submission of thesis for defence ▪ Appointment of examining committee ▪ Oral defence of thesis ▪ Corrections verified by examining board appointee(s) ▪ Submission of corrected thesis to Dean of Graduate Studies

This timeline assumes completion within the 4-year funding window, but field research and other factors may delay completion.