Why Graduate Studies in Public Administration?

The Public Administration graduate program is a bridge between the academic world and the world of public affairs. Our multi-disciplinary MPA programs are focused on policy analysis, development and implementation, preparing new and experienced professionals for rewarding careers in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our graduates have gone onto hold positions as ministers and senior officials in municipal, provincial and federal governments. They also provide leadership in hospitals, community organizations and national associations across Canada. Others still work for consulting firms in the private sector.

Why QUEEN’S?

The School of Policy Studies offers a rich and rewarding learning experience that is unsurpassed in Canada and matched only by the best public policy programs in the world. Through high quality interactive teaching and integrated learning, we enhance leadership in public policy by providing students the inspiration, skills, competencies and connections to become better contributors to the public good. The MPA curriculum includes core courses in economics, policy analysis, governance, management and quantitative methods. Through elective courses, students apply their skills to the analysis and resolution of concrete policy and management problems.

Queen’s University is situated on the territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek.
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Take elective courses or complete an optional master’s project to gain skills necessary in analyzing or resolving policy issues.

• Read publications and attend our Policy Talks and special lectures to acquaint yourself with the world of public affairs.

• Find your way through the academic process with help from the School of Policy Studies program staff and through the Expanding Horizons professional workshops offered through the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.

• Attend conferences and events organized by the School of Policy Studies.

• Start keeping an e-portfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.

• Apply for internships, which would allow you to combine formal studies with on-the-job training through a four-month co-op placement at a government agency or NGO.

• Attend site briefings with senior policy analysts in Ottawa and Toronto to enhance your knowledge of provincial and national policy issues.

• Participate in skill enrichment activities.

• Check out opportunities for extra training through Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Expanding Horizons, Mitacs.ca, or other sources to boost your skills.

• Have the opportunity to participate in an international exchange to Fudan to gain global

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

• Connect with your community through experiential opportunities on and off-campus.

• Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as the United Way, Boys and Girls Club, Community Foundation, and more.

• Participate in targeted networking opportunities offered through the School of Policy Studies.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

• Consider joining professional associations like the Institute of Public Administration Canada (IPAC).

• Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV. Get help from the School of Policy Studies with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

• Join our LinkedIn page to access a vast alumni network and keep up-to-date with your classmates, and post or view job opportunities.
What Will I LEARN?
A professional degree in Public Administration can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

Strategic Thinking:
- Articulate the political, institutional, legal, and administrative context in which policy is made and implemented.
- Recognize the values and principles of Canadian democracy.

Engagement & Communication:
- Engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- Demonstrate high quality, professional verbal and written communication skills.
- Prepare high quality written and oral material.

Analysis & Application:
- Apply relevant theories, principles and techniques of policy analysis to identify and assess public policy issues and devise options to resolve them.
- Identify, synthesize, analyze and integrate relevant and appropriate sources of information.

Professionalism, Collaboration, & Leadership
- Demonstrate and apply the ethics and values of public service.
- Develop and complement creative and collaborative approaches to public service leadership.

CAREER Support
Queen’s School of Policy Studies offers a comprehensive career support program. Our workshops, one-on-one mentoring, alumni networking events are all designed to help our students realize their goals and ambitions.

Method of COMPLETION
- Master of Public Administration (1 year): 12 half-credit courses or 10 half-courses plus a research project.
- Combined Juris Doctorate/Master of Public Administration: (3 years): course work and the opportunity to participate in the certificate program in Public International Law at the Bader International Study Centre located at Queen’s Herstmonceux castle in England, or an international study exchange to pursue broader opportunities.

Visit the School of Policy Studies website to learn more about the program and its opportunities.

Course STRUCTURE

Fall Term  (Sept to Dec.)
- MPA 800  Governing Institutions
- MPA 804  Principles of Economics
- MPA 805  Quantitative Analysis
- MPA 810  Policy Challenges + one elective

Winter Term  (Jan. to April)
- MPA 802  Approaches to Policy Analysis + four electives

Summer Term
- MPA 809  Integrating Public Policy + one elective
  Taken in two condensed 1-week sessions
What do I need to know to APPLY?

Academic Requirements

- 4 year undergraduate degree.
- **Grade requirements**: minimum upper second class standing (B+ average) in the last 2 years of study. Competitive scholarship applicants must have an A- or 3.7 GPA in the last two years of study.
- **JD/MPA applicants** must have completed a Bachelor’s honours degree, with an average or 3.7 GPA in the last two years and an LSAT score above the 80th percentile.

Additional Requirements

- Statement of Interest.
- A GRE/GMAT test examination is required if your previous degree is from outside of North America.
- If English is not a first language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) 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 deadlines:

- **MPA Program**: February 1.
- **MPA/JD Program**: January 15 (through SGSPSA for MPA), November 1 (through OLSAS for Law).

Notification of acceptance: no later than May 15.

Before you start your application, please review the SGSPA online application process.

What about FUNDING?

MPA students are not guaranteed funding, but there are internal Queen’s graduate awards available that vary from $1000 - $10,000. Applicants are automatically considered for the internal awards and will be notified if successful.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from Ontario Graduate Studies (OGS), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards.

For more information on many external awards, see the SGSPA’s information on awards and scholarships.

SGSPA website: [queensu.ca/grad-postdoc](http://queensu.ca/grad-postdoc)
EXPERIENTIAL Learning

Experiential learning is an important aspect of Queen’s MPA programs and we strive to incorporate the practical application of skills as a significant component of the learning experience. Participate in unique opportunities to link theory and practice, to move from the academic to the applied. Our students participate in briefings in Ottawa and Toronto. These briefings are an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of policy in a variety of sectors – public, private and not-for-profit.

WHERE can an MPA take me?

A Master degree in Public Administration from Queen’s University can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- The private sector (Includes consulting, financial services, and professional associations)
- Health
- Third Sector (Not-for-profits)
- Education

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

Graduate Employment by Sector

- Government of Canada (25%)
- Government of Ontario (24%)
- Other Provincial/Territorial Governments (4%)
- Municipal Governments (6%)
- Private Sector (16%) - includes consulting financial services, professional associations
- Not-for-Profit (4%)
- Education (11%) - includes colleges, universities, schools, school boards
- Health (9%) - includes community health and health institutions
- Other (1%)
"The MPA program has given me the tools and confidence to approach policy issues with both analytical and practical rigor to design and implement changes. Not only did it provide me with an understanding of government institutions and processes but also an appreciation for the iterative process to policy development.

I loved the dynamic instructor-facilitated discussions, variety of guest speakers, and opportunities to participate in competitions. The size of the cohort fostered a supportive environment where we got to know one another well and could build upon networking relationships that may serve us well into our careers."

– Judy Ng, MPA ’21