

Political Science: MA, PhD

Political Science is a research-intensive and teaching-oriented department, offering students a dynamic and engaging environment. Our faculty members pursue a wide range of research interests, are widely published, and are active in obtaining grant funding from SSHRC and other sources. The department also has a strong track record in helping graduate students obtain research funding of their own, including SSHRC, OGS, and Trillium. With small class sizes and ample faculty support, our graduate programs are dedicated to improving students' skills as researchers and communicators.

uoguelph.ca/polisci

Program

MA Program: The MA program revolves around the theme of Rights, Justice, Citizenship, and Identity while allowing flexibility for students to pursue their various interests. Within the broader framework of Rights, Justice, Citizenship and Identity, the Department has particular strengths in Public Policy and Administration and Global Justice and Politics and offers a number of courses related to those topics.

Our broad range of course offerings and options to complete the degree (course-based, Major Research Paper or thesis) allows students to tailor their experience towards their future employment or academic goals.

PhD Program: The PhD program offers students the opportunity to pursue studies in six fields:

- Canadian Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender, Race, Indigeneity, and Sexuality
- International Relations
- Law and Politics
- Public Policy and Governance

Students are required to major in one field and minor in another.

The PhD program is designed both for students interested in pursuing academic positions and also for students interested in working in research capacities in the public, non-profit or private sectors.



"My research focuses on the justice gap in sexual assault court cases, where legal professionals avoid the law-on-the-books, re-traumatizing and re-victimizing survivors during trial. My thesis will evaluate Canadian law school curriculum on sexual assault to explain this behaviour and make recommendations to remedy this gap in court."

– Samantha Powless, PhD candidate in Political Science

Students can pursue collaborative MA & PhD specializations in International Development Studies, One Health, or Sexuality, Genders and Bodies along with a degree in Political Science.

Admission Requirements

Masters Application Requirements:

- A four-year Honours BA degree in a relevant field with a minimum B+ (77-79%) GPA

PhD Application Requirements:

- MA degree in Political Science with at least an A- GPA for consideration
- Adequate training in social science research methods
- Strong English language proficiency

Application Deadline:

Deadline to apply and upload all documents: January 18, 2023

Please apply at least two weeks prior to the above deadline to ensure sufficient time to upload your required documents. It can take up to five days after you apply before you gain access to upload.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Rights, Law and Justice
- Public Policy, Governance, and Administration
- International Development
- Gender and Identity
- Comparative and Global Politics

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Policy Analyst
- Strategic Consultant
- Communications Specialist
- Lecturer
- Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Program Coordinator:

Dr. Edward Koning
519-824-4120 ext 58939
ekoning@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant:

Renée Tavascia
519-824-4120 ext 56973
rtavasci@uoguelph.ca

Departmental Graduate Faculty with Research Areas

All applicants to our PhD and MA thesis option are strongly encouraged to reach out to potential supervisors before applying.

Dennis Baker:

Law and politics, judicial decision-making, constitutionalism, criminal justice policy-making, federalism

Ryan Briggs:

Political economy of poverty alleviation, foreign aid projects, politics of electricity in low income countries

Jordi Díez:

Comparative politics, Latin American politics, comparative public policy, social movements, gay and lesbian rights

Minh Do:

Canadian law and politics, public policy, Indigenous politics

Steffi Hamann:

International Development, Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Food Security, sub-Saharan Africa

Mark S. Harding:

Law and politics, Canadian politics, rights documents, constitutional theory, political institutions

Carmen Ho:

State provision of social welfare, health policies for women and children, international social policy factors in Southeast Asia

Candace Johnson:

Gender, women, feminist theory, contemporary political theory, human rights and development, health policy and politic, Latin American studies

Craig Johnson:

Urbanization, international development, land and resource governance, South and Southeast Asia, climate change

Edward Koning:

Immigration, immigrant integration, populism, social policy, European politics

Theresa Lee:

Twentieth-century continental political thought, human rights and ethics, modern Chinese political thought, comparative political thought

Leah Levac:

Public engagement, marginalized publics, intersectional policy analysis

David MacDonald:

Comparative indigenous politics Canada, Australia, USA, New Zealand, Holocaust and genocide studies, US foreign policy, New Zealand foreign policy, international relations, international politics of western settler states, multiculturalism, racial and ethnic studies

Tim Mau:

Public administration, public management / leadership / local government

Andrea Paras:

Humanitarian NGOs, humanitarian intervention, human rights, religion and secularism, Tibetan exile politics

Kate Puddister:

Law and politics, Canadian politics, criminal justice

Troy Riddell:

Judicial politics, constitutional politics, criminal justice, rights and liberties

Byron Sheldrick:

Canadian political economy, law and politics, welfare state restructuring, social democracy

Julie Simmons:

Public policy, public administration, federalism and intergovernmental relations, democratic governance

Tamara A. Small:

Digital politics, Canadian politics, political communication, Canadian political parties, elections

Adam Sneyd:

Commodities, corporate social responsibility, political economy, poverty and Africa

David Snow:

Law and politics, assisted reproductive technologies, public policy, federalism



The University of Guelph has provided an amazing experience of community and learning in my time as a graduate student. My advisors, peers and the Guelph academic community at large have created a welcoming space that celebrates rigorous learning, cultural diversity and intellectual humility. It is often remarked upon that "it takes a village" to create a successful person. The University of Guelph is that village, and I count myself fortunate to study here.

- Olubiya Mark Ariba, MA POLS Candidate

Ian Spears:

Conflict/conflict resolution, politics of Africa, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, development and violence, international relations

Deborah Stienstra:

Public services and people with disabilities, women's experiences and economic restructuring, intersections between disability, race/ethnicity and Aboriginality, access and inclusion in telecommunications policy

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