

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) assures that students can tailor their experience towards their future employment or academic goals.

PhD Program: Students are required to major in one field offered in the PhD program:

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

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.



"I've always been interested in human rights, and coming from an immigrant family, the politics of migration are particularly important to me, but this is such a broad focus. My research focus has changed a lot since I received my offer of admission. Still, after listening to some guest speakers on campus and a bit (a lot) of reading, I realized that I found Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program to be exciting. I'm focused on the role of employers, provincial governments, and the federal government in determining the rights and protections for Temporary Foreign Workers"

– Taelor Reid, MSc student 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, 2026

Please apply at least two weeks prior to the above deadline to ensure sufficient time to upload your required documents.

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. Adam Sneyd
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Graduate Program Assistant:

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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



"I chose the university for many different reasons but some of the most salient considerations for me before beginning my studies was UoG's deep commitment to teaching and research, the important and fascinating work of the scholars, like my advisor Professor Craig Johnson, and the opportunity to research my interests with robust support from the department and college. Overall, UoG offered not only a competitive package but also the space, skills, expertise and support necessary for me to successfully study my passion of ecological politics and environmental governance which other universities in Canada, the US, and the UK simply could not."

– Jonathan Khosravani, PhD POLS Candidate

Adam Sneyd:

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

David Snow:

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

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