Study political science in a city that lives and breathes politics.

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Students in the MA program in Political Science can tailor their degree program to meet their own interests and goals. The degree can be completed through coursework only or through a combination of coursework and a thesis or major research paper. We offer a wide range of interesting graduate courses that are taught by our diverse faculty, with expertise in many different areas of political science.

A co-op program, as well as the new Dual MA degree with the University of Lucerne, Switzerland, are also available.

The PhD program emphasizes the development of theoretical competence and rigorous analytical skills in the study of politics. Students choose two of the following fields: political theory, Canadian politics, comparative politics, international relations, public affairs and policy analysis, and gender and diversity. All of these fields are well represented by internationally recognized faculty members who are available for research supervision.

We also offer a specialization in Political Economy at the PhD level and specializations in African Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the master’s level.

Degrees Offered
MA, PhD

Career Options
Our location in Ottawa places students in the heart of the country’s political process, which provides unparalleled access to resources and career opportunities unavailable elsewhere in the country.

Fall Application Deadline
January 31, in order to be considered for funding

Admission Requirements
MASTER’S: A BA (Honours), or the equivalent, with at least a B+ standing. Honours graduates in fields other than political science will be considered on the basis of their academic background and standing, and will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

PhD: A master’s degree, or equivalent, in political science with at least an A- standing. Students with master’s degrees in other disciplines will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and may be required to take additional courses as part of the program.

“Carleton’s political science department offers a dynamic learning environment where students are encouraged to pursue their interests both in and out of the classroom. Helpful faculty and staff go above and beyond to help students develop the research, communication, and project management skills that set up Carleton graduates for success in future endeavours.”

Amanda Roberts, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science

Master’s students with at least a 9.5 GPA in political science graduate courses can apply for the Washington Center Internship Program where you will spend one term in Washington, D.C.