



Policy Studies PhD

Yeates SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

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UNIVERSITY**

Everyone Makes a Mark

Policy Studies PhD

The PhD in Policy Studies is Canada's first and only interdisciplinary doctoral program offering students the opportunity to study in three fields: Social Policy; Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora Policies; and Public Policy and Administration.

Societal need for policy research has grown in response to the realities of the knowledge economy and the complex policy challenges facing communities, cities, regions, nations and the world. While policy studies as an area of study has found its disciplinary home in political science, policy research requires an understanding of the historical, cultural, political, institutional, geographic and economic aspects that frame policy fields. Traditional policy fields are increasingly interconnected, have domestic and international dimensions and involve policy actors from the public, non-profit and private sectors. These innate features of public policy require interdisciplinary knowledge and research collaboration across disciplinary boundaries.

This interdisciplinary program is designed to prepare a new generation of researchers for positions in academe and the public, non-profit and private sectors at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Program Objectives

The objectives are as follows:

- To provide students with a multidisciplinary understanding of policy studies in Canada and the global context.
- To provide a strong theoretical foundation in policy studies and social science methodologies and the critical analytical skills necessary to understand the complex political and social environment in which public policy research is conducted.
- To provide an understanding of the relationships between the public, private and third sectors (including para-public, voluntary and not-for-profit) as they affect policy.
- To develop the capacity of students to think critically and communicate effectively – in writing and orally – commensurate with the demands of an academic or professional career in policy research.

Program Mission

The program's mission is to provide a high-quality, interdisciplinary doctoral degree that recognizes the significance of policy research and knowledge and its role in social development and democratic governance at all levels, from the local to the global.

Graduate Studies at Ryerson University

Ryerson's recognized strength in combining theory and practice, growing reputation in policy-relevant research and location in Canada's largest and most culturally diverse cosmopolitan centre provides students with the extraordinary opportunity to engage with government and community agencies in conducting domestic and international policy research.

Faculty

Faculty participating in the program are drawn from several departments in the Faculty of Arts including politics and public administration, sociology, geography, criminal justice, economics, philosophy and from other faculties and departments including social work, urban planning and business management. The 60 faculty participating in the program have varied research expertise across their broad fields and several faculty members have expertise in more than one field.

Students

Students in the program come from a wide range of academic backgrounds and are engaged in policy research on a range of topics across the three program fields.

Refer to the program website at www.ryerson.ca/graduate/policystudies for a full listing of faculty, students and their areas of policy research.



Requirements & Curriculum

The PhD program is designed as a four-year program of study.

The requirements for successful completion of the program are six required core and elective courses, the PhD seminar, a comprehensive requirement and a doctoral dissertation.

Required Core Courses

PhD candidates must take the following core courses:

- Policy Theories and Approaches (PD9001)
- Research Foundations for Policy Studies (PD9002)
- a field foundation course in the student's chosen field: Public Policy and Administration (PD9101), Social Policy (PD9102), Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora Policies (PD9103)

Required Electives

PhD candidates must select three electives in their related areas of interest from:

- other PhD field foundation courses
- a selection from existing policy-related graduate courses*
- a specialized readings course in a theoretical or methodological area related to dissertation research
- Statistical Analysis for Social Science Research (SS8000)

PhD Seminar

As part of the course requirements, students take a non-credit seminar (PD9003) to help them prepare for the comprehensive requirement and dissertation proposal.

Comprehensive Requirement

Doctoral candidates must demonstrate an overall command of theories and methods in policy studies by passing a comprehensive requirement which will test the student's grasp of the history and state of knowledge in the field of policy studies, its central themes and major debates, and the key theoretical and methodological foundations and challenges. The comprehensive will be based on core theory, methods and the student's chosen field. Normally, the comprehensive requirement must be completed by end of the second year of registration.

Doctoral Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation requires the candidate to produce a substantial piece of supervised work that is worthy of publication and makes an original contribution to knowledge in the student's chosen field.

Interdisciplinary supervisory committees are an important element in the dissertation research and defence process.

Research Fields

The three fields in this program are designed around the interdisciplinary policy-related research expertise of the core faculty in social policy and existing graduate programs at Ryerson in the areas of public policy, public administration and immigration studies. Students can focus on Canadian (local, sub-national and national) or international policy studies.

The Social Policy Field

The Social Policy field encompasses research in the areas of social welfare policy, labour market policy, family policy, health policy, food policy, environmental policy and justice policy.

The Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora Policies Field

The Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora Policies field is designed for students who are interested in immigration policy-related research including migration studies, settlement and diaspora studies.

The Public Policy and Administration Field

The Public Policy and Administration field is for students who wish to engage in research and advanced study of policy theory, the public policy process, implementation and evaluation studies and public administration.

Admission

Applicants must meet normal requirements for admission to the Yeates School of Graduate Studies. Admission to the PhD program requires:

- Demonstrated capacity to undertake advanced study in policy studies.
- Completion of a master's-level degree in a social sciences discipline (or equivalent) with a high level of accomplishment (normally a minimum of B+ average or equivalent).
- Demonstrated competence in the English language.
- Two letters of recommendation supporting the applicant's academic abilities.
- A statement of research interests.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

Applicants whose instruction during their undergraduate studies was in a language other than English are required to submit a test of English language proficiency. Applicants may demonstrate facility in English using one of the following methods:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)

Additional Information

For detailed program information, visit www.ryerson.ca/graduate/policystudies.

Program Contact Information

Telephone: 416-979-5000, ext. 4955

Email: policystudies@ryerson.ca

Financial Support

Ryerson University provides financial support in the form of scholarships, awards and assistantships for as many full-time students as possible. Financial support is offered on a competitive basis, and the number of scholarships, awards and assistantships in any given year will vary. For more information on available funding, visit www.ryerson.ca/graduate/funding.

How to Apply

Online application instructions are available at www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions.

Yeates School of Graduate Studies

Admissions

Ryerson University

350 Victoria Street

Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

Telephone: 416-979-5150

Fax: 416-979-5153

Email: grdadmit@ryerson.ca



Ryerson University, 350 Victoria Street
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3
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