



Online Infosession

UBC Department of Political Science

About Today's Event:

The session will cover information about our programs, course offerings, career outcomes, and admission process.

October 23, 10:00am PST



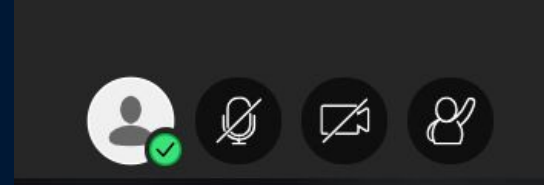


Land Acknowledgement

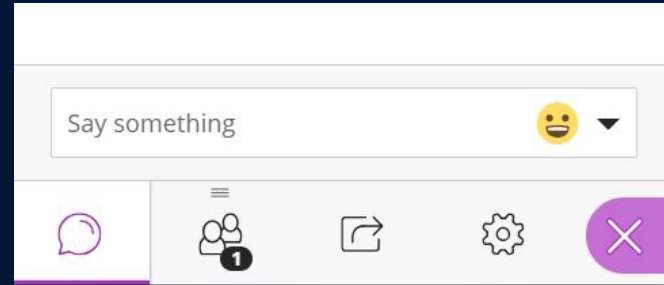
UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Housekeeping

Please ensure your mic is muted to avoid background noise during the presentation.



If you have any questions please type them in the chat box, and we will answer during the Q&A session:



Recording of the session and copy of slides will be provided to all participants (which will include FAQs and application tips).





Agenda

Introductions

About UBC & Department of Political Science

Fields of Study & Research

MA & PhD Program Overview

Graduate Outcomes

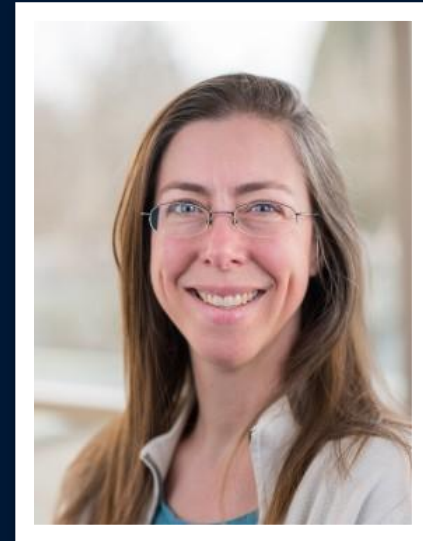
Faculty Research

Question and Answer

Your Presenters



Dr. Alan Jacobs
Professor
Director of Graduate
Programs



Dr. Katia Coleman
Associate Professor
Field Chair for International
Relations



UBC at a glance

- **#34** in World University Rankings (2019/20)
- **64,798** students (Vancouver: **54,863**; Okanagan: **9,935**)
- **17,225** international students from 160+ countries
- **13,778** degrees granted in 2018
- **339,000+** alumni in 140 countries
- **16,891** faculty and staff
- **\$2.8 billion** annual operating budget
- **\$669.1** million in research funding for 9,544 projects
- **1,179** research contracts and agreements with government and non-profits

The Department at a glance 2019/2020 Academic Year

- Graduate Students:
 - **54 PhD** students
 - **44 MA** students
 - **51%** international students
- **40** tenured and tenure-track faculty





Affiliated Centers, Institutes and Programs

- Institute for European Studies (IES)
- Liu Institute for Global Issues
- Institute of Asian Research (IAR)
- Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies (CIS)
- Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES)
- The Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice (GRSJ)
- U.S. Studies Program
- The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)
- School of Public Policy and Global Affairs

MA Program Overview





MA Program Requirements

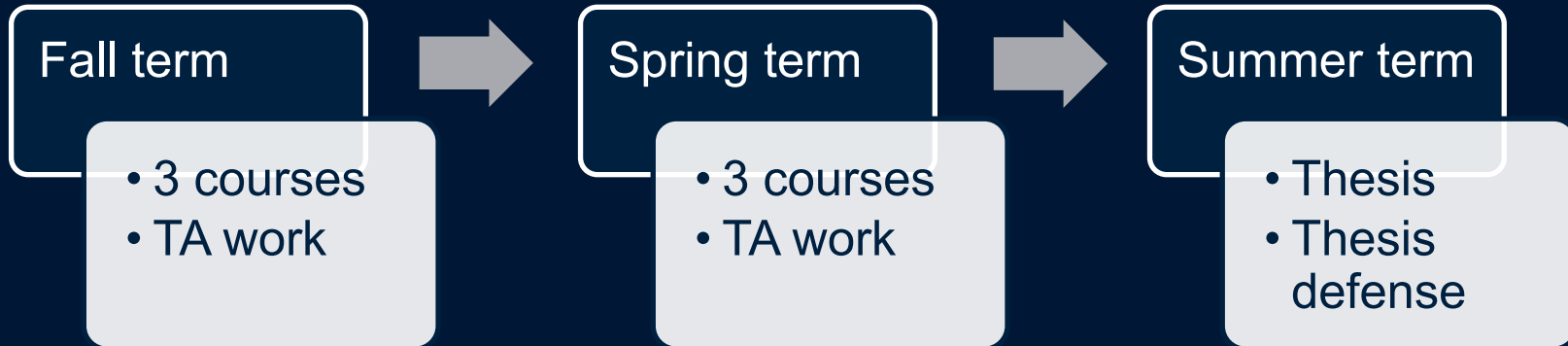
- Coursework Requirement (6 courses)
- MA Thesis
- Majority of students finish in one year



Courses offered in:

- Political Theory
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Canadian Politics
- US Politics
- Indigenous Politics

MA Timeline Completion





MA Funding

- Full teaching assistantship (\$6,115 per 1 full appointment per semester)
- Are encouraged to apply for Tri-Agency (SSHRC) funding (up to \$20,000)
- Exceptional students may receive full year tuition coverage (approx. \$5,000 for one year)
- May be eligible for Travel Grants and Conference Support (max \$500)

PH.D. Program Overview





PH.D. Program Requirements

- Coursework Requirements (12 courses)
- Comprehensive Examination
- Dissertation Prospectus
- Dissertation Completion and Defense
- Must complete the program within 6 years

PH.D. Program Timeline

Year 1

- Start coursework
- TA/RA work

Year 2

- Complete coursework
- TA/RA work

Year 3

- Comp exam
- Dissertation Prospectus
- TA/RA Work

Years 4-5

- Research and dissertation writing
- TA/RA work
- Submit papers for publication

Year 6

- Complete dissertation
- Apply for jobs and postdocs
- Present at conferences
- Submit papers for publication



PH.D. Funding

- Guaranteed funding for first five years in the program (Living Stipend + Tuition Coverage + TA employment), with possible partial funding in Year 6.
- Additional TA and RA opportunities in Year 6
- Encouraged to apply for Tri-Agency (SSHRC) funding: \$20,000 - \$35,000 per year
- Eligible to apply for Conference Travel and Research Support

Graduate Placement Outcomes





PH.D. academic placement outcomes

PhD graduates in tenure-track positions:

Univ. of Toronto, Michigan, Georgia Tech, McEwan, Victoria, Simon Fraser, Memorial, Brandon, Fraser Valley, Manitoba, Queensland, Laval, Western, Essex, McMaster, Wyoming, Soka, South Florida, Endicott, St. Thomas, ANU, Massey, St. Andrews, Sophia, Keene State, Pittsburg, Sydney, Melbourne, TRU, Trinity College Dublin, Winnipeg, Sheffield, Ritsumeikan, Cardiff, Amsterdam, Macquarie, NSU, IBEI, Ottawa...



PHD non-academic placement outcomes

PhDs seeking non-academic placements have been hired in:

- **Government Positions** – RCMP, Health Canada, Statistics Canada, First Nations Health Authority
- **International Organizations** – UN Women, ICRC, WWF
- **NGOs** – GOPAC, Asia-Pacific Foundation, Equal Voice Canada, MSF
- **Private Sector** – Deutsche Bank, Vox Pop Labs, Innovative Research



MA Placement Outcomes

52 MA graduates May 2015 - Sept 2018:

- **16** pursued PhDs in Political Science - 31%
- **11** pursued government/policy-related positions (e.g. legislative intern, policy analyst) – 21%
- **11** in NGO/private/corporate positions (as analyst, or educator) – 21%
- **8** in academic administration – 15%
- **3** in international research-related positions – 5%
- **2** pursued law degrees – 4%
- **1** pursued MBA degree – 2%

Student Experience

A close-up photograph of a student sitting at a wooden desk, focused on writing in a white notebook. The student is wearing a black and white striped shirt and a watch on their left wrist. They are holding a black pen over the notebook. To the right of the notebook is a silver laptop. In the foreground, there is a clear plastic water bottle with a green cap and a grey paper coffee cup with a white lid. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the desk and some papers.



Student Experience: Academic Opportunities

- Annual Graduate Student Conference
- Close relationship with faculty and department staff
- Departmental professional workshops and other institutional workshops (Statistics department & Library)
- Subfields workshops (Canadian/Comparative/ US, Political theory, & IR)
- Political Science Distinguished Speaker series and other talks
- Supportive and inclusive environment



Student Experience: Community

- Political Science Graduate Student Association
- Social gatherings
- Writing groups
- Study rooms for graduate students
- TA union
- International community
- Quality of life
 - Transportation, outdoor lifestyle, culture, food
 - UBC campus, Vancouver & British Columbia (Whistler & Vancouver Islands)

Q & A Session





Thank you!

**For any questions email:
christopher.fernandez@ubc.ca**

Frequently asked questions





What do you look for in a successful application?

Background in Political Science: We take a relatively broad view of the kinds of undergraduate courses that can serve as helpful preparation, though it is helpful for us to see some significant political science content. This is especially important if you are applying for the Ph.D. program. It helps if we can see from your transcript that you have some relevant background in political or related social sciences, though we are also open to applications from bright students who did their undergrad degrees in other fields but have clear reasons for wanting to shift to political science.



What do you look for in a successful application?

Transcripts & GPA: As a general rule, successful applicants will have minimum first class standing (80% or higher at UBC or equivalent) in each of the last two years of study, in accordance with the criteria for graduate funding in the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students from American colleges and universities which use letter grades should have at least a B+ average.



What do you look for in a successful application?

Letters of reference: Three are required. All of them should be academic; that is, from an instructor who has taught you. If your marks are at the lower end, this is even more important. Even if it has been some time since you finished your degree, try to contact an instructor anyway. Since you will be applying to a research program, it is important for the admissions committee to know your abilities as a researcher and academic writer.



What do you look for in a successful application?

Your responses to the questions: In your responses, we are looking for (1) your personal and academic background that led you to your graduate degree plans; (2) your likely major field; (3) the kinds of research problems that most interest you; (4) why the UBC Department of Political Science is well-suited to your interests. While we would like some information about your background as it relates to your academic plans, you should focus most of your statement on your academic and research interests.



How long will it take me to complete the degree?

- 12 months is the typical length spent completing the MA degree.
- PhD program is a 6-year graduate degree.



How can I make my application stronger?

- If your GPA is at or below the minimum requirement for admission, consider taking some upper-level (3rd year or 4th year) academic courses at your local university and achieve first-class standing (A-average). This will demonstrate your academic ability, and give you stronger academic references too.
- Spend time preparing your application and discuss your draft statement of interest with someone who has graduated from a similar program, or who has completed graduate studies.



Do I need to identify a supervisor prior to applying?

- We encourage all applicants to identify a potential research supervisor. You can do this in the online application.
- However, you are not committed to working with this faculty member once you arrive here. Some students change supervisors once they have chosen a thesis/dissertation topic.
- You may email a potential supervisor before applying to gauge their interest in your research, but this is not required.



What type of experience will I have before I graduate?

- **Teaching:** Students obtain the opportunity to work as a Teaching Assistant, and would have access to instructional skills workshops. PhD students may have the opportunity to teach their own courses.
- **Writing:** Students will strengthen their writing skills through graduate coursework, an advantage in both academic and non-academic careers.
- **Research methods:** We offer several quantitative and qualitative research methods courses, providing skills of tremendous value in both academic and non-academic research settings.
- **Presentation skills:** Workshops, conferences, and courses offer opportunities to hone strong presentation skills.

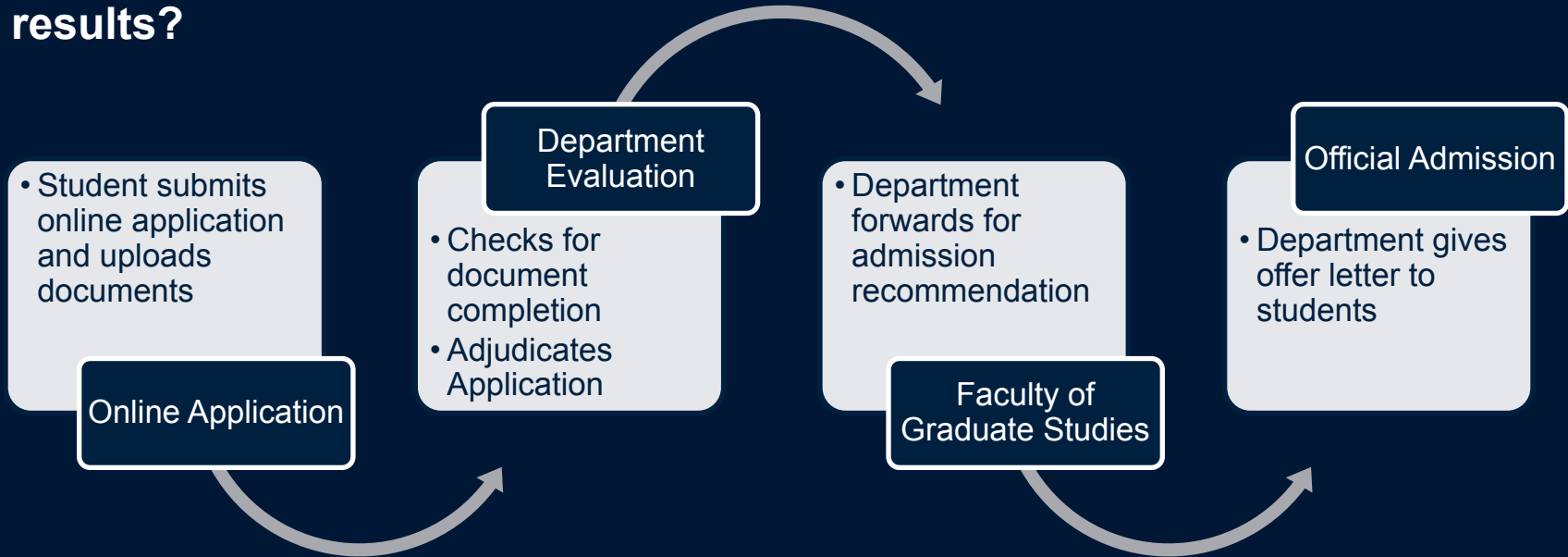


What are the employment opportunities on campus?

- Graduate Teaching Assistant
- Graduate Research Assistant
- Exams Invigilator
- Library Assistant

Nearly all graduate students are employed as either TAs or RAs or both during their program.

What happens to my application and when can I expect to learn the results?



Timeline:

PhD application deadline: Dec. 15, 2019

MA application deadline: Jan. 7, 2020

Offers of admission by mid-February 2020



Application Tips:

- Write your statement of interest well.
 - Be as concrete as possible in describing relevant academic background and training, research experience, and work experience.
- Begin contacting your references now.
- Order two sets of transcripts (one for the online application upload, another to send to the University if you are offered admission to the program)



Application Tips:

- If your transcripts are not in English or French, have them translated ahead of time
- If applying for PhD program and degrees are not from Canada, take the GRE. **Prepare well for the test.**
- If language of instruction is not English, take the IELTS/TOEFL
- Start your online application **NOW!**