

# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

### PhD REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS

The following statement applies to all candidates entering the PhD program in Geography and Planning. It is consistent with the [General Regulations](#) for Graduate Study, which appear in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs, and should be read in conjunction with those guidelines.

## A THE PhD DEGREE PROGRAM IN GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

### 1 Status and Time Limits

Effective for students admitted Sept. 1, 2021 and all subsequent years:

While the doctoral program is designed and approved to be completed within four years (12 terms) of initial full-time registration there are many reasons why additional time may be required. This regulation describes the [standard timeframe for program completion](#) (scroll and click on Time Limits for Completion of Programs) and the process for [extending the timeframe](#) (scroll and click on Extension of Time Limits).

Effective for students admitted prior to September 1, 2021:

The requirements for doctoral programs must be completed within seven years from the time of initial registration in the department/program. It should be noted that these specified periods are time LIMITS and are not indicative of normal program duration.

Normally, students are expected to register as full-time and to be on-

## B COURSE WORK

### 1 Purpose of Course Work

Course work is intended to help the candidate to become acquainted with significant components of the discipline, and to prepare the student to undertake original research in the area chosen for a thesis. The opportunity for contact with a number of faculty in the Department and elsewhere in the University is likewise important.

### 2 Course Work Requirement

Doctoral candidates are required to take GPHY-801\* (Conceptual and Methodological Basis of Geography, which is a mandatory seminar in which a preliminary thesis proposal is developed) and a minimum of two additional graduate term- ~~o v P š Z } μ Ć • • Ć } v š Z~~ ~~One of these courses may be taken outside the Department of Geography, with the approval of the Supervisor and Associate Head (Graduate Programs).~~ With the exception of GPHY-801\*, a candidate should take no more than one course with their supervisor and this should normally not be a directed reading course. After reviewing a ~~v ] š~~ academic preparation and research aspirations, an incoming candidate may be required by their supervisor, in consultation with the Associate Head (Graduate Studies), to complete more courses than the minimum specified.

## C LANGUAGE

The Associate Head (Graduate Programs), in consultation with the ~~v ] š~~ supervisor, will require the candidate ~~š } P ] v } u % š v ] v o v P μ P } š Z Ć š Z v v P o ] • Z ] ( ] š ] • i μ P š } % Ć~~ Normally, a decision on whether the candidate must satisfy a language requirement will be made no later than the beginning of the second term of full-time registration in the PhD program.

## D QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

### 1 Purpose of the Qualifying Examination

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The basis of the evaluation is two-fold:

## 2 Preparation for the Qualifying Examination (also see Appendix A)

The basis of the Qualifying Examination is (i) an examination of a Research Proposal prepared by the candidate; and (ii) the assessment of a written response and oral defense of two questions from the committee that relate to the domains of reading.

Preparation for the examination should include the following steps:

- a. The formation of a Supervisory Committee comprising:
  - the supervisor
  - at least one internal examiner from the department
  - an internal-external examiner (a faculty member from another Department, but may be cross-appointed

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The Committee hEir

complete the questions. Answer(s) to each of the written questions should not exceed 2,000 words, excluding the bibliography, abstract, figures and tables, and be submitted to the Graduate Programs Coordinator. The examining committee then has *six working days* to submit written evaluations to the Graduate Programs Coordinator or the Chair of the Qualifying Examination Committee. The Chair or Graduate Programs Coordinator will notify the student within three days of the Qualifying Exam whether the exam will go forward or not. Unless two or more of the written evaluations indicate the Qualifying Examination should not be held, the candidate will proceed to1 0 Td(u)-4.tTw 5077w 3.3706 30ee Td(te )Tj73.88.765 (s )JjGe





comprehensive literature review, which would normally be an integral part of the research endeavour itself. All references cited in this section should be listed in footnotes, endnotes, or a reference section.

Research Question(s) (~½ page)

The specific research questions, objectives, or hypotheses that serve as the focus of the research.

Impact (~½ page)

Explain the anticipated significance of the work, with a particular emphasis on impact on the field of research. Candidate should take the time to explain and justify the expected impact of the proposed work carefully and convincingly.

- x What is original and innovative about the work? Will this research be of interest to other areas of research/disciplines? Who will use

#### DOMAINS OF BACKGROUND READING

This document should be appended at the end of the proposal and should delineate three domains of background reading for which the candidate is responsible in the oral examination.

This section should contain:

- a. a short (1 to 2 paragraph) statement identifying the domains, providing a brief rationale for their themes and extent considering the proposed research.
- b. an extended bibliography of the references that constitute the domains. These may be subdivided by theme or between theoretical, substantive, and methodological sources, as appropriate. Past experience suggests that a bibliography of between 50 to 100 books and/or articles would be more than sufficient to define the domains. Care should be taken to ensure that all references are cited in a complete and consistent manner according to the stylistic conventions of any major disciplinary journal.

## F THE PhD THESIS IN GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

PhD students in the Geography and Planning Department have the option of writing a traditional thesis or a manuscript thesis.

- 1 Scope: The PhD thesis is the major requirement of the program. It must comprise a coherent and unified research project in the case of a traditional thesis or a series of logically related research papers in the case of a manuscript thesis. It must be well written and display a scholarly understanding of the subject. And it must include a (or several) review(s) of previous work related to the original research conducted and a concluding summation of the thesis' contribution to the subject.
- 2 Length: While there is no set length to a Ph.D. thesis in Geography, past practice would suggest that most are 100-150 pages (gth)-5 (t)-4.



## G THE PhD THESIS DEFENSE

The regulations for the PhD thesis format, exam protocols, and final thesis submission are set by the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs.

- Initial feedback on proposal provided to candidate by supervisor(s) and committee
- 3 domains of reading established, begin developing questions
- DATESet for:
  - STEP2a: Secondmeeting (if necessary)
  - STEP3: Final proposal submission
  - NOTE:5 weeks required between FINALPROPOSALSUBMISSION (STEP 3) and QUALIFYING EXAM(STEP 6)
  - NOTE:ABON50 1.9 RAQA-3.3 (L)JTJ 0 Tc 7Tc 0 Tw 3Sf-

