The Department has offered programs leading to the Master of Arts degrees since 1948. It also offers a Pre-MA program that prepares students to qualify for Graduate Studies in Political Studies. The MA has two options: a comprehensive examination option, and a thesis option. In 1977 in association with the University of Winnipeg, the Department also established a program leading to a Master of Public Administration. Please see the Graduate Profile under Public Administration for information on the MPA program.

Program Description

The Department has won many teaching awards and has been further strengthened by a new complement of vibrant and knowledgeable faculty. Graduate students can expect small classes and an individualized learning experience. Special opportunities and events for graduate students include Legislative Internships, an annual student organized conference on international relations, and the annual Templeton Lecture on Democracy featuring leading political theorists or journalists.

The pre-MA program is designed to prepare students who have acquired an undergraduate degree, but who do not have an Honours degree in Political Studies or the equivalent for admission into the MA program. The pre-MA program requires studies in four senior undergraduate courses. It may be taken on a full-time or part-time basis.

In the MA program the comprehensive examination option involves completing four courses, comprehensive examinations in a major and minor field, and a major research paper of no more than 20,000 words. The thesis option involves completing two courses and a thesis of no more than 50,000 words in length. Either option may be taken on a full-time or part-time basis.

Research Interests of the Department

The research interests of faculty are reflected in the areas of concentration offered for graduate study in the MA program. The main areas of strength are in International Relations and Canadian Politics and Public Administration, complemented by Political Theory and Comparative Politics. Faculty interests include: security studies, foreign policy, international political economy, Canadian federalism and provincial politics, Canadian public policy, Canadian women and politics, the history of political thought, contemporary political theory, European politics, and comparative public administration.

Detailed information about individual faculty members may be found in the Graduate Programs Handbook of the Department of Political Studies as well as on the Home Page of the Political Studies Department (http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/political_studies/).

Affiliations

Individuals who complete the Manitoba Legislative Internship Programme are granted six credits toward their MA degree. These paid internships run from September to August and include study trips to Parliament and other legislatures. Information and applications are available from the Department.

The Department’s Centre for Defence and Security Studies is one of the sponsored centres of the Canadian Department of National Defence. Contact the Centre for information on graduate funding for research and study trips to Europe and other destinations:

340 University College
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2M8
Phone: (204) 474-6472
Fax: (204) 474-7645
Email: cdfs@cc.umanitoba.ca

Admissions Information

To be eligible for pre-Masters study, the applicant must have a minimum average of a B (3.0 GPA) with no grade below a B in a politics course or their major field over the last 48 credit hours. Eligibility for admission into the Master’s program requires receiving at least a second class standing (B+ or 3.5 GPA) overall. Grades in previous Political Studies courses are especially carefully reviewed.

Funding Opportunities

In addition to the University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowships, there are several specialized awards for MA students in Political Studies. These include the Duff Roblin Political Studies Fellowship (in Canadian Politics) and the Dafoe Fellowship (in International Relations). Further information on awards is available from the Department of Political Studies and from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. A limited number of graduate teaching and research assistantships are also offered on an annual competitive basis.