



Department of Political Science

GRADUATE APPLICANT INFORMATION

- This document is four pages long – read it thoroughly before you apply. You will find the checklist on page 3.
- The online application for Fall 2026 will open **on September 15, 2025**. It is your responsibility to ensure that **all** supporting documents are received before the deadlines:
December 15, 2025 for Ph.D. applications;
January 15, 2026 for M.A. applications.
- **Incomplete files will not be reviewed.** [Ready to apply?](#)
- The department only offers Fall admissions. Very important: Do not apply to start the program in winter or summer – applications for winter or summer will be cancelled, and the application fee will **NOT** be refunded.
- As of October 2012, McGill's former paper-based graduate application process was replaced with a more convenient electronic version. **You must submit and pay the application fee first BEFORE you can upload the supporting documents.** For detailed instructions on how to apply and upload required supporting documents into the application system, please see: [Submit your application](#)
- You **must** upload your documents with your online application. Do not mail paper copies to the department. Your referees will be prompted by email to upload their reference letters. These need to be submitted by the deadlines above.
- You can keep track of your application documents by logging into your online SLATE application portal.
- **ONLY SUBMIT THE REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS** listed on page 3 of this document.
- The following criteria must be met for electronic reference letters to be acceptable:
 - 1) The email communicating the electronic letters must be sent from a valid **institutional** or **corporate** email address. Electronic letters sent from public domain addresses such as Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo Mail or Videotron cannot be accepted.
 - 2) The electronic letters must be specific as to which program the student has applied.
 - 3) The electronic letters must be dated and must not be more than 12 months old.
 - 4) The referee must indicate their position and full contact information.
 - 5) The electronic letters must be on university letterhead and signed by the referee.
 - 6) Electronic letters sent from a Career Centre or Portfolio Management Company must state that the letters are confidential.

- International applicants - Please consult the International Degree Equivalencies before completing the on-line application: [International Degree Equivalency](#)
- Master of Arts applicants - Please note that we only offer a Non-Thesis option for Gender and Women's Studies. Everyone else will apply to the Thesis program. You may choose to apply to an Option program as well, but this is not necessary, nor required.
- Decisions will be posted on your account in SLATE as the decisions are made. This will typically be in mid-March for Ph.D. decisions and in April for M.A. decisions. If you do not see the decision in SLATE, this means a decision has not yet been made - check SLATE every few days from mid-March onwards.
- If you are admitted into the program, you **MUST** officially **accept** or **decline** the offer in SLATE. It is also through Slate that you would request a deferral.

Please see page 3 for the CHECKLIST



Department of Political Science

The Application Checklist

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| 1. ON-LINE APPLICATION will open September 15th, 2025 : APPLY HERE The deadlines to apply and submit your required documents are: December 15, 2025 for Ph.D. applications & January 15, 2026 for M.A. applications. | |
| 2. RESEARCH STATEMENT Ph.D. To be uploaded with your online application. This is an academic statement, and it should discuss your research intentions and agenda and why McGill's program fits your needs. Focus on a project you want to pursue at the PhD level, formulate the questions you plan to research, refer to key concepts and political science literatures that you'd be drawing on and/or research areas and/or methods that you want to focus on. The statement should not be discussing your background experiences (unless they are highly relevant to your research agenda) or your future professional plans. Do briefly explain why you think McGill is a good fit for you (for example by referring to specific professors in the department and how their research relates to your interests). MAXIMUM 2 PAGES SINGLE SPACED, CONCISE RESEARCH STATEMENT - - - M.A. To be uploaded with your online application. This is an academic statement, and it should discuss your research intentions and agenda. Focus on a project you want to pursue at the M.A. level, refer to the questions you plan to research, the key concepts and political science literature that you'd be drawing on and/or research areas and/or methods that you want to focus on. The statement should not be discussing your background experiences (unless they are highly relevant to your research agenda) or your future professional plans. Do briefly explain why you think McGill is a good fit for you (for example by referring to specific professors in the department and how their research relates to your interests). MAXIMUM 1 PAGE SINGLE SPACED, CONCISE RESEARCH STATEMENT | |
| 3. PERSONAL STATEMENT (Optional). You may upload a personal statement that describes the reasons why you are interested in graduate study in Political Science, why McGill's program fits your needs, and what your future professional plans are. This statement is not required, but applicants who wish to provide this information may do so. MAXIMUM 1 PAGE SINGLE SPACED | |
| 4. WRITING SAMPLE (Ph.D. ONLY). ONE article-length (approximately 25-35 double-spaced pages) paper or publication that demonstrates your potential. Writing samples should be single-authored. Please upload this document with your online application. | |
| 5. ONE OFFICIAL OR CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT from each University attended. For the initial application, please upload unofficial copies of transcripts (including translations). Only successful applicants will be required to submit 1 hard copy or certified copy of each transcript. Quebec University transcripts sent electronically through CREPUQ will be considered official. Make sure to contact your home institution and request documents to be sent electronically to McGill. Other applicants who completed a degree elsewhere in Canada or abroad will be asked to upload unofficial transcripts, including translations. If the applicant is admitted, they will be required to submit 1 degree conferred official hard copy of their transcripts to Enrolment Services. If your transcript is in a language other than English or French, you must provide 1 original or certified copy in your home university's official language as well as 1 certified translated copy either in English or French. Chinese Applicants: In addition to the transcripts, must also provide 1 certified copy of their Graduation Certificate and 1 certified copy of their Degree Certificate from their University. These documents must be submitted in the original language along with 1 certified English or French translation. | |
| 6. TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION Letters of recommendation should be from professors, if possible, and preferably from professors with whom applicants have studied or for whom they have worked as research assistants. Applicants must provide their referee's official email addresses when they apply. Referees will be prompted by email to upload their reference letters and answer a few mandatory | |

questions. An email prompt is usually sent to the referee within 24 to 48 hours after the application has been submitted. Reference letters are only valid for 12 months and they are not shared with the applicant. Your referees should write their letters on university or professional letterhead, and they should be sent from valid institutional email addresses.

7. CV (optional) Applicants may upload their CV with their application. Submitting your CV is recommended.

8. GRE SCORES (optional)

Use the following code to have your scores sent electronically to McGill: **McGill 0935**.

Please ensure that you write the test well in advance of the deadline for applications.

See <http://www.gre.org> for more information on registering for and taking the test.

9. TOEFL SCORES (FOR BOTH M.A. & Ph.D., IF APPLICABLE) TOEFL or IELTS is **required** for non-Canadian applicants whose mother tongue is not English and who have not *completed* a degree from a recognized institution where English is the main language of instruction. **International students whose mother tongue is not English and who completed a degree at a francophone Canadian university must also provide TOEFL/IELTS scores.**

Minimum score of 600 on paper-based test or 100 on the internet-based test with each component score not less than 20. The IELTS (International English Language Testing Systems) with a minimum overall band of 6.5 is also acceptable. See <http://www.toefl.org> for more information on registering for and taking the test. Send **TOEFL results to McGill code 0935- Political Science 89**.

IELTS RESULTS: Please select “**ARR Document Center**” or contact the test centre directly to tell them to release the results to McGill.

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/find-out-about-results/results-process/test-report-form>

DO NOT SEND IN THE RESULTS VIA MAIL/POST!