



Western  
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# Information Session

## Graduate Programs in Political Science at The University of Western Ontario

Friday November 19, 2021 1:00pm EST

Online

November 29, 2019

# Today's Agenda

1. Introductions and Etiquette
2. The Department at a Glance
3. Why Choose Western?
4. Overview of MA and PhD programs
5. Placement Outcomes
6. How to Apply
7. Q and A session

# 1. Introductions and Etiquette

- Please mute your mic.
- Submit written questions at any time using the chat function. These will be answered at the end of the presentation
- Today's presenter:
  - Dr. Christopher Alcantara  
Professor and Graduate Chair

## 2. The Department at a Glance

- 22 full-time faculty members
  - tenure stream: 18 faculty (9 male; 9 female)
  - full-time, non-tenure stream: 4
  - others on leave or retiring
- 20-25 MA and 4-8 PhD students a year.
- Main Fields: Canadian Politics; Comparative Politics; International Relations; Political Theory; Urban Politics and Local Governance
- Other areas: Political Behaviour; Race and Gender; Political Methodology (quant, qual, mixed methods)
- Research Centres/Groups:
  - 2019 Canadian Election Study and C-Dem;
  - Computational and Quantitative Social Science;
  - Political Behaviour Centre;
  - Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Resolution;
  - Urban Policy and Local Governance

# 3. Why Choose Western?

- Faculty of Social Science has ranked **among top 100** in the world;
- **Own Your Future** Program + Teaching Certificate
- Collaborative Specializations: TJ
- Excellent libraries and student supports
- City of London, Ontario: centrally located; the “Forest City”; affordable to live;

# Why Political Science at UWO?

- Faculty publish in the best journals and presses and participate in/comment on politics;
- Exciting new hires! Dr. Friesen; Dr. Finneron-Burns; new prof next year
- Co-authorship, research assistant, and teaching assistant opportunities;
- Best research methods and training in Canada (and very accessible); access to lots of data;
- Office space, Professional development workshops, Director of Placement; RTDF.

# 4. Overview of MA and PhD Programs



# MA Program

- Flexible one-year program (Fall, Winter, Summer).
- Two Options:
  - MRP: 6 half courses and a major research paper (40-50 pages);
  - Course-Intensive: 7 half courses
- MA specializations; Office Space
- Strong funding package: TA + scholarship;
- Best training for PhD, law school, private/public sector (course offerings – methods and substance)

# PhD Program

- Key principles: Training, Mentorship/Apprenticeship, Publications, Job Placement
- 4 year program.
- 13 half courses in years 1-2: methods and substance, research oriented.
- Publishing workshop in summer of year 1.
- Comprehensive Exams beginning of summer, year 2.
- Dissertation proposal and public lecture
- Dissertation (traditional monograph or by article).
- Outcome: well-trained, well published PhD graduate, expert in research area, who can communicate and work with qual and quant-oriented students and faculty across subfields.

# PhD Support

- Funding: TA/RA + scholarship for 4 years (highest among FSS programs)
  - possibility of 5<sup>th</sup> year of funding
  - teach your own course in year 4 or 5?
- Barnard (\$15K) and LaSelva (\$10K) Scholarships + EDID entrance scholarship
- Office Space
- RTDF and GRAF
- Professionalization Workshops, presentation opportunities, networking
- Supportive and research intensive faculty/student culture
  - lots of coauthoring between faculty and students and among students
  - reading groups (faculty and student-led)
- Very strong track record of PhD students re: OGS and SSHRC

# 5. PhD Placement Outcomes

- PhD academic placements include:
  - Mount Allison University, University of Manitoba, Cape Breton University, University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, University of Waterloo, University of Ottawa, University of Winnipeg, Ryerson University, University of Toronto, Durham University.
- PhD non-academic placements include:
  - Director of Policy, Office of the Ministry of Education; Contracting and Procurement Officer, Embassy of Canada; Research Associate, CREVAWC; Director of Research and Outreach, IPAC

# MA Placement Outcomes

- MA placements include:
  - Policy Advisor (CIC); Communications Assistant at Parliament of Canada; Senior Advisor of Legislative Strategy at Ontario PC Caucus; Senior Policy Analysts for B.C. government; Senior Legislative Analyst for the Treasury Board; Data Scientist, Enumerator; Law School

# How to Apply

- Deadline is January 15th
- Statement of Interest
- EDID statement
- Transcripts
- Writing Sample
- Reference Letters
- More info on department website

## 6. Q and A

- You have questions? We have answers!
- Additional questions? Contact Graduate Program Administrator Teresa McLauchlan
- 519-661-2111 ext. 85171
- [tmclauch@uwo.ca](mailto:tmclauch@uwo.ca)



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