

Ethics and Public Affairs

Our premise is that the exercise of power must be justifiable.

Students in the Ethics and Public Affairs (EPAF) programs gain unique expertise in analyzing the ethical strengths and weaknesses of options for solving public issues.

Carleton offers a PhD and two graduate diplomas for current students and qualified professionals. What makes all three of these programs unique is that they combine ethical analysis with social science. EPAF students are taught and supervised collaboratively by philosophers who research public issues along with social science and public policy specialists interested in the values underlying those issues. The guiding framework is public reason — the idea that the exercise of power must be justifiable to the people over whom it is exercised.

All of the programs start with a pair of intensive seminars, each of which addresses a particular

public issue in the context of public reason, weighing the value-based and evidence-based concerns and considerations that apply.

The PhD program is supported by a network of professionals who will offer mentorship on developing professional contacts and making research accessible to professional audiences.

Practicum courses will allow students to gain valuable work experience in government and civil society or as consultants.

Possible research topics are as varied as the expertise of Carleton faculty, including gender and other social inequalities, multiculturalism, the environment, health, international development, global inequality, human rights, good governance, and more. In this way, the EPAF programs transcend the subject-matter restrictions of other ethics programs, such as environmental ethics, bioethics and business ethics.

compete for academic jobs or for policy-related jobs in government and civil society, or as consultants. Many departments and ministries now include ethics offices that oversee ethics programs. These people identify ethical risks, develop strategies and implement plans to foster a respectful workplace.

Fall Application Deadline

January 15, for first-round consideration to the PhD program; July 1 if funding and space remain.

January 15, for the Graduate Diplomas; July 1 if space remains.

Admission Requirements

PhD: Either a master's degree in a relevant field and an A average in relevant honours or graduate courses both in (a) analytical ethics or political philosophy and in (b) social science or interdisciplinary studies; or a master's degree in a relevant field and successful performance in an EPAF graduate diploma program with an A average.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA: An average of A- or above in honours or graduate courses, with evidence of proficiency in both (a) analytical ethics or political philosophy, and (b) social science or interdisciplinary studies including social science.



Degrees Offered

PhD, Graduate Diplomas

Career Options

EPAF students will be supported and encouraged to develop conference presentations, publications and networks — both professional and academic — which will help them in their job search when they graduate. Alumni will be prepared to