

Occupational Therapy MSc(OT)

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

Occupational therapy is a dynamic, growing, and internationally recognized health profession which for close to a century has been helping to improve the lives and daily experience of children, adults, and communities by focusing on what is fundamental to us all - the daily occupations that give life meaning. As humans we engage in occupation to be productive, to learn, to recreate, and to take care of our most basic needs. Occupation is what gives purpose to our daily lives and connects us to our communities. Occupational therapists are specialists in the use of occupation to prevent disability, restore health, and ensure that all individuals and populations, regardless of health status, can experience full and meaningful lives.

“What I enjoyed about the program at Queen’s is that they emphasized the importance of building a therapeutic relationship with your clients and working as a team with other healthcare professionals.”

Why QUEEN’S?

Here at Queen’s University we are pleased to offer a graduate level educational program that prepares students to become experts in enabling occupation and leaders in the occupational therapy field within broadening, complex, and ever-changing health care environments. This program is designed to prepare you for entry-level practice as an Occupational Therapist.



GRAD MAP FOR MSc(OT) STUDENTS 



Program STRUCTURE

MSc (OT) (24 months): coursework and fieldwork placements, followed by a national exam to gain eligibility for provincial registration.

The program is structured with fieldwork placements occurring alternately with academic blocks. Each student completes three clinical and one community development fieldwork placement (~1,100 hours in total).

The majority of fieldwork placements are arranged through approved service delivery sites in the Queen’s catchment area (Cornwall in the east, Renfrew County in the north, and Ajax/Aurora in the west). Students are required to cover the costs associated with fieldwork placements. Placements are assigned with consideration for preferences, based upon the available offers and opportunities for all students to meet program requirements. International fieldwork placements are possible for students in the second year of the program.

A full description of the Program Objectives, Curriculum Design, and Academic Course Descriptions can be found on the [School of Rehabilitation Therapy \(SRT\) website](#).

TOPICS Covered

- **Communication Skills:** Therapeutic relationships, counselling and coaching; interprofessional practice
- **Community Development:** Health policy and promotion; occupational approaches to community and population change
- **Critical Inquiry:** Fundamentals of evidence-based practice; methodologies for research, evaluation and knowledge translation; critical enquiry project
- **Determinants of Occupation:** Factors that contribute to occupational performance
- **Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy:** Occupational approaches to enabling performance and participation of individuals with disability and other challenges across the lifespan



GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

Occupational Therapy MSc(OT) Map

MASTER OF SCIENCE (OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY) MSc(OT)



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Arrive prepared with pre-admission fieldwork requirements completed for Orientation Week.
- Get settled in Kingston and attend the mandatory OT Academic Orientation and Fieldwork Preparation sessions.
- Begin your course work. Consider how your course work can help with your fieldwork placements.

- Continue with your coursework and fieldwork experiences.
- Take advantage of the teamwork opportunities offered in the program.
- Engage in interprofessional learning opportunities.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs](#) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and the [SGSPA website](#).

- Complete your course work.
- Complete your critical enquiry project.
- Prepare for your National Occupational Therapy Certification Examination.

MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR PRACTICUM

- Attend all scheduled fieldwork preparation sessions at the School during the academic term.
- Identify placement preferences according to defined procedures. Complete all necessary preparations for fieldwork experiences.
- Ensure you read and understand all components of the Fieldwork Manual.
- Ensure you meet all of the pre-placement requirements set by the placement site.

- Become familiar with the routines, schedules, and responsibilities of the specific fieldwork placement as well as to the human and material resources of the setting.
- Identify, in conjunction with the preceptor, areas on which to focus learning during the placement including completion of learning objectives in collaboration with the preceptor.
- Spend time outside 'working hours' on academic/clinical pursuits related to the fieldwork placement (avg. of 1-2 hrs/night).

- Reflect on the professional skills acquired through your fieldwork experience.
- Learn how to properly articulate your skillset when applying for jobs with Career Services workshops.
- Attend the Rehab Society's annual Career Fair which is organized for graduating students (January or February).

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Rehabilitation Society for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development](#).

- Attend a major conference in your field, such as [Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists \(CAOT\)](#) and [Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists \(OSOT\)](#) annual conferences.
- Start your eportfolio documenting your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Select a critical enquiry project that will build specific skills or knowledge areas that align with your future goals.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Use your eportfolio as part of your job search strategy.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through Career Services, [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development](#), OSOT, CAOT, or other sources to boost your skills.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus such as volunteering with disability organizations and supports on campus (like the Winter Adaptive Games, Access Champions, or student organizations relevant to your own culture or life experience).

- Participate in activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- Build your skills in the public health competency of Diversity and Inclusiveness by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in areas of interest through [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists \(CAOT\)](#) and [Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists \(OSOT\)](#).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a [Career Services workshop](#) or meeting with a career educator and coach.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.

- Explore different careers of interest by using [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out [Career Cruising](#) for more information.

- Focus on your areas of interest. Research organizations of interest, use your Professional Portfolio and resume, and begin your job search plan. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- Take the National Occupational Therapy Certification Examination during November after you have met the MScOT degree requirements to meet the requirements to practice OT in your province of choice.
- Obtain mandatory professional liability insurance.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Occupational Therapy can equip you with:

- **Knowledge and technical skills**
- **Effective communication skills** in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- **Information management:** prioritize, organize, and synthesize large amounts of information
- **Time management:** meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- **Project management:** develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- **Creativity and innovation**
- **Perseverance**
- **Independence** and experience as a **collaborative** worker
- **Awareness**, an understanding of sound **ethical** practices, **social responsibility**, responsible research, and **cultural sensitivity**
- **Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership:** initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

Since Occupational Therapists are regulated health professionals, the National Occupational Therapy Certification Examination (NOTCE) is required to become a practicing OT in Canada. It is used to test candidates on both academic and professional knowledge. Each province in Canada has its own regulations that must be met by the OT candidate. Specific requirements can be found by contacting the [provincial regulatory organization](#) for the province of choice. The NOTCE is written at the end of your studies, typically in November.

A Master's degree in Occupational Therapy can take your career in many directions within the field of OT. Our Master's students are equipped for challenging opportunities in:

- Community and home care programs
- Community development in Canada and internationally
- Family health teams
- Government
- Hospitals
- Private practice clinics
- Rehabilitation centres
- Schools

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don't have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the [My Grad Map](#) tool.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's [Discover Kingston](#) page.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for admission, students must have a four-year baccalaureate degree or equivalent with a minimum second-class standing from a recognized university.
- **Grade requirements:** Upper second-class standing (B+). We consider applicants' cumulative converted GPA on a 4.0 scale for all years of undergraduate university study. Our students typically have a cumulative GPA of 80% or higher.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Intent (two essay questions which are found embedded in the ORPAS application created by the applicant.)
- Resume
- Two Confidential Reference Forms (downloadable from ORPAS application)
- Description of career goals and how the completion of the graduate degree contributes to their achievement
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs](#) requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.
- We offer Indigenous applicants the opportunity to self-identify and be considered under the Queen's School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' Indigenous Students policy. Students can also choose not to self-identify and apply through the general admission process.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** early January. Note that applications for Occupational Therapy at Queen's are all made through the Ontario Rehabilitation Science Programs Application Service (ORPAS) which can be accessed through the [OUAC website](#). The ORPAS application site opens mid-October, the deadline is early January.
- **Notification of acceptance:** mid May

Before you start your application, please review the information on the [ORPAS website](#) for Queen's applications.



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