How do I USE THIS MAP?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in AGING AND HEALTH?

Graduate studies in Aging and Health are offered through our innovative new programs that provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of aging, with a focus on health and healthy living. Students will develop multidisciplinary knowledge of individual aging processes, the effect of aging on social systems, and the policies needed to support healthy aging. The program is meant to enhance students’ ability to contribute to the development, delivery and implementation of evidence-based care, services, and policies for older adults across a range of settings.

Why QUEEN’S?

The program is full-time but can be completed from a distance, through a blended format of on-line and in-person learning. Intensive on-site sessions introduce students to core courses and the e-learning technology, as well as provide an opportunity for in-person interaction with faculty and fellow class members. Elective courses are completed at a distance, on-line. The blended format of on-site intensives and on-line components couples networking and experiential opportunities with the flexibility of distance learning.

The Queen’s University Aging and Health program positions graduates for success in a variety of settings that serve the growing population of older adults including government, universities and colleges, for-profit and non-profit organizations, business and industry and healthcare settings.

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, funding packages a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Kingston is a popular retirement destination and this provides access to many resources and opportunities related to aging and health.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both “quaint” and “eclectic,” Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

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.

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (12 months): Seven term courses (three core and four electives), plus a project.

G.Dip (8 months): Five term courses (two core courses and 3 electives).

Core COURSES

- Evaluating Aging-Related Programs and Services.
- Ethics and Biomedical Ethics of Aging
- Normal Aging Processes.
- Students in the MSc program will complete a project that develops skills for critical appraisal and integration of evidence to address a defined question related to aging and health.
**M.Sc. MAP**

**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like doing your coursework and preparing for your project.
- Determine your four elective courses.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework.
- Begin to do research for your major project.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in GSS951 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association on Gerontology.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your course work and project.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the annual conference of the Canadian Association on Gerontology.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the Skills and Experience workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services’ networking workshops.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association on Gerontology.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering or working with local community organizations that are focused on supporting healthy aging and aging in place.

**MAXIMIZE SCHOLARLY IMPACT**

- Start to think about the audiences for your project.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and other foundations related to your area of research.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, QTV, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the program director or assistant for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Get help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in GSS951 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Find a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

**WRAP-UP**

- Complete your course work and project.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the annual conference of the Canadian Association on Gerontology.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the Skills and Experience workshop.
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- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association on Gerontology.

**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

- Knowledge and technical skills in area of specialization
- Communication: effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences
- Ethical approaches to research and practice with older adults
- Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation to address complex, multifaceted challenges
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions
What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Honours Bachelor’s degree or equivalent.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+/A average over all 4 years of undergrad study.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2 copies of previous transcripts.
- 2 references, with one academic reference if you have graduated from university less than 5 years prior to application.
- Current CV e-mailed to the program assistant.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application due: April 1.
- Notification of acceptance: Applicants are encouraged to submit their application prior to the deadline as decisions will be made promptly following that date.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about fees?

- Application Fee: $105
- Program Fee: $1500 program fee to cover the cost of the on-site intensive sessions (hotel room, meals and course packs)
- Tuition Fees: The tuition fees for the 2016-2017 year was just over $3,300 per term.

Apply for external funding and see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

The Queen's University Aging and Health program positions graduates for success in a variety of settings that serve the growing population of older adults including government, for-profit and non-profit organizations. Potential career opportunities include:

- Program coordinator for seniors centres, peer-support programs, aging and wellness programs
- Fall and injury prevention coordinator and coordination for other health promotion initiatives focused on aging;
- Health professional with organizations serving aging populations
- Policy development and analysis related to aging in society
- Program evaluation for aging and health-related services

In addition, graduates of this program have taken the knowledge and skills gained in this program back to their own places of employment to contribute to the development of age-sensitive services and practices.

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