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 BIOLOGY?

There is no end to the fascinating questions we can ask about how the natural world functions, from dissecting the molecular mechanisms at play in cells to understanding the complexity of interactions in the biosphere, the beauty and mystery of nature astounds. It is an incredibly exciting time to do biological research and we are learning about the natural world at a rate unprecedented in history. The remarkable power of modern research tools, from powerful gene-editing techniques to bioinformatics to ecosystem modelling, is driving exciting discoveries daily. These discoveries are made by graduate students. Regardless of your area of interest, there is something in biology for you, questions waiting to be answered, and riddles of natural to be solved.

Why QUEEN’S?

“When I started my [Biology graduate degree] at Queen’s, all of a sudden I had this new network of friends who were interested in the same biological questions that I was – it was a ton of fun.”
– Rosyln Dakin, PhD

The Biology Department at Queen’s is one of the largest departments on campus with approximately 100 graduate students supervised by 32 faculty with research opportunities in a range of disciplines. Our faculty are world leaders in several research fields, including many Canada and Queen’s Research Chairs and winners of national and international awards for research and teaching excellence.

We offer a broad and challenging program in one of the top Biology departments in the country. We have an impressive range of sophisticated infrastructure for cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, ecology, and evolutionary research including: a confocal microscopy suite, DNA and RNA sequencing services, aquatic research facilities, and a state-of-the-art phytotron. Our field station, comprising more than 3200 hectares of woodland, fields and lakes is a short drive away and has excellent research facilities and living quarters.

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. With some of 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.

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

PhD (4 years): research thesis and defense. (Some courses may be required.)

RESEARCH Areas

- Animal Physiology
- Cell and Molecular Biology
- Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour
- Plant Sciences
- Mathematical Modeling & Bioinformatics
Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A PhD in Biology can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academia and teaching
- Agriculture
- Pharmacy and medicine
- Environmental law, patent law
- Government research centres and organizations
- Biotechnology industries
- Wildlife conservation and environmental consulting

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

Ph.D. Career Outcomes in Canada