Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Master’s degree in Education or a related discipline with first-class standing from a recognized university.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Professional experience in education or a related field is an asset.
• Two-page research proposal. 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 requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, TOEFL iBT: Writing (20/30), 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.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application due: January 15
• Notification of acceptance: Late February

What about FUNDING?
Minimum funding guarantee for PhD students is $18,000. Funding packages are awarded to students who apply for it as part of their application for admission based on academic merit and they may consist of any or a combination of the following: scholarships, fellowships, external awards, internal awards, research assistantships, teaching assistantships or graduate teaching fellowships. The Faculty also offers funding for participation in international conferences.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically consider your application for funding opportunities. Whether you are considering, or have embarked upon, 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.

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 succeed, both academically and personally. Check out the SGS, HABITAT 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. With over 130 graduate programs throughout more than 50 departments and research centres, you will find friends, peers and support among our graduate students. 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.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in EDUCATION?
Graduate students and their work are an integral part of our research, teaching and service community as we work together to explore ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social and technological phenomena within education. Through a PhD degree in Education at Queen’s University, our students develop leadership skills, including critical reflection, research and writing, that prepare them for a variety of careers.

Why QUEEN’S?
One of the many advantages of the Faculty of Education at Queen’s is our community spirit. Teacher candidates, graduate students, faculty, and staff work collaboratively in a supportive and inclusive environment that frequently brings us together through our shared passion for education, community events and activities.

Program STRUCTURE
PhD (4 years): Four terms of course work, comprehensive examination, thesis, and defence.

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, and field exams.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

**YEAR II**
- Priorities include completion of coursework, formation of supervisory committee and completion of mandatory comprehensive examination.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with Expanding Horizons, professional development workshops and the Education Associate Dean, and the SGSS Habitat.
- Seek professional development opportunities.

**YEAR III**
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation.
- Check out the SGSS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defense examiners.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS) about getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGSS or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal CFRC and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations. See the Faculty of Education Community Outreach Centre for ways to get involved.
- Connect to broader communities of Education researchers through professional associations such as the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) or the American Education Research Association.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organization of conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as Ministries of Education, School Boards, Educational non-profitable organizations.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations. See the Faculty of Education Community Outreach Centre for ways to get involved.
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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding a career fits with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out careers on LinkedIn or the Queen’s Alumni Association.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations. See the Faculty of Education Community Outreach Centre for ways to get involved.
- Connect to broader communities of Education researchers through professional associations such as the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) or the American Education Research Association.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- A graduate degree in Education can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - 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
  - Practical knowledge: the acquisition of specific practical knowledge in various areas of work
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
  - Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
- A PhD in Education 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 government, industry, government, or non-profits.
  - University faculty/researchers
  - Post-doctoral fellows
  - Researchers at research agencies and school boards
  - Leaders in health sciences and government
  - Provincial and Territorial Departments of Education
  - Educational Organizations
  - Teachers
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and to network, can help you achieve a smooth transition to employment after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!