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, (C) 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 Academic: 65.

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

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

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 issue a $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships

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.

RESEARCH Areas
• Curriculum Theorizing
• Educational Studies
• Learning and Cognition
• Literacy Education
• Measurement, Assessment, Policy, Leadership and Evaluation
• Special Education
• Aboriginal and World Indigenous Educational Studies

We highly recommend you identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying. Faculty members in the Faculty of Education are approachable, accessible and collaborative. They can be invaluable in supporting your application for admission. Visit the Faculty of Education website to read faculty profiles and watch videos highlighting faculty research to learn more about faculty members’ research areas.
YEAR I

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, researchers’ occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

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 SSPPC, 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 SGPS or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the GSI Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- 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 (CSSSE) in the American Education Research Association.
- 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.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. 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.

YEAR II

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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, the Education Associate Dean, and the SGS Habitat.
- Seek professional development opportunities.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as ScholarShare or the Rosa Bruno-Jofré Symposium in Education.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Begin to keep an epistemology of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SS5901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

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.

YEAR III

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS 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 defence examiners.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Present at professional and topic conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Begin to teach as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs or other sources.
- Prepare for work or study in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUGS’ Intercultural Competency Certificate.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- 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. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Practice articulation of the skills you have learned in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.
- Get help from a Career Services workshop.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Join professional associations like the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSSE) or the American Education Research Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Education research.

YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Begin to focus on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Education research.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- 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.

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
- 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?

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 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.