Why **GRADUATE STUDIES in EPIDEMIOLOGY**?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of the ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding health problems that occur at a local, regional, national, and even global level. Students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of disease incidence and prevalence, critically review scientific literature related to community health and epidemiology, collect and analyse data, and more.

The goal of the Master’s in Epidemiology program is to provide a common methodological foundation from which to conduct research in human populations across diverse health-related areas. The scope of the field of epidemiology is broad; it includes a range of content areas and methodologies. Depending upon their focus, students learn about various research designs, biostatistics, program evaluation, health economics, as well as how to design surveys or use administrative data.

“Combined with the intimate and supportive environment cultivated by the faculty, the Queen’s Epidemiology program is an outstanding choice for your graduate career!”

– Atif Kukaswadia, PhD

**Program STRUCTURE**

MSc (2 years): Course work (4 core courses, 3 electives) and a thesis. Part-time studies are an available option.

**Research AREAS**

- Epidemiology and Population Health
- Health Services and Policy Research
- Clinical Epidemiology

**Why QUEEN’S?**

At Queen’s, our established strengths are in the areas of cancer, injury, obesity, disability, and mental health epidemiology as well as research in various health services contexts including public health, primary care, cancer care and critical care. We also have some emerging strengths in the areas of Northern health, Aboriginal health, and global health studies.

Visit the [Epidemiology website](#) to learn about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.
Epidemiology MSc MAP *

GETTING STARTED

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Begin your coursework.
- Identify a thesis supervisor and research project.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your Master's thesis.
- 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- Start thinking about the audiences for your research.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as 
  Kingston Community Health Centres.
- Consider joining professional associations like the 
  Kingston General Hospital, Hotel Dieu, KFL&A Public Health Unit, and 
  Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Canadian Society for 
  Public Health.
- Consider positions in student services, the 
  AMS Clubs, the 
  Health Sciences Student Association (PHSSA) 
  or media outlets like 
  the Queen's Journal, CFRC, SGS Blog, 
  SGS Campus Magazine, SGS Habitat, or media outlets like 
  Queen's Journal, CFRC, SGS Blog, SGS Campus Magazine.
- Consider participating in the 
  3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Consider participating in the 
  3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Collect and/or analyze and interpret health data.
- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and thesis committee.
- Obtain permission to attend a 
  conference.
- Present your research to Epidemiology graduate students and faculty.
- Choose your thesis format: Traditional or manuscript based.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis (Epidemiology).
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the 
  Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the CSEB national 
  conference. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor 
  for advice on which ones would be most relevant.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest 
  for different career pathways.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers 
  of interest through 
  Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the 
  Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a 
  Career Services workshop.
- Consider participating in the 
  3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Consider participating in the 
  3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in different 
  forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a 
  Career Services 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's Connects on LinkedIn, the 
  Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a 
  Career Services workshop.
- Develop programs of interest reach out to 
  faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers 
  of interest. Craft your CV or resume and job application materials.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest 
  and start putting together your industry resume and beginning 
  of your job search plan. Get help from Career Services with 
  job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Critically review the scientific literature.
- Design an epidemiologic research study.
- Defend your thesis proposal.
- Begin your research.
- Collect and/or analyze and interpret health data.
- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and thesis committee.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the CSEB student 
  conference.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- 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 
  SGS909 or the 
  PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through 
  activities such as student professional programs, organizing 
  conferences, and research groups like 
  Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking 
  qualifications: Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an 
  International Student Advisor.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of 
  interest through 
  Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the 
  Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a 
  Career Services workshop.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading 
  alumni profiles on the 
  SGS website, and using 
  Queen's Connects on LinkedIn to connect with 
  Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through 
  Ask an Alumni.
- 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.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Identify a thesis supervisor and research project.
- Obtain permission to attend a 
  conference.
- Present your research to Epidemiology graduate students and faculty.
- Choose your thesis format: Traditional or manuscript based.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis (Epidemiology).
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the 
  Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the CSEB national 
  conference. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor 
  for advice on which ones would be most relevant.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest 
  and start putting together your industry resume and beginning 
  of your job search plan. Get help from Career Services with 
  job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- A graduate degree in Epidemiology 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 Master's degree in Epidemiology can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students (96%) find jobs within 
  6 months of graduation. Some choose to continue their academic inquiry with a 
  PhD or an MD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for 
  careers in:
  - Data Analysis (Health units, government agencies)
  - Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, 
    public health units)
  - Project management in pharmaceutical and scientific research industries
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you find 
  a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
**Application FAQs**

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- 4-year Bachelor's degree.
- All students must also have sound math skills. See the Department's website for a self-assessment of essential mathematics background.
- Grade requirements: An overall average of 75% in undergraduate studies.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
- 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, (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.
- The GRE is a mandatory requirement for applicants from non-Canadian universities and a minimum score of 149 is required on the quantitative section.

**KEY DATES & DEADLINES**
- Application due: January 31 to qualify for internal funding.
- Application review begins in mid-February.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

**What about FUNDING?**

The MSc in Epidemiology does not guarantee a minimum funding amount. The Department provides individual funding packages for full-time students (years 1 and 2) in the program, based upon the student’s academic standing and on the sources of money available each year. These packages are funded through a combination of external awards, internal awards, internal departmental awards, faculty support, teaching assistantships, graduate research assistant fellowships, and research assistantships.

Apply for external funding from CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCF, the Department of Defence, the Canadian Cancer Society and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $5,000 top-up to students who are granted a federal tri-council award in their first year of study. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships and the department's graduate awards page.

---

**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 [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. 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.

---

**Sue Preston**, Graduate Assistant  
(613) 533-2600  
epid@queensu.ca  
queensu.ca/phs