Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NEUROSCIENCE?

The multidisciplinary graduate program in Neuroscience is educating the next generation of leaders who will build on the progress in reducing the impact of neurological disorders. Top students from across North America and beyond come to the Centre to learn in a collaborative environment where they can learn from the best minds in the field. The Neuroscience graduate program is firmly rooted in research because our objective is to produce highly-trained graduates who will continue our efforts to prevent and treat neurological diseases. The program offers studies spanning the full spectrum of neuroscience research, from cellular/molecular to clinical studies.

Why QUEEN’S?

At the forefront of discovery and innovation is the Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) at Queen’s University. A hub of multidisciplinary research and teaching aimed at improving the understanding of the brain, how it works and how new therapies and diagnoses can play an important role in the prevention and treatment of diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Stroke, Obesity, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Schizophrenia, Behavioral Disorders, and Depression.

“The right from the day I started at the Centre for Neuroscience Studies, it felt like family. The camaraderie and support you get is amazing.”

– Alicia Peltsch, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full time): Course work, research project, seminar series, thesis, defense, and a comprehensive examination in 2nd year.

Research AREAS

- Cellular/Molecular Neuroscience
- Systems Neuroscience
- Cognitive/Behavioural Neuroscience
- Clinical Neuroscience
- Computational Neuroscience

Visit the Neuroscience website to learn more about faculty members and their 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.
# Neuroscience PhD MAP

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

## Achieve Your Academic Goals

**YEAR I**
- Key priorities include enrolling in research, completing your required research and your first year seminar, and fulfilling the 1st year of your PhD thesis.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services or a safety net for support.

**YEAR II**
- Priorities include publishing research, completing your comprehensive exam, and writing your Annual Report.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons workshops and the SGS Habitak.
- Complete AODA training in accessible customer service.

**YEAR III**
- Continue to research, write your dissertation and finish your Annual Report. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine your dissertation material.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Present your research to Neuroscience graduate students and faculty.
- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue publication options.
- Complete PhD Thesis Form Part 2 at least 4 months prior to defense, and your Annual Report.

## Maximize Research Impact

**YEAR I**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics.
- Apply to CHIR, NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field such as the Society for Neuroscience (SFN) or the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN).

**YEAR II**
- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

**YEAR III**
- Continue to present at 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.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- 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

**YEAR I**
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CTFG, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**YEAR II**
- Hone your field for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an epoporto of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS901 or the PUBL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**YEAR III**
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTR, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the InterCultural Competency Certificate.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

## Engage with your Community

**YEAR I**
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Neuroscience Outreach Program.
- Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.

**YEAR II**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.

**YEAR III**
- 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**
- Consider joining one of the many professional associations like the Society for Neuroscience (SFN) or the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN).
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in biomedical and molecular sciences.

## Launch your Career

**YEAR I**
- Find 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? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Stay on the lookouts for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- 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 in different alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**YEAR III**
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing 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.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- 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.

## Where Can I Go?

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

- *Post-doctoral study or academia*
- *Outreach education*
- *Scientific writing*
- *Medical industry*
- *Pharmaceutical companies*
- *Medical school*

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

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.*
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- A Master's degree in Neuroscience, or in a field with a strong neuroscience and research component.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest.
- Current CV.
- 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.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: To be eligible for internal awards, applications must be submitted by February 1st. Applications received after the deadline will be accepted based on supervisor availability.

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

What about FUNDING?

PhD students in Neurosciences are offered a minimum funding of $23,000 per year. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant, but it is not guaranteed. The Centre for Neuroscience offers numerous academic awards. Applicants to the Centre for Neuroscience program with external funding awards will have a greater opportunity of being accepted to the program.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR/NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Master's winners of federal government tri-council awards. See the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships for more.