Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Master’s degree in Nursing or equivalent. Applicants without an undergraduate university degree in nursing will be considered on an individual basis, and are strongly encouraged to contact the School of Nursing to discuss this opportunity prior to applying.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average over core courses.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Two academic letters of reference.
- Registration (or eligibility to register) as a Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- Statement of academic, research and professional plans.
- Questions for Doctoral Nursing Program
- 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, (internet-based): 79; IELTS: 6.5; PTE: B2/B2 (general band score), or (C) IELTS: 6.5 (academic module overall band score), or (D) TOEFL: 79.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application deadline: February 1st, or until all seats are filled.
- Notification of acceptance: mid-March to early April.

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

What about FUNDING?

In keeping with the School of Graduate Studies policy, eligible full-time Ph.D. students qualify for research assistantships (RA), teaching assistantships (TA), teaching fellowships (TF), Queen’s Graduate Awards (QGA) and internal awards.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from CIHR, 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 on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies website on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the School of Nursing.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NURSING?

Consider a graduate degree in Nursing for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical thinking, writing, and research and, perhaps even more importantly, skills to facilitate change in today’s health care system. Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the health care system with ways of understanding phenomena using multiple ways of knowing.

Today’s employment marketplace seeks people who can critically analyze information and evidence, synthesize in both scholarly and public reports, create new knowledge, and lead change and transformation. Nurse leaders and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEENS’?

Starting in the Fall 2018, the School of Nursing at Queen’s will be offering a Blended Delivery PhD program. This innovative program will prepare graduates with analytical and research skills required to expand knowledge of clinical, theoretical, and health systems issues. Our students are taught primarily in small graduate seminars, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of philosophy and research, and delve into their own research. Nurtured by close mentoring relationships with faculty supervisors, students engage early and continuously in research, and successfully complete the program in 4 years. Situated in an academic environment that embodies scholarship, graduates are well-prepared as leaders in research and scholarship, clinical practice and health care administration.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, comprehensive exam, research thesis.

RESEARCH Areas

Practice environments
- Models of care
- Leadership
- Workplace culture, structure and health
- Communication strategies and systems

Populations with complex conditions
- Optimizing function and well-being
- Multimorbidity
- Mental health and/or addictions
- Outcomes monitoring

Health care quality
- Advancing safety
- Risk assessment and reduction
- Educational and technological innovations
- Health system service and delivery

and more

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

www.queens.ca/sgs

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact.
Nursing PhD MAP *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Complete 5 courses.
• 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Think about audiences for your research.
• Complete Course on Research Ethics (CORE).
• Apply to Tri-Council, OGS, and other funding.
• Attend the Graduate Nursing Program Research Day, the JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Workshop, and participate in biweekly Academic Series.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
• Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs) for tips on getting involved.
• Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CPRG, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
• Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

• Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
• Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, cultural studies groups, or local healthcare organizations or groups.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

• Finding 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 to keep track of new, non-academic labor market websites.
• Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Academic Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Write your comprehensive exams.
• Form your thesis committee, embark on your substantive research, and write and defend your thesis proposal.
• Consider enrolling in additional electives that may benefit your research and career goals.
• Seek experiential/professional development opportunities. Attend PhD Seminar every other week.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Attend and present at the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research day, in biweekly Academic Series, through professional associations, or at topic conferences.
• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
• Apply to National Training Programs such as the Canadian Frailty Network or TUTOR PHC.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
• Start keeping an e-portfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
• For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (Visit in GSP501 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, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
• If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as Fulbright Scholarships.

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 post-thesis defence examiners.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• 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 the media about your work. Check out the Nursing and Health Research webpage.
• Attend and present at the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research Day.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

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

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

• Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, or 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 and examination 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.
• Attend and present at the Annual Grad Nursing Program Research Day.
• Attend and present in biweekly Academic Series.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• 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

• Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Canadian Association for Nursing Research.
• Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Nursing.

YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Consider participating in the MAT* MAP.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Continue 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Nursing 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 Nursing 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. Graduates from the Nursing PhD program have found careers as:

• Professors
• Advanced Practice Nurses
• Healthcare Administrators
• Researchers
• Deans or Directors

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

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

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*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.

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