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.
- Copy of Curriculum Vitae (Resume)
- Questions for Doctoral Nursing Program
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (T)OEFL 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 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 incoming PhD students who have won federal government trow-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the School of Nursing.

**Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN NURSING?**

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 for careers as leaders in research and scholarship, clinical practice and health care administration.

**Why QUEEN’S?**

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 helping 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. Keep in mind that certain resources, such as Career workshops, may not be available while you are completing your degree off-campus.

**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.

**GRADUATE STUDIES FAQS**

**How do I use this map?**

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. 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?**

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**YEAR I**

**ACCHIEVE 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.

- Write your comprehensive exams.
- Form your thesis committee, embark on your substantive research, and work on 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**

- 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 Systematic Review Training Workshop, and participate in biweekly Academic Series.

- 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 Research Programs, such as the Canada Frailty Network, or TUTOR PHC.

**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 SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AHS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- Hone your skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in GST901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**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.

- 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 opportunities such as Fulbright Scholarships.

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different career 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 Alum. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to career of interest.

**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 explore non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**

- Write your comprehensive exams.
- Form your thesis committee, embark on your substantive research, and work on 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.

- 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.
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**YEAR III**

- 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.

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

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

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- 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 Graduate Nursing Program Research Day.

**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 and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

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**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
- Persistence
- 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.