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. Study Nursing and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEEN’S?

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.

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.

Visit the School of Nursing website to read faculty profiles and learn more 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.

“I loved the collegial atmosphere provided by the caring and supportive faculty. It was at Queen’s that I developed my thirst for knowledge through evidence based research.”
– Judeline Innocent, RN, PhD (2013)
**Nursing PhD MAP**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

**YEAR I**
- 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.

**YEAR II**
- 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.

**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 defense examiners.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences 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

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

**YEAR II**
- 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 Canadian Frailty Network, or **TUTOR-PHC**.

**YEAR III**
- Attend and present at the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research Day.
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- Attend in biweekly Academic Series.

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

**YEAR I**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Program) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the **SGPS** or media outlets like the **Queen's Journal**- **CFRC** and the **SGS Blog**, Look in the **AMT Club Directory**.
- Use a Teaching Assistant in your Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**YEAR II**
- Hone 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 (Enroll in SGS901) or the **PUTL certificate** for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**YEAR III**
- 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 **OUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate**.

### 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, museums, cultural studies groups, or local healthcare organizations or groups.

**YEAR II**
- Participate in your gradate 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, look in the **CFRC** and the **SGPS Programs** for tips on getting involved.
- Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Program) for advice on So What Are You Going to do With That? Career Services career planning workshop.

**YEAR III**
- Consider enrolling in additional electives that may develop in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

**YEAR I**
- Finding career fits 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**
- Build your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading **alumni profiles** on the SGS website, and using **QueenConnects** on LinkedIn to connect with **Queen's alumni** or find alumni in various careers through **Ask an Alum** or 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, through **QueenConnects, on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association**, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue internships 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?**
- Ph.D. in Nursing can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all Ph.Ds 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, research scientists, leaders, deans or directors.

**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, understanding of sound ethical practice, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
  - Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links! *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
- 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 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 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' information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the School of Nursing.