Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PATHOLOGY & MOLECULAR MEDICINE?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social and technological phenomena. Graduate students in Pathology and Molecular Medicine have opportunities to pursue comprehensive training in basic and translational biomedical research. They pursue advanced degrees under the supervision of an exceptional group of basic, clinical and translational researchers.

Why QUEEN’S?

Queen’s is a great setting to learn first-hand how the fast pace of molecular genetic research is changing clinical practice, leading to exciting new diagnostic and treatment approaches for cancer and other diseases.

With a focus on cancer – 12 of our 20 investigators are cancer biologists – our department members deliver comprehensive diagnostic laboratory and clinical services to Southeastern Ontario through the Kingston General Hospital, offering great training for the next generation of biomedical research scientists and laboratory physicians.

Research AREAS

- Cancer Research and Developmental Biology
- Human Genetics and Cytogenetics
- Hemostasis, Thrombosis Research, and Vascular Biology

Visit the Pathology and Molecular Medicine 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, area of research interest and related experience. Please include a current CV, contact information for 2-3 references who would be familiar with your academic performance and any research experience and an unofficial transcript.

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years): Course work, research demonstrating experimental competence, and a thesis.

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs
Pathology & Molecular Medicine MSc MAP

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- 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.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCF, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine.

**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, such as the Canadian Cancer Society, Kingston General Hospital and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like 30 Things You Will Do With That Or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**GETTING STARTED**

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA).
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- 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. Enroll in SGS901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**WRAPPING UP**

- 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.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Pathology & Molecular Medicine 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**

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A Master’s degree in Pathology & Molecular Medicine can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- **Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)**
- **Pharmaceutical companies**
- **Academic labs**
- **Scientific supply companies**
- **Administration in academic, health care or government settings**
- **Teaching positions in academic institutions or the private sector**
- **Technical positions in academic institutions or the private sector**
- **Marketing positions in private sector companies**

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.
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. The 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?

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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

• Honours BSc or equivalent in life sciences, biochemistry, biology, etc with at least a B+ average. (Students with only a general degree can be admitted for a qualifying year.)
• We consider all of your grades, but pay particular attention to the last two years of science-related courses.

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.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

• Application due: February 1st to be considered for internal funding.
• Notification of acceptance: Quickly pending confirmation of a supervisor.

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

What about FUNDING?

We offer our Master’s students minimum funding of $21,700. For internal, provincial and national competitive award winners, the funding package increases by 2.5%, 5% and 10% respectively.

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.