

Physical Therapy MSc(PT) Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MSc(PT) STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PHYSICAL THERAPY?

The mission of the Master's of Science of Physical Therapy (MScPT) program is to provide an outstanding learning environment for the education of future physical therapy professionals. With critical inquiry and evidence-based practice as the foundation, the program promotes the acquisition of advanced academic knowledge, skills and behaviours that are essential for a primary health care provider in a complex and continually evolving health care environment. The overall aim of the MScPT program is to ensure that the graduate acquires the essential competencies of a practicing physical therapist and has the ability to provide leadership within a changing health care environment.

Why QUEEN'S?

The School of Rehabilitation Therapy was established by Queen's University in 1967 to meet the needs of the local population. We continue to make active contributions to and engage with the members of our local community. Through interprofessional and international research collaborations, community development projects and many other initiatives, our work has expanded and enabled us to contribute to the daily lives of individuals and communities regionally, nationally and internationally.



Program STRUCTURE

As a full-time, continuous, 24 month long program, the MScPT program is structured as a series of 14 "blocks". Each block is 7 weeks in length. Nine blocks are devoted to academic instruction on campus and 5 blocks are assigned clinical placement experiences.

The majority of your clinical placement experiences will be arranged in facilities within the Queen's University catchment area. Catchment boundaries normally include Whitby in the west; Cornwall in the east, and Orillia/Midland in the north). For each placement, students have the opportunity to rank their top 5 preferences from a list of available placements. Placements are assigned based on student preferences and a priority system to ensure students are given experiences in multiple practice settings to meet the program requirements. Typically, there is no financial support to cover the costs associated with clinical placement. For international placements, there may be additional funding available through the Student Experience Fund. You will complete approximately 1,125 hours in clinical placements, in diverse practice settings in order to meet graduation criteria.

"I currently work at a clinic that has a few hopeful Queen's PT applicants for this year. Talking to them made me reflect on just how amazing my time at Queen's really was."

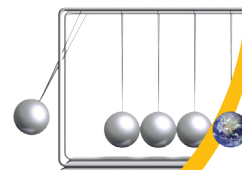
– Jesse Awenus, MSc PT

Upon successfully completing the MScPT program at Queen's University, graduates may apply to the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators to take the Physiotherapy Competency Examination.

The examination must be successfully completed in order to attain professional registration to practice as a physical therapist in Canada.

A full description of the program objectives, curriculum design and academic course descriptions can be found on the [School of Rehabilitation Therapy \(SRT\) website](#).

School of
Graduate
Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs



Physical Therapy MSc(PT) MAP *

MASTER OF SCIENCE (PHYSICAL THERAPY) MSc(PT)



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Get settled in Kingston and begin your course work.
- Consider how your course work can help with your placements.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from the school and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the Associate Director, and the [SGS Habitat](#).

MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR PLACEMENTS

- Consider your preferred work setting/environment.
- Talk to your supervisor for insight on the types of skills you hope to gain.

GAIN ADDITIONAL 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 school, faculty or university committees, such as the [Rehab Society](#). Talk to the [SGPS](#) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [Expanding Horizons](#).

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Take advantage of your free student membership and join the [Canadian Physiotherapy Association](#). You will also receive free information from the 14 [Specialty Divisions of CPA](#).
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus, such as volunteering with disability organizations and supports on campus (like the Winter Adaptive Games, Access Champions or being part of [QHIP](#)).
- Consider volunteering with different community disability organizations.

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 counsellor. Check out books like *Physical Therapy Career and Salary Advice* from the [Career Resource Area](#) for advice on various career options.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student [Career Week](#) to explore your career pathways.

- Participate in clinical skills labs to gain and master physiotherapy skills, and learn skills needed to critically appraise research in the field of physical therapy.
- Take part in valuable class and teamwork activities including lectures, discussion, and problem solving through challenging cases with support from experienced clinicians and faculty members
- Apply critical thinking skills to clinical cases in class and on clinical placement.

- Work toward achieving the required experiences to satisfy graduation criteria.
- Get help from Career Services with [job searching](#), [resumes](#), or [interviews](#).

- Attend a conference in your field, such as the [Ontario Physiotherapy Association's Interaction](#), the [Canadian Physiotherapy Association's \(CPA\) Leadership Forum](#), the [CPA's Congress](#), or the [World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress](#).
- Start your eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- Build your skills in the public health competency of Diversity and Inclusiveness by taking QUIC's [Intercultural Competency Certificate](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](#) on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "[Ask an Alum](#)".
- Check out the free online modules at [MyGradSkills](#) to help you plan your career.

- Complete your course work.

- Reflect on the professional skills acquired through your clinical experience.
- Learn how to properly articulate your skillset when applying for jobs with Career Services workshops.
- Attend the Rehab Society's annual Career Fair which is organized for graduating students (January or February).

- 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.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Canadian Physiotherapy Association](#) or the [Ontario Physiotherapy Association](#) as a new graduate.

- Focus on your areas of interest. Research organizations of interest, use your Competency Portfolio and resume, and begin your job search plan. Get help from Career Services while executing your job search.
- Take the [Physiotherapy Competency Exam \(PCE\)](#) after you have met the MScPT degree requirements to meet the requirements to practice PT in the province of your choice.
- Obtain mandatory professional liability insurance.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The curriculum follows a competency-based framework in which the specific goal is to prepare individuals to undertake the roles of a physical therapist in Canada. A graduate degree in Physical Therapy 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 Master's degree in Physical Therapy can take your career in many directions within the field of PT. Our Master's students are equipped for challenging opportunities in:

- Hospitals and rehabilitation centres
- Outpatient clinics
- Private practices
- Primary care teams, including Family Health Teams and Community Health Centres
- Community agencies
- Home care
- Children's treatment centres and school health programs
- Multidisciplinary health care teams
- Sports physiotherapy clinics
- Government
- Policy and professional organizations
- International development and aide organizations

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

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

- **Grade requirements:** The admissions process to the Queen's MScPT program is highly competitive. To be eligible for admission, students must first have a four-year baccalaureate degree or equivalent with a minimum second-class standing (B-) from a recognized university. Subsequent to this initial requirement, further academic requirements include cum-GPA and sub-GPA cut-off values. The actual cut-off mark is based on the applicant pool. In 2017, the sub-GPA cut-off was 3.68.
- **Course prerequisites:** Courses in introductory psychology, statistics, human anatomy, and human physiology

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Queen's Physical Therapy Personal Submission Form questions.
- Two Confidential Reference Forms (downloadable from ORPAS website).
- Documented evidence (through volunteer work, community service or personal experience) of strong interest in the profession of physical therapy, knowledge of the profession and desire to work with people of all ages
- Canadian Citizenship or Canadian Permanent Resident Status
- Completion of [prerequisite courses](#)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants who have resided in Canada or another English speaking country for less than three years as of the first day of the month of the term in which students are to begin must achieve a satisfactory score on one of the following tests:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - minimum score required: 250 for computer-based test; 94 for iBT.
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) - minimum score required: 80.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - minimum score required: 8.

For a complete list of admission requirements, view the [MScPT Admission Requirements](#).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application opens:** Mid-October
- **Application deadline:** Early January through ORPAS
- **Notification of acceptance:** Mid-May

What about FEES?

You are not technically eligible to apply for a bursary before becoming a registered student at Queen's University, however, you may be eligible for bursary assistance through student awards, including OGS bursaries and the Queen's General Bursary. In addition, every second year the Program offers the Terrible Goldman Sachs Scholarship to an incoming student whose parents immigrated to Canada.



FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

Kathy Grant, Physical Therapy Program Assistant
(613) 533-6000 ext. 79141
ptinfo@queensu.ca
rehab.queensu.ca/programs/msc_pt