Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A Master’s degree in Psychology 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:

- Academia and research
- Government agencies
- Private sector
- Clinical/Hospitals
- Correctional Services Canada
- Private practice

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

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a particularly diverse profession encompassing research, teaching and applied work. While the two former activities are relevant mainly, but by no means exclusively to universities, applied psychologists work in a wide variety of settings including: industry, management, the school systems, private practice, penitentiaries, and hospitals. Like members of all professions, the conduct of psychologists whether they are engaged in practice, teaching or research, is regulated by principles, standards and by statute. In Ontario, persons who call themselves a psychologist must meet at least, one of three criteria they must be a university professor, be employed in a psychologist’s position by the federal penitentiary service, or must be registered.

Why QUEEN’S?

“I find that I’m getting a really good balance of experiences here. I had the opportunity to travel a lot. In the last two years, I’ve presented at conferences in Halifax, Chicago, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.”

- Karen Blair, PhD

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both ‘Quaint’ and ‘Teletic,’ Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

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 information about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

M.Sc. Career Outcomes in Psychology


Program STRUCTURE

M.Sc. (2 years): course work, and thesis/ dissertation

RESEARCH Areas

- Brain Behaviour, and Cognitive Science
- Clinical Psychology
- Developmental
- Social/Personality
GETTING STARTED

- 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 dissertation/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 Tri-Council funding.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the *SGSS* or media outlets like the *Queen's Journal* CFRC, QTV and the *SGS Blog* for tips on getting involved.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the *Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSP)* for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from *Expanding Horizons* and the history department.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations and events, such as the *Get Your Back! campaign*.

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*.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the *Intercultural Competency Certificate*.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an *International Student Advisor*.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the *Career Services Career Planning workshop* or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like *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 Students’ *Career Week* to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your dissertation/thesis.
- Complete the human and/or animal research ethics training.

WRAPPING UP

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Knowledge and technical skills in area of specialization
- Communication: effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation: to address complex, multifaceted challenges
- Perseverance: to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome
- Independence: and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical, social, and professional practices, social responsibility: responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions

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