Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Master's degree in Psychology from a recognized university.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores: Scores above the 60th percentile are required.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements for TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE Academic, which include:
  - IELTS: 6.5.
  - PTE Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: December 1.
- Notification of acceptance: Decisions begin on December 1.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. This basic funding package includes a combination of fellowships, scholarships, and teaching assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government-to-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the Psychology Department.

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?

The graduate program in Psychology at Queen's is internationally renowned for its excellent faculty and students, its innovative training and the value of its research, scholarship and skill development. We offer a wide range of Programs in core and related areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on research, teaching and applied skills. Our Department and Queen's host world-class researchers and a number of state-of-the-art techniques and laboratories. We offer a wide range of financial support options, including teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and research fellowships. The Department of Psychology at Queen's is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community of scholars, and we welcome applications from all qualified applicants.

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 culture, see the Kingston waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Graduate Studies FAQs

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**Achieve Your Academic Goals**

- **Year I**
  - Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
  - 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.
  - Complete the human/animal research ethics training.

- **Year II**
  - Write and defend your thesis proposal.
  - Embark on your substantive research.
  - Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of "Expanding Horizons".
  - Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

- **Year III**
  - Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation.
  - Check out the "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.

- **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.

**Maximize Research Impact**

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete "ROMEO online module" on research ethics if doing research with human or sensitive topics.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

- **Year I**
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences such as the "Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference" or the "European Congress of Psychology".
  - Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- **Year II**
  - 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 news outlets about your work. List yourself in "the Arts and Science University Research website".

- **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 QuHRI's Intercultural Competency Certificate." 

- **Year IV & Transitioning**
  - "Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop." 
  - Complete a one-year internship placement at a CRA/ APA-accredited internship site in North America.

**Build Skills and Experience**

- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the "Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGS)" 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 "AMS Club Directory".
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- **Year I**
  - "Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in curriculum." 
  - "Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies." 
  - "For help with teaching, get support from the "Centre for Teaching and Learning" (CTL) in SGSS201 or the "PUTL" certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning."

- **Year II**
  - "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 news outlets about your work. List yourself in "the Arts and Science University Research website".

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**Engage with Your Community**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through extracurricular opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations and events, such as the "Got Your Back!" campaign.

- **Year I**
  - "Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters." 

- **Year II**
  - "Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the "Queen's Alumni Association", professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop."

- **Year III**
  - "Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association."
  - "Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest."

**Launch Your Career**

- "Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to 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" to follow non-academic labour market websites."
- "Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways."

- **Year I**
  - "Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship." 
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGPS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum". For more information check out "Career Counseling."

- **Year II**
  - "Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest."
  - "Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials."
  - "Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan."
  - "Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career."

- **Year III**
  - "Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews 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?**

A PhD in Psychology 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.

- "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 have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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