

Your Guide to **Grad School**



There are many choices and directions Queen's undergraduate students have upon graduation including work, travel, family responsibilities and further study. Graduate school or other further education is a very popular option among Queen's students, with 67% of graduates pursuing additional studies, according to the 2015 National Baccalaureate Graduate Outcomes Survey.

What is graduate school?

This can seem like a simple question but it's important to have a strong grasp on what it is and what you're seeking when moving forward with applications. Graduate school is often a more concentrated course of study and expectations regarding the quality and quantity of your academic work tend to be greater. You will likely participate in rigorous evaluation of your work by professors and peers and may be afforded the opportunity for greater networking and meeting other professionals in your field.

While graduate school can be an appealing option for many Queen's graduates, it is important that you are well versed in the many different types of programs available, so that the decision you make is the right fit for you.

You can find programs using Education Directories at Career Services, using online directories or speaking to professors in your department. Also, reach out to people who currently work in your occupations of interest.

Some example directories are:

gradschools.com

univcan.ca/canadian-universities/study-program

ontariocolleges.ca

petersons.com

Wondering how to find the right program(s) for you? Don't hesitate to stop by Career Services for drop-in career advising, book an appointment with one of our counsellors or attend the Graduate School workshops.

Here is a brief overview of some of the varieties of post-graduate education programs available:

Types of post-grad programs*

Master's degree – A master's degree builds on knowledge and competencies acquired during (usually) related undergraduate (bachelor's degree) study. Master's programs most often range from 1-3 years, depending on the program.

• **Thesis-based master's** programs require students to develop and demonstrate advanced research skills under the supervision of a professor. Thesis-based programs usually involve coursework, followed by research and a defence of the master's thesis. Examples include: Master of Arts (English), Master of Science (Pharmacology), Master of

continued

Science (Electrical Engineering), Master of Arts (Philosophy), Master of Education. This type of degree may be required before entering a related PhD program.

- **Course-based master's** programs require students to take coursework in order to develop the necessary research, analytical, interpretive, methodological and expository skills. These programs often culminate in a final project or capstone exercise. Examples include: Master of Anatomy Education, Master of Public Administration (MPA), Master of Engineering Management, Master of Industrial Relations (MIR), Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MPI), Master of Community Health and Epidemiology, Master of Business Administration (MBA). This type of degree may be a terminal degree i.e. it does not lead to a PhD option.

Professional and practice-oriented programs

– These programs prepare graduates for the professional licensing or registration required to practice in a specific occupation. They range from 1-5+ years in length. Some are full-time, while others can be completed part-time. Some are offered at universities, while others require community college. Most require successful completion of pre-requisite courses (either at secondary school or at university). They include:

- At University

Professional degrees. They may or may not have the word “master’s” in the label, even though most require some undergraduate courses or a completed degree. Examples of this type of program include: speech pathology, teaching/education, pharmacy, nursing, psychology, optometry, dentistry, physical therapy, law, medicine

Post-degree certificates or diplomas. Examples include Business, Emergency Management, Marketing, Financial Planning, Sexuality Studies

- At College/Private Institute

Post-degree certificate and diplomas completed at college or in a specialized institute. Examples of these

programs include: Cardiovascular Perfusion Technologist, Radiation Technologist, Child Life Specialist, Registered Practical Nurse, Social Services Worker, Behavioural Science Technologist, Publishing, Corporate Communications

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