

# Epidemiology MSc Map

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR MSc STUDENTS →

### Why GRADUATE STUDIES in EPIDEMIOLOGY?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of the ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding health problems that occur at a local, regional, national, and even global level. Students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of disease incidence and prevalence, critically review scientific literature related to community health and epidemiology, collect and analyze data, and more.

The goal of the Master's in Epidemiology program is to provide a common methodological foundation from which to conduct research in human populations across diverse health-related areas. The scope of the field of epidemiology is broad; it includes a range of content areas and methodologies. Depending upon their focus, students learn about various research designs, biostatistics, program evaluation, health economics, as well as how to design surveys or use administrative data.



### Why QUEEN'S?

At Queen's, our established strengths are in the areas of cancer, injury, obesity, disability, and mental health epidemiology as well as research in various health services contexts including public health, primary care, cancer care, and critical care.



*"Combined with the intimate and supportive environment cultivated by the faculty, the Queen's Epidemiology program is an outstanding choice for your graduate career!"*

*- Atif Kukaswadia, PhD*

We also have some emerging strengths in the areas of Northern health, Indigenous health, and global health studies.

### Program STRUCTURE

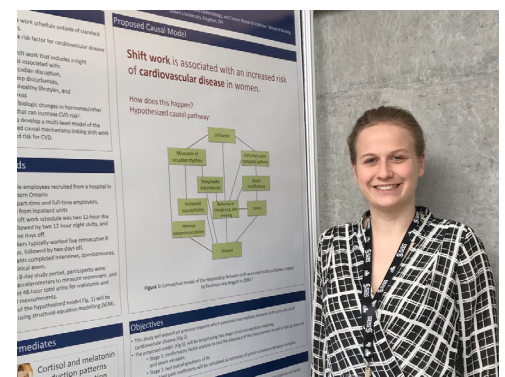
MSc (2 years): Course work (4 core courses, 2 electives) and a thesis. Part-time studies are an available option.



### Research AREAS

Examples of research areas include, but are not limited to:

- Cancer Etiology and Control
- Epidemiology and Population Health
- Health Services Research
- Injury Epidemiology
- Mental Health Epidemiology



Visit the Epidemiology website to learn about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

# Epidemiology MSc Map

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc)



## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Begin your coursework.
- Identify a thesis supervisor and research project.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your Master's thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development workshops.

- Critically review the scientific literature.
- Design an epidemiologic research study.
- Present thesis proposal and apply for ethics approval.
- Begin your research.
- Collect and/or analyze and interpret health data.
- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and thesis committee.

- Present your research to Epidemiology graduate students and faculty.
- Choose your thesis format: Traditional or manuscript based.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis (EPID 899).

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Prepare project outline and consider the audiences for your research.
- Apply for funding from sources such as CIHR and OGS for your second year.

- Become active in the PHS Student Association and tell other students about your research.
- Attend or present at a conference such as the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics student conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.

- Talk with your supervisor about presenting your research at a major conference in your field.
- Consider publishing your research in a peer-reviewed Journal.

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog - Gradifying. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Public Health Sciences Student Association (PHSSA) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from the Rehabilitation Science Department.

- 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. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development.

- Practice articulating your skills in different forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Meet with health agency professionals to understand your options after graduation.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Kingston General Hospital, Hotel Dieu, KFL&A Public Health Unit, and Kingston Community Health Centres.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

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

### 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 educator and coach.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or resume and job application materials.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and beginning of your job search plan. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

## Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Epidemiology 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

## Career Possibilities

A Master's degree in Epidemiology can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students (96%) find jobs within 6 months of graduation. Some choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD or an MD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Data Analysis (Health units, government agencies)
- Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)
- Project management in pharmaceutical and scientific research industries

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

### How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: [careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps](https://careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps).

# Graduate Studies FAQs

## How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

## 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 SGSPA website 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

- 4-year Bachelor's degree.
- MSc applicants must have demonstrated the use of quantitative skills, by successfully completing courses in mathematics, statistics, or data analysis, and by achieving a grade of A- in at least one statistics course.
- **Grade requirements:** An overall average of 3.2 or 75% in undergraduate.

### 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 following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).
- The GRE is a mandatory requirement for applicants with degrees from non-Canadian universities, and a minimum score of 149 is required on the quantitative section.

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 31 to qualify for internal funding.
- Application review begins in mid-February.

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

## What about FUNDING?

The Department usually guarantees a minimum funding level and provides individual funding packages for full-time students (years 1 and 2) in the program, based upon the student's academic standing and on the sources of money and progress through major milestones. These packages are funded through a combination of external awards, internal awards, internal departmental awards, faculty support, teaching assistantships, graduate research assistant fellowships, and research assistantships.

Apply for external funding from CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCF, the Department of Defence, the Canadian Cancer Society, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 top-up to students who are granted a federal tri-council award in their first year of study. For more information, see the SGSPA information on awards and scholarships and the department's graduate awards page.



**Queens**  
UNIVERSITY

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Graduate Assistant

613-533-2901

[epid@queensu.ca](mailto:epid@queensu.ca)

[phs.queensu.ca/graduate-programs/](https://phs.queensu.ca/graduate-programs/)

[msc-epidemiology](https://msc-epidemiology)