

Health Quality PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PHD STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HEALTH QUALITY?

Completion of the PhD in Health Quality (PhDHQ) prepares experts to improve the delivery of healthcare across multiple sectors by focusing on innovative and evidence-informed approaches. The PhDHQ program is offered using a collaborative, interprofessional approach to enable students to address the complexities within healthcare systems in coursework and research. Graduates of the program will be prepared to take senior leadership roles in health quality portfolios in practice and policy in Canadian and global settings and faculty positions in university programs. While the degree is research-intensive, it is grounded in pragmatism and will help prepare independent researchers to do quality-focused research and develop leadership capabilities.

The PhDHQ program is a four (4) year, interdisciplinary program that is delivered using a combination of interactive synchronous and asynchronous study methods. There are five (5) core courses taken in year one, including an internship in the Spring/Summer Term. The internship is tailored to the learners' interests and focused on broadening perspectives of health quality. Students will complete their written comprehensive exam remotely during the fall of their second year. In the winter and summer terms of year two (2) students will focus on preparing a PhD thesis proposal, and complete HQRS 905, Current Topics in Health Quality.



Who should APPLY?

A PhD degree in Health Quality can take your career in many directions. Our students come from varied backgrounds including but not limited to:

- Administration
- Business
- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Healthcare information technologists
- Law
- Policy advisors

Required COURSES

- HQRS 900: Philosophy of Health Quality Science
- HQRS 901: Research and Theory of Change Management and Leadership
- HQRS 902: Qualitative Methods for Research in Health Quality
- HQRS 903: Quantitative Research Methods for Health Quality
- HQRS 904: Internship in Health Quality
- HQRS 905: Current Topics in Health Quality
- HQRS 999: Thesis



GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Health Quality PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health and safety, and any required coursework, and developing your thesis proposal.
- 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 supports.

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing 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 School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development and SGSPA website.

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the Writing Supports offered through Queens organizations.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with your supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

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

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Healthcare Quality Research Forum.
- Expand your research audience through social media like LinkedIn, a blog or podcast.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field research.

- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition or GRADflix competition.
- Contact the Queen's Integrated Communications for guidance on speaking

- Attend a major conference in your field, such as Health Quality Transformation.
- Publish your research project in a relevant journal.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Monitor the online student community and other healthcare quality communities such as Health Quality Ontario for job postings or skill development workshops.

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development opportunities.

- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Contact the PhDHQ Program through email, social media, and/or HQ Connects Facebook group for contacts and career opportunities.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Kingston Health Sciences Centre.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Follow #QueensHQ on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Join the HQ Connects Facebook group to connect with current students and alumni.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options for funding with your supervisor or the Program Director.

- 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.

- Consider joining professional associations like Health Sciences Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, as well as the HQ Programs website.
- 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.

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- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and beginning of your job search plan (if applicable).

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Health Quality 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
- **Interprofessional Education** foundations

Career Possibilities

The PhDHQ program will prepare graduates to pursue careers and/or leadership positions such as:

- Clinical scientists
- Clinicians with the mandate to lead quality improvement in health organizations
- Faculty positions

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.

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

Applicants who have a project based or thesis based research master's degree in health, health-related law, business, architecture, or engineering will be eligible to apply for admission. Potential applicants who have course-based master's degrees or degrees in other disciplines are encouraged to discuss the suitability of the degree with the Associate Director (Health Quality Programs) prior to applying.

The overall grade point average required is **B+ at the master's level** as per the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulation.

Applicants from under-represented groups will be encouraged to apply and specific recruitment will be targeted to ensure the applicant pool reflects the population of Canada. As the program will be offered in a hybrid format, access to the program is unlikely to be a barrier as students will be required to be on campus for one-week periods at select times over the four years.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A statement of interest in the program is required to match the applicant's academic and work experience with the objectives of the program.
- Current curriculum vitae.
- 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).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** February 1.

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

What about FUNDING?

Financial support to students admitted to the PhDHQ program may be offered based on demonstration of financial need. Funding packages for graduate students can be used to pay tuition fees, travel, living expenses, books, and costs associated with the internship.

Students must have requested financial support upon their initial application for admission to a Queen's doctoral program in order to be eligible. It is assumed that the information provided in terms of a Yes or No in response to the query 'Do you require financial support from Queen's University' applies throughout the student's academic program.

For more information regarding funding packages, please visit the Healthcare Quality PhD program website.

All questions pertaining to tuition and fees should be directed to the Queen's University Registrar's Office at fees@queensu.ca or by phone at (613) 533-2040.



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

**HEALTH
SCIENCES**

Graduate Program Coordinator
(613) 533-6000 ext. 75370
hqprograms@queensu.ca
queensu.ca/hqprograms