

Neuroscience PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

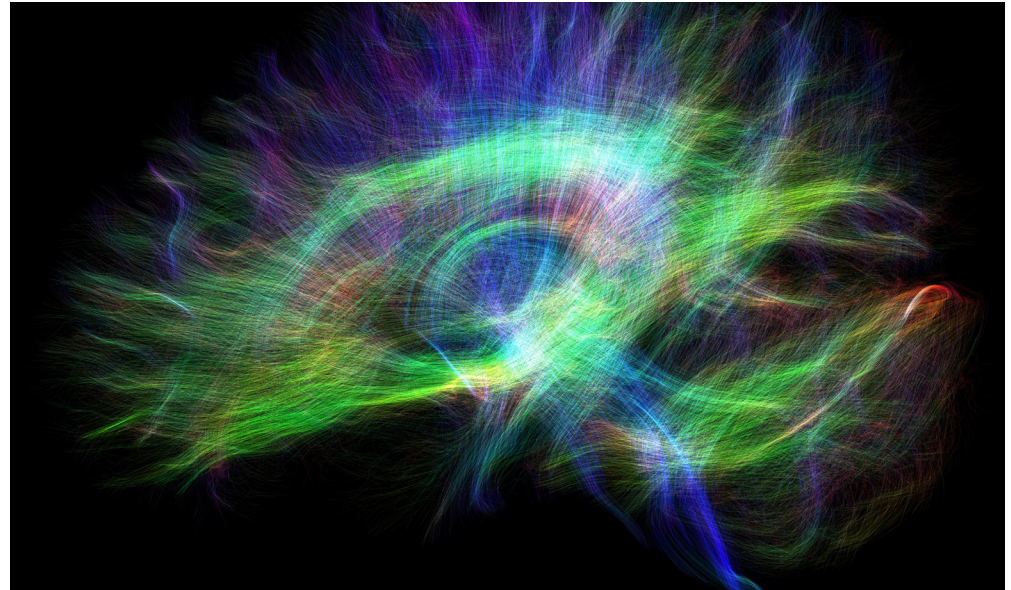
Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NEUROSCIENCE?

The multidisciplinary graduate program in Neuroscience is educating the next generation of leaders who will build on the progress in reducing the impact of neurological disorders. Top students from across North America and beyond come to the Centre to learn in a collaborative environment where they can learn from the best minds in the field. The Neuroscience graduate program is firmly rooted in research because our objective is to produce highly-trained graduates who will continue our efforts to prevent and treat neurological diseases. The program offers studies spanning the full spectrum of neuroscience research, from cellular/molecular to clinical studies.

Why QUEEN'S?

At the forefront of discovery and innovation is the Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) at Queen's University. A hub of multidisciplinary research and teaching aimed at improving the understanding of the brain, how it works and how new therapies and diagnoses can play an important role in the prevention and treatment of diseases like Parkinson's,

*"Right from the day I started at the Centre for Neuroscience Studies, it felt like family. The camaraderie and support you get is amazing."
- Alicia Peltsch, PhD*



Alzheimer's, Stroke, Obesity, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Schizophrenia, Behavioral Disorders, and Depression.

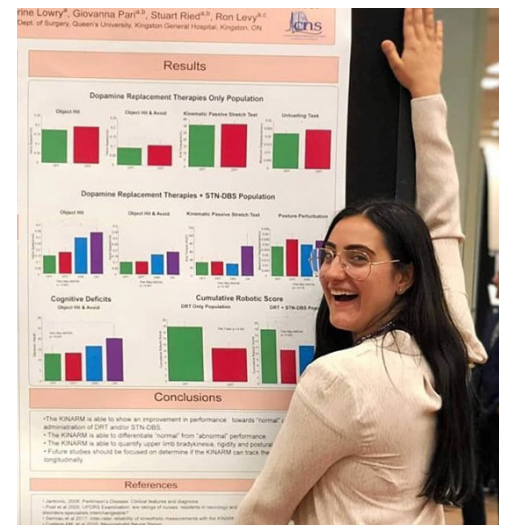
The Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) welcomes applications from students from a variety of different academic backgrounds. It offers an interdisciplinary program recruiting expertise from a wide range of research areas and backgrounds, ranging from the use of cellular/molecular and genetic approaches to those that emphasize neuronal systems, whole organism and clinical studies.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full time): Research project, seminar series, thesis, defense, and a comprehensive examination in 2nd year.

Research AREAS

The CNS has four research areas of strength in Decision Making and Adaptive Control, Mood Disorders, Neurodegeneration and Pain. There are also many other neuroscience topics studied under the umbrella of the CNS. Our research spans cellular molecular research, systems, behavioural, cognitive, and clinical applications.



Visit the Neuroscience website to learn more about faculty members and their 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.



GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Neuroscience PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Neuroscience can equip you with:

- 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 PhD in Neuroscience 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.

- Medical school
- Neurotech Industry
- Outreach education
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Post-doctoral study or academia
- Scientific writing

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.

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

- A Master's degree in Neuroscience, or in a field with a strong neuroscience and research component.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest.
- 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 due:** To be eligible for internal awards, applications must be submitted by February 1st. Applications received after the deadline will be accepted based on supervisor availability.

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

What about FUNDING?

PhD students in Neurosciences are offered a minimum funding of \$23,000 per year. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant, but it is not guaranteed. The Centre for Neuroscience offers numerous academic awards. Applicants to the Centre for Neuroscience program with external funding awards will have a greater opportunity of being accepted to the program.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR/NSERC, and other sources. For the 2025-26 academic year, Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. See the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs information on awards and scholarships for more.



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
NEUROSCIENCE

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