# Neuroscience PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

# Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NEUROSCIENCE?

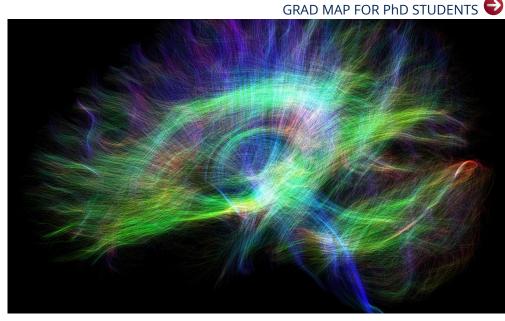
The multidisciplinary graduate program in Neuroscience is educating the next generation of leaders who will build on the progress in reducing the impact of neurological disorders. Top students from across North America and beyond come to the Centre to learn in a collaborative environment where they can 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.



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.

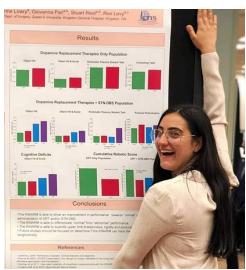
The Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) welcomes applications from students from a variety of different academic backgrounds. It offers an interdisciplinary program recruiting expertise from a wide range of research areas and backgrounds, ranging from the use of cellular/molecular and genetic approaches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



	YEAR I	YEAR II	YEAR III	YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
CHIEVE YOUR CADEMIC OALS	Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health and safety, animal, human research ethics training and any required coursework, developing your research proposal, and finishing part 1 of your PhD thesis form.	<ul> <li>Priorities include pursing research, completing your comprehensive exam, and writing your Annual Report.</li> <li>Find your way through the academic process with the help of workshops offered through the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue to research, write your dissertation and finish your Annual Report. Check out the SGSPA writing camps, like Dissertation Boot Camp.</li> <li>Consider publishing elements of your research.</li> <li>Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Present your research to Neuroscience graduate students and faculty.</li> <li>Complete and defend your dissertation.</li> <li>Continue to pursue publication options.</li> <li>Complete PhD Thesis Form Part 2 at least 4 months prior to defense, and your Annual Reportation.</li> </ul>
AXIMIZE ESEARCH IPACT	<ul> <li>Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.</li> <li>Apply to CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, Heart and Stroke Foundation, and other funding.</li> <li>Attend or present at a local, national, or international research conference in your field of expertise.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.</li> <li>Expand your research audience through social media.</li> <li>Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue to present at conferences.</li> <li>Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.</li> <li>Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue to attend conferences and connect w scholars in your field and with community parti</li> <li>Continue public outreach through social media the Queen's Media Centre.</li> <li>Coonsider being interviewed on the SGSPA rad show Grad Chat to talk about research.</li> </ul>
JILD (ILLS AND (PERIENCE	<ul> <li>Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.</li> <li>Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.</li> <li>For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.</li> <li>Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, SGSPA professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.</li> <li>Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.</li> </ul>
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NGAGE /ITH YOUR OMMUNITY	<ul> <li>Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.</li> <li>Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Neuroscience Outreach Program.</li> <li>Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.</li> </ul>	Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGSPA.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Consider joining one of the many professional associations like the Society for Neuroscience (SFN), or the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN).</li> <li>Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Neurosciences.</li> </ul>
AUNCH YOUR AREER	<ul> <li>Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself.         Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for help.     </li> <li>Start reading publications like Science and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.</li> <li>Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.</li> </ul>	Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.

Investigate requirements for professional

positions or other opportunities related to

out Career Cruising.

careers of interest.

### 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 nonprofits.

- Medical school
- Neurotech Industry
- Outreach education

immigration regulations. If you are an

in Canada, consider speaking with an

International Student Advisor.

• If considering jobs abroad, research possible

international student interested in staying

searching, resumes, and interviews.

interest. Research organizations of interest

and start putting together your industry

resume and begin your job search plan.

- 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

non-academic labour market websites.

## 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.



