

# Physical Therapy MSc(PT) Map

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

### Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PHYSICAL THERAPY?

The Physical Therapy Program at Queen's University prepares students to undertake the professional roles of physiotherapists in Canada. With critical inquiry and evidence-based practice as the foundation, the program promotes the acquisition of advanced academic knowledge, skills and behaviours that are essential for a primary health care provider in a complex and continually evolving healthcare environment. The Physical Therapy Program is a 24-month, sequential, program of the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs at Queen's University, leading to a Master of Science in Physical Therapy (MScPT) degree. The program is accredited by Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada and graduates are eligible to challenge the Physiotherapy Competency Examination (PCE), which qualifies them for physiotherapy practice in Canada. Graduates are also eligible to register with the Colleges of Physiotherapy in all Canadian provinces and territories, and with the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.



### Why QUEEN'S?

The School of Rehabilitation Therapy was established by Queen's University in 1967 to meet the needs of the local population. We continue to make active



GRAD MAP FOR MSc(PT) STUDENTS 

contributions to and engage with the members of our local community. Through interprofessional and international research collaborations, community development projects and many other initiatives, our work has expanded and enabled us to contribute to the daily lives of individuals and communities regionally, nationally and internationally.

### Program STRUCTURE

The curriculum of the MScPT program includes both academic blocks, on Queen's campus, and clinical experience blocks. Clinical experiences provide students with opportunities to develop their professional roles across multiple practice contexts and settings, and to consolidate their knowledge, clinical skills, and critical reasoning for practice. In this way, the program supports students' progression to meeting the entry-to-practice milestones of the Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada.

The majority of clinical placement experiences will be arranged in facilities within the Queen's University catchment area. Our catchment boundaries normally include Whitby to the west, Cornwall to the east, and Orillia/Midland to the north. Placement are assigned based on student preferences and a priority system to ensure that students are given

experiences in multiple practice settings to meet the standard for entry-to-practice in physiotherapy in Canada. A minimum of 1025 hours of clinical placements will be created during the 24-month program. Students will be responsible for all costs associated with clinical placements.

A full description of the program objectives, curriculum design and academic course descriptions can be found on the School of Rehabilitation Therapy (SRT) website.

*"I currently work at a clinic that has a few hopeful Queen's PT applicants for this year. Talking to them made me reflect on just how amazing my time at Queen's really was."*

*- Jesse Awenus, MSc PT*



**GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**

[queensu.ca/grad-postdoc](https://queensu.ca/grad-postdoc)

# Physical Therapy MSc(PT) Map

MASTER OF SCIENCE (PHYSICAL THERAPY)



## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Get settled in Kingston and begin your course work.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development workshops, the Associate Director, and the SGSPA website.
- Gather Foundational knowledge and experiences in academic courses

- Participate in clinical skills labs to gain and master physiotherapy skills, and learn skills needed to critically appraise research in the field of physical therapy.
- Take part in valuable class and teamwork activities including lectures, discussion, and problem solving through challenging cases with support from experienced clinicians and faculty members
- Apply critical thinking skills to clinical cases in class and on clinical placement.

- Successfully complete all academic and clinical placement courses.
- Meet entry-to-practice standing on all evaluative criteria in clinical placements.
- Complete and present your capstone critical enquiry project.

### MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR PLACEMENTS

- Prepare yourself to fully participate in all your academic and clinical courses.
- Take the time to talk to your Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education

- Work toward achieving the required experiences to satisfy graduation criteria.
- Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

- Reflect on the professional skills acquired through your clinical experience.
- Learn how to properly articulate your skillset when applying for jobs with Career Services workshops.
- Attend the Rehab Society's annual Career Fair which is organized for graduating students (January or February).

### GAIN ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 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 for more ideas.
- Serve on school, faculty, or university committees, such as the Rehab Society. Talk to the SGPS for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops.

- Attend a conference in your field, such as the Ontario Physiotherapy Association's Interaction, meetings of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress, and other meetings that may relate to your professional development.
- Start your eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.

- 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.
- Take advantage of opportunities for extra training through CTL, SGSPA professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Take advantage of your free student membership and join the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus, such as volunteering with disability organizations and supports on campus. Get involved through Winter Adaptive Games, Access Champions, and QHIP.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- 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.

- 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 the Ontario Physiotherapy Association as a new graduate.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach. Check out the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.

- Focus on your areas of interest. Research organizations of interest, use your Competency Portfolio and resume, and begin your job search plan. Get help from Career Services while executing your job search.
- Take the Physiotherapy Competency Exam (PCE) after you have met the MScPT degree requirements to meet the requirements to practice PT in the province of your choice.
- Obtain mandatory professional liability insurance.

## Knowledge & Workplace Skills

The curriculum of the Physical Therapy Program prepares graduates to meet the entry-to-practice milestones of the Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada, required to undertake the role of a physiotherapist in Canada. A graduate degree in Physical Therapy will also provide you with valuable skills for life:

- 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

The MScPT will provide you with the foundation needed for various professional and academic career directions:

- Children's treatment centres and school health programs
- Hospitals and rehabilitation centres
- Community agencies
- Government
- Home care
- International development and aide organizations
- Multidisciplinary health care teams
- Outpatient clinics
- Policy and professional organizations
- Primary care teams, including Family Health Teams and Community Health Centres
- Private practices
- Sports physiotherapy clinics

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

# Application FAQs

## What do I need to know to APPLY?

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- **Grade requirements:** The admissions process to the Queen's MScPT program is highly competitive. To be eligible for admission, students must first have a four-year baccalaureate degree or equivalent with a minimum second-class standing (B-) from a recognized university. Subsequent to this initial requirement, further academic requirements include cum-GPA and sub-GPA cut-off values. The actual cut-off mark is based on the applicant pool. In 2022 the sub-GPA cut off was 3.75. Applicants must earn a minimum grade of B- OR 70% in all prerequisite courses.
- **Course prerequisites:** Courses in introductory psychology, statistics, human anatomy, and human physiology.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Queen's Physical Therapy Personal Submission Form questions
- Two confidential reference forms, one academic and one professional (available within the ORPAS application)
- Documented evidence (through volunteer work, community service, or personal experience) of strong interest in the profession of physical therapy, knowledge of the profession, and desire to work with people of all ages
- Canadian Citizenship or Canadian permanent resident status
- Completion of prerequisite courses.

### LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Applicants who have resided in Canada or another English speaking country for less than three years as of the first day of the month of the term in which students are to begin must achieve a satisfactory score on one of the following tests:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - minimum score required: 250 for computer-based test; 94 for iBT.
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) - minimum score required: 80.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - minimum score required: 8.
- The curriculum of the PT Program is delivered in English and the clinical sites affiliated with the Program are principally English speaking. Students with English as a second language are required to demonstrate sufficient competency. French speaking Canadians are not required to complete language proficiency tests.

For a complete list of admission requirements, view the MScPT Admission Requirements.

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application opens:** Mid-October
- **Application deadline:** Early January through ORPAS
- **Notification of acceptance:** Mid-May

## What about FEES?

You are not eligible to apply for a bursary before becoming a registered student at Queen's University. You may be eligible for bursary assistance through student awards, including the Queen's General Bursary. In addition, every second year, the Program offers the Terrible Goldman Sachs Scholarship to an incoming student who self-identifies as the child of immigrant parents.

