# Psychology PhD Map

# Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

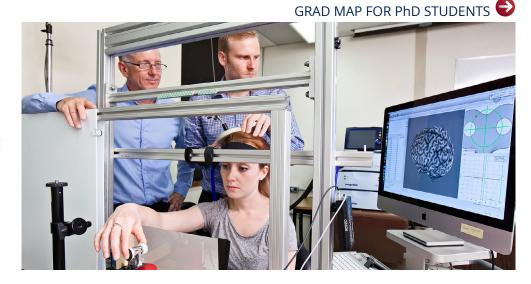
# Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PSYCHOLOGY?

Graduate studies in Psychology provide training in establishing a scientific understanding of human behaviour and its causes across the lifespan. This training focuses on developing expertise in the discipline's theoretical and empirical literature, conducting research aimed at making new scientific discoveries, and disseminating knowledge about psychology to students and the broader community. The skills and expertise that graduate students develop during the course of their graduate degrees are in demand in the public and private sector, including a wide range of industries, management, government, universities and schools, corrections, hospitals, and private practice. Those with graduate degrees in Psychology will be well situated to take advantage of these and many more opportunities to apply this crucial expertise.

# Why QUEEN'S?

The graduate program in Psychology at Queen's is internationally renowned for its excellent faculty and students, its innovative training and the value of its research, scholarship and skill development. We offer programs in core areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on high-quality critical scholarship, fundamental research and discovery, and application in clinical, community, and private sectors. Students work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary group of world-class researchers who provide training with state-of-the-art techniques to make discoveries and communicate those discoveries to the relevant stakeholders. Our goal is to prepare students for





successful careers in a variety of settings, including clinical and health care settings, industry and the private sector, academic institutions, private consulting firms, and many others.

"The graduate program at Queen's provided me with a strong foundation of knowledge as well as teaching, supervision, research, and clinical skills needed to launch my career as an academic clinical psychologist. I am grateful for the mentorship I received, the inspiring faculty, and the collaborations and community built over these years!"

Robyn Jackowich, Psychology
PhD graduate, Governor General's
Academic Gold Medalist

# Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work and thesis/dissertation.

\*\*There is an additional 1 year internship for clinical students.

### **RESEARCH Areas**

- Clinical Psychology
- · Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Social/Personality Psychology

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Psychology Department website to read faculty profiles, learn more about faculty members' research laboratories and interests, and discover whether they are open to supervising students in the year you are applying. If you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, reach out to tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest, and related experience.

Watch our website to learn about upcoming Open Houses, when you can visit us either virtually or on campus to learn more about Psychology graduate studies at Queen's.



queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

# Psychology PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



### YEAR I YEAR II **ACHIEVE YOUR** Key priorities include forming your committee, **ACADEMIC** coursework, field exams, and language exam. **GOALS** 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 a variety of supports. MAXIMIZE RESEARCH • Think about audiences for your research. Complete CORE online module on research **IMPACT** ethics if doing research regarding sensitive or the European Congress of Psychology. Apply to provincial and national scholarship and other funding. • Attend conferences in your field.

- · Write and defend your thesis proposal. • Embark on your substantive research.
  - Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development.
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences such as the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference,
  - media like LinkedIn, a blog or podcast.
  - Expand your research audience through social
  - Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committées 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 in teaching and learning.

• Participate in your graduate and professional

Consider signing up for the PhD-Community

student outreach programs, organizing

conferences, and research groups.

Initiative program run by the SGSPA.

community through activities such as graduate

• 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.

YEAR III

Lake.

research findings.

examiners.

· Continue to meet regularly with your

supervisor, review research progress, and

writing camps, such as Dissertation on the

Use conference presentations to create,

· Continue to present at conferences.

Contact the Queen's Media Centre for

your work. List yourself on the Arts and

Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching

Investigate internships from MITACS and other

through CTL, SGSPA professional development,

sources. Find opportunities for extra training

MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural

Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC

and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.

environment by taking the Intercultural

Science University Research website.

(3MT) or GRADflix competition.

discuss, and explore ways to disseminate

Begin discussion of potential thesis defence

• Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis

guidance on speaking to news outlets about

write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA

- - careers or topics of interest.

## LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

BUILD

**SKILLS AND** 

**EXPERIENCE** 

ENGAGE

**WITH YOUR** 

COMMUNITY

Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for

Serve on departmental or university

tips on getting involved.

AMS Club Directory.

on- and off-campus.

committees. Talk to the Association of

Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for

Consider positions in student services, the

Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the

Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant

position to develop your skills and experience.

community through experiential opportunities

SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's

Explore how you can connect with your

• Consider volunteering with different

community organizations and events.

- 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. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend iob 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.

and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence. Review submission and examination

· Plan date of thesis submission for

YEAR IV

examination.

- guidelines. Secure necessary oral defence
- accommodations.

#### Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.

Present your research to graduate students

- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/APA-accredited internship site in North America.

#### Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association.

- loin groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

## **Knowledge & Workplace** Skills

A graduate degree in Psychology 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 PhD in Psychology 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.

- Academia and research
- Clinical/Hospitals
- Correctional Services Canada
- Government agencies
- Private practice
- Private sector

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 closeknit 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.

# Graduate Application FAQs

# What do I need to know to APPLY?

#### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

- Master's degree in Psychology from a recognized university.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

#### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest
- Two academic references
- 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: December 1.

Before you start your application, please review the Psychology application process.

# What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is \$23,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. Basic funding packages include a combination of fellowships, scholarships, and teaching assistantships.

Students are encouraged to apply for fellowship funding awards from the federal Tri-Councils research bodies and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships, or see Funding and Financial Support on the Psychology Department website.



