

Translational Medicine PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE?

The innovative Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Translational Medicine is a unique research-based graduate program. The program provides students with a fresh perspective, offering a curriculum interweaving graduate level research with authentic clinical experiences in a multidisciplinary environment across departments at Queen's University.

Combining the fields of medicine and research, this program links graduate level research skills with a variety of clinical experiences including patient interactions, clinical observerships, and medical rounds to enhance professional thinking and action. This innovative curriculum will offer important foundation work for future careers in the biomedical field, and will provide critical skills for pursuing careers that include clinician scientists, biomedical researchers, leaders in industry, and public health and/or health policy.

What is TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE?

Translational Medicine is driven by our patients and their diseases. Guided by this primary focus, translational research spans across the spectrum from molecular and cell biology to preclinical models to patient studies and back again. Our programs aim to train the next generation of researchers to be effective translators of biomedical discovery. Our graduates will operate at the intersection of clinical and related sciences and will have the expertise to generate and lead discovery through an integrated process, increasing the efficiency of translating science knowledge into health improvement.



Program STRUCTURE

The PhD in Translational Medicine is a 4-year research-based program, which requires the completion of 12-credit courses (3 core courses, 3-credit electives), a comprehensive exam, and a thesis.

Visit the Translational Medicine website to read faculty profiles and learn more about their research areas and groups. 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.

Core COURSES

- **TMED 800** Translational Medicine
- **TMED 801** Profession of Medicine
- **TMED 802** Research Success Skills
- **TMED 865** Cell Imaging Analysis (OPTIONAL elective)

Program HIGHLIGHTS

- Build on your academic education or enhance your career with advanced knowledge and skills
- Learn about translational medicine from an interdisciplinary perspective with authentic clinical experiences
- Experience team-based learning in a close-knit community with small class sizes
- Network with students, alumni, and leaders in this emerging field
- Complete a supervised project on a topic of your choice



"The TMED program is truly one-of-a-kind! From the small class sizes with one-on-one academic support to the collaborative, enriching learning environment, the program nurtures students' growth, success, and overall wellbeing. Unique perspectives and experiences are not only welcomed but embraced as they guide critical thinking and analytical skills in trainees. There's a place for everyone in TMED!"

- Lubnaa Hossenbaccus, PhD'25
(Candidate)



TMED
TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE
GRADUATE PROGRAM



GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Translational Medicine PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like scheduling an initial meeting or meetings with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework (if applicable).
- Set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans with your supervisor.
- Compete your core course and electives.
- Complete TPS2 CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.

- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and meet thesis committee at least twice a year.
- Priorities include completing your research proposal, and pursuing research. Complete the ethics review process if applicable.
- Complete the Comprehensive Exam (oral defense) and embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) academic workshops and the program director.

- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the [SGSPA writing camps](#), such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the SGSPA professional development workshops.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
- Continue to meet your supervisor regularly and your committee twice a year and complete your annual progress report.

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

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply for external funding after discussion with supervisors about appropriate granting agencies.
- Attend conferences in your field.

- Start to present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- 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) or GRADflix competition.
- Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
- Consider doing a Grad Chat and share your research.

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

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on the TMED Student Society, 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.
- Check out professional development workshops from SGSPA professional development and the Department of Medicine.

- 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.
- Consider participating in PhD-Community Initiative.

- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, SGSPA professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.
- Use a TA position to develop your teaching skills.

- 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.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Kingston Health Sciences Centre, Queen's Cancer Research Institute or KFL&A Public Health.
- Consider joining appropriate professional associations in consultation with your supervisor.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

- 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.

- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in translational medicine, biomedical science, public health, and health policy.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit 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. 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 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.

- 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, and consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Translational Medicine 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 degree in Translational Medicine can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers such as:

- Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)
- Medicine
- Post-doctoral fellowships or academia
- Public Health and Health Policy

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?

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- February 1

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A master's degree from a recognized university with a minimum of an A-average. At Queen's an A- is equivalent to a percentage conversion of 80-84.9% and a Grade Point Average of 3.7 (out of 4.3).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Applications for admission are completed and submitted on the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs website, including an online application form and specific instructions regarding how to submit the following documents:
 - A Statement of Interest about how applicants' background experiences and career aspirations make them ideally suited for the program (up to 4,000 characters in the online application);
 - Transcripts for all postsecondary education;
 - Two references from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic performance
- Applicants are required to submit an electronic resumé/curriculum vitae to tmed@queensu.ca.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- In cases where English is not the first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. Those applicants will need to provide proof of English language proficiency through one of the following:
 - International English Language Testing System (Academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each component, or
 - TOEFL iBT with a passing score of 93 including a minimum score of 24 on the speaking section.

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

What about FUNDING?

We offer our PhD students a minimum funding of \$26,000 per academic year.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR/NSERC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$10,000 award to incoming 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.



Queens
UNIVERSITY

**TRANSLATIONAL
MEDICINE**

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