

Public Health Sciences PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Public Health Sciences?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of ongoing research that helps us understand natural, cultural, imaginative, social, technological and health phenomena. In the PhD program in Public Health Sciences, students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of health and illness, critically review scientific literature, collect and analyze data, and more.

The goal of the Public Health Sciences PhD program is to graduate individuals who are capable of functioning as independent investigators within academic (or equivalent) research positions, or who can occupy positions of professional leadership in public health or health-related agencies where research is an important function.

The PhD program offers a general track or specializations in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. Students in the general track study diverse public health topics including those related to health economics, health policy, global and population health, among others. These students collect and use a variety of types of data and research approaches depending on their own interests and the expertise of their Supervisor(s).

Students in the Epidemiology specialization will study advanced epidemiologic methods and biostatistics and conduct a thesis using those methods. Research topics are broad, including disease etiology, clinical epidemiology, health services research and more. Students in the Biostatistics specialization will study advanced biostatistics methods and epidemiology and conduct a thesis using those methods. Research topics and



methods covered by this specialization include statistical methodological research in the context of public health, biomedical, or clinical studies.

Why Queen's?

At Queen's, we have world class researchers and instructors who provide exceptional learning and mentorship for doctoral students on an historic campus in the heart of Kingston. The relatively small size of our program allows students to get to know faculty members and each other very well.

PhD students take on leadership roles in the Department frequently acting as Teaching Assistants for graduate level courses and getting involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Kingston is a wonderful city to live, learn and play in right on the shores of Lake Ontario.

There are many housing options for graduate students and upper year students who are always willing to share their knowledge and expertise!

Program Structure

PhD (4-years, full-time, in-person):
Coursework (core courses and electives), comprehensive examination,



dissertation, and defense.

The PhD program has three streams: General, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics.

Research Areas

There are many research areas including:

- Biostatistics
- Behavioural Epidemiology
- Cancer Epidemiology
- Clinical Epidemiology
- Environmental Epidemiology
- Life-Course Epidemiology
- Global Health
- Health Economics
- Health Equity
- Health Services & Policy Research
- Indigenous Health
- Perinatal and Early-Childhood Health
- Population Health
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- And more!

Visit [PhD Public Health Sciences](https://queensu.ca/grad-postdoc) to learn about faculty members who are accepting students 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.



Public Health Sciences PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

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.



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Public Health Sciences can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical 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 Public Health Sciences can take your career in many directions. In Canada, about 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the rest will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academic labs
- Administration in academic, health care or government settings
- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Research labs
- Scientific supply companies
- Teaching positions in academic institutions or the 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.

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?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on 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 a related discipline such as health sciences, epidemiology, biostatistics, statistics, health promotion, health geography, or economics with an overall minimum average of 80%.

- Demonstrated research competency, usually through a research-based thesis or a research project with peer-reviewed publication.
- Applicants interested in either the Epidemiology or Biostatistics specialization should have Master's level training or equivalent in the field.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Transcripts
- CV/Resume
- One-page outline for potential research
- Two academic letters of recommendation
- GRE with a minimum score of 149 on the quantitative section (if required)
- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.
- Statement of Interest

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- For international applicants, the final deadline to apply is January 31. Domestic applicants are strongly encouraged to complete their application by January 31. However, complete applications from domestic applicants may be reviewed if positions remain in the program after January 31.

Before you begin your application to the program, review the [PHS website](#), reach out to potential supervisors, and familiarize yourself with the Graduate Studies Application process.

What about Funding?

The Department guarantees a minimum funding package per year for four years of a student's program based on the student's academic standing and the sources of money available each year. These packages are funded through a combination of external awards, internal university awards, and internal departmental awards.

Students are expected to apply for internal and external awards for which they are eligible. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.