

Rehabilitation Science PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Rehabilitation Science?

Graduate programs in Rehabilitation Science at Queen's University stress the multidisciplinary contribution of health professions and disciplines to rehabilitation. The focus is on understanding how people who experience disability can be enabled to live full and satisfying lives as members of their community; considering a broad range of individual, community and societal factors. Students engage with the broad scope of rehabilitation science and are provided with opportunities to develop research skills and knowledge. Their research addresses the needs of people across the spectrum of ability, promotes improved high-quality rehabilitation, and health services and a more equitable society. The program attracts students from varied backgrounds including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, kinesiology, psychology, social work, arts & humanities, nursing, education, epidemiology, law, engineering, and others.



Why Queen's?

The School of Rehabilitation Therapy at Queen's University is committed to leading and inspiring positive changes that transform lives through rehabilitation research, education, and practice. Part of our core mission is to educate rehabilitation scientists who contribute to health and well-being globally through collaboration,



"Completing graduate studies in Rehabilitation Science at Queen's has provided me the opportunity to develop new research skills and build my confidence as a leader. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn and work alongside a dynamic group of students, clinicians, and researchers within the School of Rehabilitation Therapy." – Kyle Vader, PT, PhD

creativity, and the discovery of new knowledge. We are recognized nationally and internationally for our excellent faculty, high-quality professional and research programs, and the ways in which our scholarship contributes to the lives of people affected by or at risk of disability.

Program Structure

PhD in Rehabilitation Science students are required to take 2 core courses (6 credits), 2 elective courses (6 credits), a comprehensive examination, a proposal presentation, and a written thesis with an oral defense over 48 months (4 years).

Research Areas

- Inclusion and social participation of people with disabilities
- Technology for enhanced function and wellness
- Supports for physical mobility and optimal aging in older adults

- Health and resilience among military families, Veterans, and public safety personnel
- Evaluation of health services and rehabilitation systems
- Self-management and support programs for chronic conditions
- Support for informal caregivers
- Health Professional Education

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying. Visit the [Rehabilitation Science website](https://www.queensu.ca/grad-postdoc) to read faculty profiles, and learn more about faculty members' 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. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.



Rehabilitation Science 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 Rehabilitation Science 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 and 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 Rehabilitation Science 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 non-profits.

- Academia (research and teaching)
- Agencies - government, not-for-profit, or private - that support clinical care, research or workforces related to health or disability
- Clinical/Program Research and evaluation
- International community-based rehabilitation
- Policy development
- Program development at the local, national or international level

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

- High academic standing in a completed Master's degree in Rehabilitation Science or a related field. Contact the program director and potential supervisors to discuss how your studies and experiences to date may be related to rehabilitation sciences.
- The entire transcript is reviewed but particular attention is given to your last 20 courses and how well you have progressed throughout your academic career. Preference is given to students with higher academic standing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 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.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** February 15th.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Late April/Early May.

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

What about Funding?

Doctoral students in rehabilitation science are currently guaranteed minimum funding of \$25,000 per year for years 1-4.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR, SSHRC, and other sources. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.



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