

Biology PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

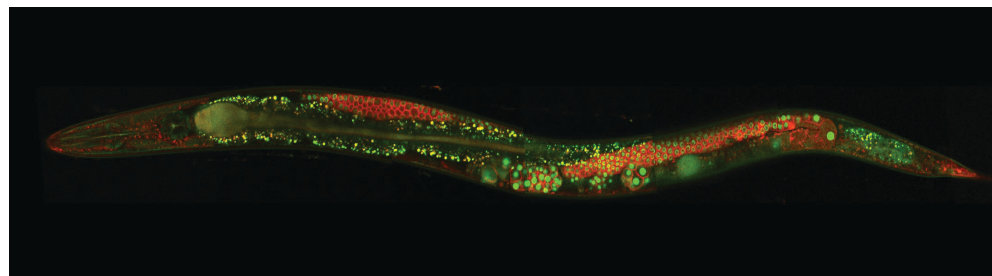
GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in BIOLOGY?

There is no end to the fascinating questions we can ask about how the natural world functions, from dissecting the molecular mechanisms at play in cells to understanding the complexity of interactions in the biosphere, the beauty and mystery of nature astounds. It is an incredibly exciting time to do biological research and we are learning about the natural world at a rate unprecedented in history. The remarkable power of modern research tools, from powerful gene-editing techniques to bioinformatics to ecosystem modelling, is driving exciting discoveries daily. These discoveries are made by graduate students. Regardless of your area of interest, there is something in biology for you, questions waiting to be answered, and riddles of nature to be solved.

"When I started my [Biology graduate degree] at Queen's, all of a sudden I had this new network of friends who were interested in the same biological questions that I was- it was a ton of fun."

– Roslyn Dakin, PhD



Why QUEEN'S?

The Biology Department at Queen's is one of the largest departments on campus with approximately 100 graduate students supervised by over 30 faculty with research opportunities in a range of disciplines. Our faculty are world leaders in several research fields, including many Canada and Queen's Research Chairs and winners of national and international awards for research and teaching excellence.

We offer a broad and challenging program in one of the top Biology departments in the country. We have an impressive range of sophisticated infrastructure for cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, ecology, and evolutionary research including: a confocal microscopy suite, DNA and RNA sequencing services, aquatic research facilities, and a state-of-the art phytotron. Our field station, comprising more than 3,200 hectares of woodland, fields, and lakes, is a short drive away and has excellent research facilities and living quarters.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): research thesis and defense. (Some courses may be required).

RESEARCH Areas

- Animal Physiology
- Cell and Molecular Biology
- Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour
- Plant Sciences
- Mathematical Modelling & Bioinformatics
- Paleolimnology

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

Visit the [Biology Department website](#) 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.



**GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**

Biology 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. The map just offers suggestions – you don't have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the [My Grad Map](#) tool.

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 [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) 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?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- MSc in Biology or direct entry from BSc for exceptional candidates.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Correspond with potential supervisors (may require CV).
- 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:** March 1 (domestic students), February 15 (international students).
- **Notification of acceptance:** Students are accepted on a rolling basis as applications are reviewed.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Biology PhD students is \$26,300 per year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package may be comprised of graduate awards and teaching assistantships. Current tuition and other fees can be found [here](#).

Apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$10,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on [awards and scholarships](#).



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