Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HEALTH QUALITY?

The PhD in Health Quality (PhDHQ) will prepare experts who will improve the delivery of healthcare through teaching, developing new methodologies and theoretical frameworks, as well as testing innovation in the field of health quality. The PhDHQ program offers a collaborative approach to comprehend and address the complexities within the healthcare system. Graduates of the program will be prepared to take senior leadership roles in health quality portfolios in practice and policy settings across Canada and will also be educated to assume tenure track positions in university programs. While the degree is research intensive, it will also be grounded in pragmatism and will help prepare independent researchers for quality improvement research and developing leadership capabilities in health settings.

The PhDHQ program is a four (4) year, interdisciplinary program using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous study using interactive online videoconferencing. The PhDHQ program consists of five (5) courses in year one, including an internship over the summer months. The internship will be tailored to the learners’ interests and to broadening their perspectives on health quality. Students will complete their written comprehensive exam remotely during year two (2). In the winter and summer terms of year two (2) students will focus on their PhD thesis, and complete HQRS 905 Current Topics in Health Quality.

Who should APPLY?

A PhD degree in Health Quality can take your career in many directions. Our students come from varied backgrounds including but not limited to:

- Law
- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Business
- Administration
- Policy advisors
- Healthcare information technologists (IT)

Required COURSES

- HQRS 900: Philosophy of Health Quality Science
- HQRS 901: Research and Theory of Change Management and Leadership
- HQRS 902: Qualitative Methods for Research in Health Quality
- HQRS 903: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods for Health Quality
- HQRS 904: Internship in Health Quality
- HQRS 905: Current Topics in Health Quality
- HQRS 999: Thesis

Program OBJECTIVES

- Prepare health quality professionals for leadership roles in practice, education and research
- Provide learners with skills to apply theoretical and practical knowledge of health quality, risk and safety to enhance safer healthcare for Canadians
- Integrate theoretical and practical opportunities for learners to ensure graduates have acquired applied skills in quality, risk and safety
- Ensure learners can articulate policy and legislative responsibilities and accountabilities for safer healthcare for Canadians
- Support learners to apply for grants and awards to support research in health quality, risk and safety
**YEAR I**

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health, safety, and any required coursework and developing your thesis proposal.
- 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 supports.

**YEAR II**

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons and SGS websites.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through services such as the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Enroll in SGS902 or the PUL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Do some targeted networking with people in careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn, and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Kingston Health Sciences Centre.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options for funding with your supervisor or the Program Director.

**YEAR III**

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- Complete required accommodation plans.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as Health Quality Transformation.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking events. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at conferences and work with your supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Investigate internships from MTACS and other sources.
- Assess your skills for non-academic application.
- Prepare for a multi-cultural work environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUC.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Do targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn, reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.
- Explore how you can connect with your community and other healthcare quality organizations such as Health Quality Ontario for job postings or skill development workshops.
- Consider joining professional associations like Health Sciences Association.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUC.
- Investigate opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MTACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Healthcare Quality Research Forum.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through services such as the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Enroll in SGS902 or the PUL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking events. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
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- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, as well as the HO Programs website.
- Investigate possible careers in non-academic fields. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider joining professional associations like Health Sciences Association.
- Investigate internships from MTACS and other sources.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through services such as the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Enroll in SGS902 or the PUL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
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**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Health Quality 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 skills: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
  - Time management: manage 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
  - Interprofessional Education foundations

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

The PHD program will prepare graduates to pursue careers and/or leadership positions such as:

- Faculty positions
- Clinical scientists
- Clinicians with the mandate to lead quality improvement in health organizations
- Health quality researchers in business, not for profit agencies, hospitals, policy, healthcare insurance and accreditation, and government agencies.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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 SGS 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 SGS 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
Applicants who have a project based or thesis based research master’s degree in health, health-related law, business, architecture, or engineering will be eligible to apply for admission. Potential applicants who have course-based master’s degrees or degrees in other disciplines are encouraged to discuss the suitability of the degree with the Associate Director (Health Quality Programs) prior to applying.

The overall grade point average required is B+ at the master’s level as per the School of Graduate Studies’ regulation.

Applicants from under-represented groups will be encouraged to apply and specific recruitment will be targeted to ensure the applicant pool reflects the population of Canada. As the program will be offered in a hybrid format, access to the program is unlikely to be a barrier as students will be required to be on campus for one-week periods at select times over the four years.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• A statement of interest in the program is required to match the applicant’s academic and work experience with the objectives of the program.
• Current curriculum vitae.
• 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 deadline: February 1.

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

What about FUNDING?

Financial support to students admitted to the PhDHQ program may be offered based on demonstration of financial need. Funding packages for graduate students can be used to pay tuition fees, travel, living expenses, books, and costs associated with the internship.

Students must have requested financial support upon their initial application for admission to a Queen’s doctoral program in order to be eligible. It is assumed that the information provided in terms of a Yes or No in response to the query ‘Do you require financial support from Queen’s University’ applies throughout the student’s academic program.

For more information regarding funding packages, please visit the Healthcare Quality PhD program website.

All questions pertaining to tuition and fees should be directed to the Queen’s University Registrar’s Office at fees@queensu.ca or by phone at (613) 533-2040.