Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PSYCHOLOGY?

Graduate studies in Psychology provide training in establishing a scientific understanding of human behaviour and its causes across the lifespan. This training focuses on developing expertise in the discipline's theoretical and empirical literature, conducting research aimed at making new scientific discoveries, and disseminating knowledge about psychology to students and the broader community. The skills and expertise that graduate students develop during the course of their graduate degrees are in demand in the public and private sector, including a wide range of industries, management, government, universities and schools, corrections, hospitals, and private practice. Those with graduate degrees in Psychology will be well situated to take advantage of these and many more opportunities to apply this crucial expertise.

Why QUEEN'S?

The graduate program in Psychology at Queen's is internationally renowned for its excellent faculty and students, its innovative training and the value of its research, scholarship and skill development. We offer programs in core areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on high-quality critical scholarship, fundamental research and discovery, and application in clinical, community, and private sectors. Students work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary group of world-class researchers who provide training with state-of-the-art techniques to make discoveries and communicate those discoveries to the relevant stakeholders. Our goal is to prepare students for successful careers in a variety of settings, including clinical and health care settings, industry and the private sector, academic institutions, private consulting firms, and many others.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work and thesis/dissertation.

**There is an additional 1 year internship for clinical students.

RESEARCH Areas

- Clinical Psychology
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Social/Personality Psychology

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

Visit the Psychology Department website to read faculty profiles, learn more about faculty members' research laboratories and interests, and discover whether they are open to supervising students in the year you are applying. If you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, reach out to tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest, and related experience.

Watch our website to learn about upcoming Open Houses, when you can visit us either virtually or on campus to learn more about Psychology graduate studies at Queen's.

“The graduate program at Queen’s provided me with a strong foundation of knowledge as well as teaching, supervision, research, and clinical skills needed to launch my career as an academic clinical psychologist. I am grateful for the mentorship I received, the inspiring faculty, and the collaborations and community built over these years!”

– Robyn Jackowich, Psychology PhD graduate, Governor General’s Academic Gold Medalist
2023-2024

Psychology PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
A graduate degree in Psychology can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- **Knowledge and technical skills**: Effective communication to articulating complex ideas to diverse audiences.
- **Effective communication**: Capable of presenting ideas in multiple forms for diverse audiences.
- **Information management**: Organize, compile, and synthesize large amounts of information.
- **Time management**: Manage deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands.
- **Project management**: Develop ideas, garner information, analyze, critique opportunities, and act on conclusions.
- **Creativity and innovation**: lace, for example, into new areas of responsibility.
- **Working with others**: Develop networks into new areas of responsibility.
- **Leadership**: Create vision and lead others in discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- **WHAT CAN I BE?**
A PhD in Psychology 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 and research**: Continue teaching and research.
- **Consulting**: Provide services to industry.
- **Correctional Services Canada**: Professional roles in corrections.
- **Government agencies**: Working with government.
- **Private practice**: Private practice.
- **Private sector**: Private sector.
- **Taking time to explore**: Careers options, build experiences, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

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<th>YEAR I</th>
<th>YEAR II</th>
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<td><strong>ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>MAXIMIZE YOUR RESEARCH IMPACT</strong></td>
<td><strong>BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LAUNCH YOUR CAREER</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXPLORE HOW YOU CAN CONNECT YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES BOTH ON AND OFF-CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>WHY DO I NEED THIS?</strong></td>
<td><strong>THINK ABOUT AUDIENCES FOR YOUR RESEARCH</strong>: Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics. <strong>COMPLETE CORE ONLINE MODULE ON RESEARCH ETHICS</strong>: Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding. <strong>ATTEND CONFERENCES IN YOUR FIELD</strong></td>
<td><strong>SERVE ON DEPARTMENTAL OR UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES</strong>: Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for tips on getting involved. <strong>CONSIDER POSITIONS IN STUDENT SERVICES</strong>: Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/AAPA-accredited internship site in North America. <strong>COMPLETE A ONE-YEAR INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT AT A CPA/AAPX-ACCRREDITED INTERNSHIP SITE IN NORTH AMERICA</strong></td>
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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
• Master’s degree in Psychology from a recognized university.
• Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Statement of Interest
• Two academic references
• 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: December 1.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $23,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. Basic funding packages include a combination of fellowships, scholarships, and teaching assistantships.

Students are encouraged to apply for fellowship funding awards from the federal Tri-Councils research bodies and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships, or see Funding and Financial Support on the Psychology Department website.