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

• Cognitive Neuroscience
• Clinical Psychology
• 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, make contact to tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience. Watch our website to learn about the Virtual Open House we hold in the Fall to learn more about graduate studies at Queen’s.

“I find that I’m getting a really good balance of experiences here. I’ve had the opportunity to travel a lot. In the last two years, I’ve presented at conferences in Halifax, Chicago, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.”
The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- Meet each year 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 a variety of supports.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGSPA, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFR, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities both on and off campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations and events, such as the Got Your Back! campaign.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a career that starts with knowing yourself! Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counselor for help.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR I**

- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Submit your 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 School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**YEAR II**

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences such as: the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference, or the European Congress of Psychology.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

**YEAR III**

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camps such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development publishing workshop.

**YEAR IV**

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defense.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.

**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 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 collaborator in a larger team
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, and professional responsibilities, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionization in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

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 nonprofit.

- Academia and research
- Government agencies
- Private sector
- Clinical/Hospitals
- Correctional Services Canada
- Private practice

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 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.

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
• 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: on or around the first week of February.
• Notification of acceptance: Decisions begin on or around the first week of February.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $21,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. This basic funding packages which 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.