Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a particularly diverse profession encompassing research, teaching and applied work. While the two former activities are relevant mainly, but by no means exclusively to universities, applied psychologists work in a wide variety of settings including: industry, management, the school systems, private practice, penitentiaries, and hospitals. Like members of all professions, the conduct of psychologists whether they are engaged in practice, teaching or research, is regulated by principles, standards and by statute. In Ontario persons who call themselves a psychologist must meet at least, one of three criteria: they must be a university professor, be employed in a psychologist’s position by the federal penitentiary service, or must be registered.

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 a wide range of Programs in core areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on fundamental research and discovery, as well as intensive training in clinical skills and applications. Our Department and Queen’s host world-class researchers and a number of state-of-the-art techniques and laboratories. Our goal is to prepare students for successful careers in a variety of settings, including academic institutions, clinical and health care settings, industry and the private sector, education, and many others.

“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.”
– Karen Blair, PhD

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 and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience.
2021-2022

Psychology PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- 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 a variety of supports.
- Complete the human/animal research ethics training.

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 (AGSP) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, QNRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSP) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, QNRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSP) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, QNRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSP) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, QNRC, and the SGS 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 on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations and events, such as the Get Your Back campaign.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR I

- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ACA-accredited internship site in North America.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn or the QPGASA Association of Graduate Students in Psychology. 
- Participate in student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Set up your own career pathways.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

YEAR II

- 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.
- Begin to attend and participate in conferences and other professional development activities.
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ACA-accredited internship site in North America.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn or the QPGASA Association of Graduate Students in Psychology.
- Participate in student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Set up your own career pathways.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

YEAR III

- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ACA-accredited internship site in North America.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn or the QPGASA Association of Graduate Students in Psychology.
- Participate in student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Set up your own career pathways.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- 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 defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations. 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.
- Begin to attend and participate in conferences and other professional development activities.
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ACA-accredited internship site in North America.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn or the QPGASA Association of Graduate Students in Psychology.
- Participate in student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Set up your own career pathways.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

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 collaborative worker.
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical principles, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity.
- Professionalism 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 non-profits. 
- Academia and research: Government agencies.
- Private sector: Consulting firms.
- 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.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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**
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Scores above the 60th percentile are required.
- 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.
- **Notification of acceptance**: Decisions begin on December 1.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](http://queensu.ca/sgs/programs-degrees/psychology). What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. This basic funding packages which include a combination of fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships

Apply for external funding from the Tri-Agency and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $10,000 top-up for Doctoral winners of federal government Tri-Agency awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships, or see [Funding and Financial Support on the PSYC Dept website](http://queensu.ca/sgs/programs-degrees/psychology).