Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Rehabilitation Science PhD Map

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in REHABILITATION SCIENCE?

Graduate programs in Rehabilitation Science at Queen's University stress the multidisciplinary contribution of many health professions and disciplines to rehabilitation. The focus is on understanding how people who experience disability can be enabled to live full and satisfying lives as members of their community, considering a broad range of individual, community and societal factors. Students can expect to be introduced to a broad spectrum of rehabilitation related concerns including function and participation across a wide range of health conditions and disabilities (for example neurotrauma, mental health, intellectual disabilities), policy development, professional education, and interdisciplinary and intersectoral services. The program attracts students from varied backgrounds including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, kinesiology, psychology, social work, arts & humanities, nursing, education, epidemiology, law, engineering, and others.

Why QUEEN’S?

The School of Rehabilitation Therapy at Queen's University is committed to leading and inspiring positive changes that transform lives through rehabilitation research, education and practice. As part of this commitment, part of our core mission is to educate rehabilitation scientists who contribute to health and well-being globally through collaboration, creativity, and the discovery of new knowledge. We are recognized nationally and internationally for our excellent faculty, high-quality professional and research programs, and the ways in which our scholarship contributes to the lives of people affected by or at risk of disability.

“Completing graduate studies in Rehabilitation Science at Queen’s has provided me the opportunity to develop new research skills and build my confidence as a leader. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn and work alongside a dynamic group of students, clinicians, and researchers within the School of Rehabilitation Therapy.”

– Kamary Coriolano Lins da Silva, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full time): Required and elective course work, comprehensive exam (written and oral components), thesis, and oral defense.

RESEARCH Areas

- Human Mobility & Motor Control Across Lifespan
- Disability & Participation
- Workplace Health & Accommodation
- Moving Knowledge into Practice and Policy
- Health Professional Education
- Military and Veteran Health
- Community-Based Rehabilitation

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

Visit the Rehabilitation Science 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 and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.
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 Major Map tool.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Rehabilitation Science can equip you with:
- 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 and 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

WHERE CAN I GO?
A PhD in Rehabilitation Science 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.
- Clinical/Program Research and evaluation
- Academia (research and teaching)
- Agencies - government - not for profit, or private - that support clinical care, research or workforce related to health or disability
- Program development at the local, national or international level
- Policy development
- International community-based rehabilitation
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

2022-2023
Rehabilitation Science PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

YEAR I
- Achieve Your Academic Goals
  - Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health and safety, animal, human research ethics training and any required coursework, and developing your research 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.

YEAR II
- Achieve Your Academic Goals
  - Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing research.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of *School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs* professional development workshops and SGSPA website.

- Build Your Experience
  - Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.

- Engage with Your Community
  - Consider volunteering with different community organizations aligned with the Rehabilitation Sciences, such as local hospitals, community serving organizations that support individuals with disabilities and promote accessibility of community opportunities for all citizens.
  - Connect to broader communities of rehabilitation professionals.

- Launch Your Career
  - Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like *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 *Journal of Higher Education*. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
  - Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR III
- Achieve Your Academic Goals
  - 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.
  - Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

- Build Your Experience
  - Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the *SSGPA Writing Camp*, such as Dissertation Boot Camp.
  - Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the *School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshop*.

- Engage with Your Community
  - Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
  - Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.

- Launch Your Career
  - Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and understanding.

YEAR IV
- Achieve Your Academic Goals
  - Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health and safety, animal, human research ethics training and any required coursework, and developing your research 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.

- Build Your Experience
  - Have non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
  - Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SG902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development.

- Engage with Your Community
  - Consider joining one of the many professional associations related to disability and rehabilitation, such as the Canadian Association of Physical Rehabilitation and Medicine.
  - Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in rehabilitation.

- Launch Your Career
  - Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
  - If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
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
- High academic standing in a completed Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Science or a related field. Contact the program director and potential supervisors to discuss how your studies and experiences to date may be related to rehabilitation sciences.
- The entire transcript is reviewed but particular attention is given to your last 20 courses and how well you have progressed throughout your academic career. Preference is given to students with higher academic standing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- 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: February 15th.
- Notification of acceptance: Late April/Early May.

What about FUNDING?

PhD students in Rehabilitation Science are offered a minimum funding of $18,000 per year.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming PhD 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.