Why GRADUATE STUDIES in AGING AND HEALTH?

Graduate studies in Aging and Health are offered through innovative programs that provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of aging, with a focus on health and healthy living. Students will develop multi-disciplinary knowledge of individual aging processes, the effect of aging on social systems, and the policies needed to support healthy aging. The program is meant to enhance students’ ability to contribute to the development, delivery and implementation of evidence-based care, services, and policies for older adults across a range of settings.

Why QUEEN’S?

The program is full-time and is completed from a distance, through a blended format of on-line and in-person learning. Intensive on-site sessions introduce students to core courses and e-learning technology, as well as provide an opportunity for in-person interaction with faculty and fellow class members. Elective courses are completed at a distance, on-line. The blended format of on-site intensives and on-line components couples networking and experiential opportunities with the flexibility of distance learning.

Queen’s University programs in Aging and Health position graduates for success in a variety of settings that serve the growing population of older adults including government, universities and colleges, for-profit and non-profit organizations, business and industry, and various healthcare settings.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full time): Course work consisting of 4 courses (normally including 2 core courses), comprehensive exam, thesis and defense.

Core COURSES

- AGHE 901 Knowledge Translation and Uptake
- AGHE 903 Critical Analysis of Theories of Aging

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

Visit the Aging and Health page on the School of Rehabilitation Therapy 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.
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

• Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
• Consider how your coursework can contribute to your research proposal and comprehensive examination.
• Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

YEAR I

• Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing research.
• Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and professional development workshops, the Aging and Health Program Director and Program Assistant and the SGSPA website.
• Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.

YEAR II

• Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camps, such as Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake. Use conference presentations to create and refine thesis or project material. Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizon publishing workshop.

YEAR III

• 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.

YEAR IV

• 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

• Think about audiences for your research.
• Complete the CORI online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
• Apply to CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC, OGs, and other funding.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CPRC, and the SGSPA Blog - Gradfying. Look in the AMS Prof Dev 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 or working with local community organizations that are focused on supporting healthy aging and aging in place.

PROPEL YOUR CAREER

• Finding 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 building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
• Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. For more information check out Career Cruising.
• Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A professional degree in Aging and Health can equip you with:
• Knowledge and technical skills
• Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
• Ethical approaches to research and practice with older adults
• Time management skills to meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
• Project management skills to develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
• Creativity and innovation
• Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
• Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
• Leadership skills to take initiative and lead discussions and influence people.

WHERE CAN I GO?

Queen’s University programs in Aging and Health position graduates for success in a variety of settings that serve the growing population of older adults including government, for-profit and non-profit organizations. Potential career opportunities include:
• Program development, implementation, and oversight in community-based or public healthcare organizations
• Coordination and management roles in for-profit organizations that deliver services or create products for older adults
• Policy development and analysis related to aging and society
• Program evaluation for aging and health-related services.

In addition, graduates of this program have taken the knowledge and skills gained in this program back to their own places of employment to contribute to the development of age-sensitive services and practices. Taking time to explore career options while building your experience and networks can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

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

- Completion of a Master’s degree in a related field with a minimum B+ standing. Contact the program director and potential supervisors to discuss how your studies and experiences to date may be related to the Aging and Health program studies.
- 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

- Two references.
- Two Official Transcripts.
- Current CV.
- Letter of Intent.
- 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 15.
- Decisions will be made following that date.

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

What about FEES?

For information about fees and tuition, please check the Registrar and Financial Aid Services website for the most up-to-date information.

Apply for external funding and see the School of Graduate Studies’ and Postdoctoral Affairs information on awards and scholarships.

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