Biomedical & Molecular Sciences MSc Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in BIOMEDICAL & MOLECULAR SCIENCES?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the scientific community with ways of understanding fundamental biomedical and molecular processes underlying normal cellular and microbial processes, organ system function, and human disease. The faculty, staff, and trainees in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences are engaged in world-class research and teaching, attracting, and mentoring the best students, the finest educators, dedicated support staff, and internationally-competitive researchers. We value curiosity, creativity, commitment, and collegiality.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Department at Queen’s provides a cross-disciplinary environment and delivers the programs in a collaborative and integrated manner. This interdisciplinary approach gives candidates access to over 80 faculty members engaged in a broad spectrum of biomedical research, using techniques to address questions concerning single molecules, cellular/microbial function, organ-systems, and whole-animal biology.

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years, full time): Course work, seminars, research project, and thesis with oral defense.

Fields of SPECIALIZATION

- Biochemistry and Cell Biology: focuses on understanding the fundamental processes of life and human disease.
- Experimental Medicine: employs interdisciplinary methods to explore the processes responsible for both the normal and diseased state.
- Microbes, Immunity, and Inflammation: focuses on questions at the cellular and molecular level involving viral and bacterial organisms and the immune system.
- Reproduction and Developmental Sciences: spans clinical and basic science, with a focus on fertilization and embryo implantation, perinatal health, women’s health, and more.
- Therapeutics, Drug Development, and Human Toxicology: focuses on the effects, both beneficial and deleterious, of chemicals including drugs and environmental contaminants, on human health.

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

Visit the Biomedical and Molecular Sciences website to read faculty profiles, and learn more about faculty members’ research areas and research groups. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

See the Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Graduate Student Handbook online for more detailed information about the program.
**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and the SGSPA website.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your thesis.
- If working with animals, students must take an introduction course to animal care (QACS 799).
- Attend the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Professional Development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and the SGSPA website.
- Complete the Fundamentals of Academic Research course (BMED 860).
- Attend the departmental seminar program (BMED 897).

**WRAPPING UP**

- Present your research to Biomedical and Molecular Sciences graduate students and faculty.
- Complete and defend your Master’s research thesis.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference. Ask your supervisor for recommendations.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Start attending and present at a graduate conference. Ask your supervisor for recommendations.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Attend a major conference in your field. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor for advice on which one(s) would be most relevant.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CHIR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBDF, the Department of Defence, and the American Cancer Society.
- Check out professional development workshops from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development and the Rehabilitation Science Department.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, Studio Q, and the SGSPA Blog - Gradving. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the graduate representatives for tips on getting involved.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Kingston General Hospital.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Determine your interests, through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by Quick and FontiC.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Attend a conference in your field, such as the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedical Science (ICBB).

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, Studio Q, and the SGSPA Blog - Gradving. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
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**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach. Check out 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 Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences.
- Consider joining one of the many professional associations related to biomedical & molecular sciences, such as the Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences (CSMB).
- Attend a conference in your field, such as the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedical Science (ICBB).
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences 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 Master’s degree in Biomedical & Molecular Sciences can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academic, Health Care, Government, Private Sector Administration
- Educational specialization in Patent Law, Public Health, Business
- Entrepreneurial Ventures
- Health Care
- Marketing positions in Private Sector
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Research in Academic and Private Sectors
- Teaching in Academic Institutions or Private Sector

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Recognized honours degree with a background in Biology or Health Sciences or equivalent professional degrees (eg. BNC, BSc, PT).
- Grade requirements: B+ (77-79.9%) in the second, third, and fourth years of an Honours Bachelor's degree.

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: March 1st (To be considered for internal awards). Flexible deadline.
- Notification of acceptance: Pending confirmation of a supervisor.

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

What about FUNDING?

The total minimum guaranteed stipend is $25,500 per academic year for MSc students in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences. This includes $4,500 in TAship earnings per year.

There will also be opportunities for additional TAship earnings throughout the academic year for MSc students that are on top of the minimum guaranteed stipends.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR/NSERC, and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $5,000 top-up to Master's winners of federal government tri-council awards. See the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships for more.