

Education PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in EDUCATION?

Join our inclusive research community of education experts. Our PhD program works on a mentorship model where new scholars work closely with established experts and collaborative research groups. Coursework is completed under the supervision of leading experts across the education spectrum. Our PhD graduates contribute innovative work transforming theory, policy, and practice. We offer competitive funding packages and opportunities for our PhD students to be teaching or research fellows, as well as research or teaching assistants.

Why QUEEN'S?

Queen's University has an active and vibrant graduate student community. Our Faculty of Education brings together diverse perspectives on education, fostering multidisciplinary expertise within an active collaborative research community. Our research leads to new knowledge and understandings about teaching and learning, and progressive changes in educational policies and practices.

As a researcher at Queen's, you will engage in outreach initiatives that serve and enhance communities of practice through local, national, and international partnerships.

Program STRUCTURE

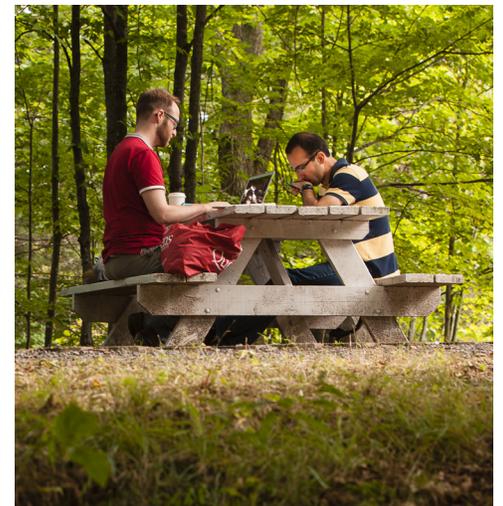
PhD (4 years): Course work (5), comprehensive examinations (2), thesis, and defense.



We develop progressive, ethical, and thoughtful leaders in education through teaching, research, and professional collaboration.

RESEARCH Areas

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Curriculum Studies
- Early Childhood Education
- History and Philosophy of Education
- Language and Literacy
- Leadership and Policy Studies
- Math, Science and Technology in Education
- Social Justice and Inclusion
- Special Education



Visit the Faculty of Education website to read [faculty profiles](#) to learn more about faculty members' research areas.



Introduce yourself and share your ideas with one of our faculty members. We require you identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying. Our faculty members in Education are approachable, accessible, and collaborative. Our faculty members can be invaluable in supporting your application for admission.



GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

Education PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include forming your committee and coursework.
- 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.
- Seek professional development opportunities.

- Priorities include completion of mandatory comprehensive examinations.
- 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 workshops](#), the Education Associate Dean, and the [SGSPA website](#).

- 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.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- 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 guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

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

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as [ScholarShare](#), or the [Rosa Bruno-Jofré Symposium in Education](#).
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate [Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research](#).

- Present at professional conferences.
- 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.

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for a [Grad Chat](#) to discuss your research interests.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on Faculty, [EGSS](#), and [SGPS](#) committees.
- Consider positions in student services or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, or [SGSPA Blog](#). Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#).
- Apply for a Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Teaching Assistantship, or Research Assistantship position to develop your skills and experience.

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in communities.
- Enrol in [SGS902](#) or the [PUTL](#) Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, [SGSPA](#) professional development workshops, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships through the department or [MITACS](#).
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.

- Practice articulation of the skills you have developed in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations and events. Support [Sistema Kingston](#) through teaching internships and research.
- Connect to broader communities of Education researchers through professional associations such as the [Canadian Society for the Study of Education \(CSSE\)](#) or the [American Education Research Association](#).

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organization of conferences, and research groups.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as Ministries of Education, School Boards, Educational non-profit organizations.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the [SGSPA](#).

- Join professional associations like the [Canadian Society for the Study of Education \(CSSE\)](#) or the [American Education Research Association](#).
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Education research.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a [Career Services career planning workshop](#) or meet with a career educator and coach for help.
- 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.

- Build your teaching portfolio by using student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with those alumni. For more information, visit [Career Cruising](#).
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- Attend job talks.
- Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Begin to focus on non-academic areas of interest.
- Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Education can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- **Awareness:** an understanding of sound **ethical** practices, **social responsibility**, responsible research, and **cultural sensitivity**
- **Knowledge and research 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 researcher
- **Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership:** initiative and vision, leading people, and discussion.

WHERE CAN I GO?

A PhD in Education 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.

- Educational Organizations
- Leaders in health sciences and government
- Post-doctoral fellows
- Provincial and Territorial Departments of Education
- Researchers at research agencies and school boards
- Teachers
- University faculty/researchers

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and to network, can help you achieve a smooth transition to employment after graduation.

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 Grad Map](#) tool.

Graduate Studies FAQs

Application 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. With over 130 graduate programs throughout more than 50 departments and research centres, you will find friends, peers and support among our graduate students. 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.



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What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in Education or a related discipline with first-class standing from a recognized university.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Professional experience in education or a related field is an asset.
- Two-page research proposal.
- Current curriculum vitae.
- 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:** January 15
- **Notification of acceptance:** Late February

Before you start your application, please review the [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

All eligible full-time graduate students who request funding (financial support) as part of their initial application can expect to receive a funding offer to help them with the costs associated with their graduate studies in the Faculty of Education.

The minimum guaranteed funding package for PhD students is \$20,000 per year, and it is important to note that they must apply for all major external and internal (where appropriate) scholarships for which students are eligible in order to qualify for the minimum guarantee. Recipients of external awards will not receive \$20,000 on top of them; however, their packages are likely to be higher than those who do not win external funds. Normally, if students apply for and successfully obtain a Teaching and/or Research Assistantship the average funding for eligible PhD students is approximately \$25,000 - \$28,000 per year.

Funding packages are awarded to students based on academic merit and they may consist of any or a combination of the following: scholarships, fellowships, external awards the student may bring with them, internal awards, research assistantships, teaching assistantships, or graduate teaching fellowships. The Faculty also offers funding for presenting at conferences.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC/NSERC, 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](#) and the Faculty of Education's [funding information](#).

