

Public Health Sciences PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of ongoing research that helps us understand natural, cultural, imaginative, social, technological, and health phenomena. In the PhD program in Public Health Sciences, students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of health and illness, critically review scientific literature, collect and analyze data, and more.

The goal of the Public Health Sciences PhD program is to graduate individuals who are capable of functioning as independent investigators within academic (or equivalent) research positions, or who can occupy positions of professional leadership in public health- or health-related agencies where research is an important function.

The PhD program offers a general track or has specializations in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. Students in the general track study diverse public health topics including those related to health economics, health policy, global and population health, among others. These students collect and use a variety of types of data and research approaches depending on their own interests and the expertise of their Supervisor(s).



Students in the Epidemiology specialization will study advanced epidemiologic methods and biostatistics and conduct a thesis using those methods. Research topics are broad, including disease etiology, clinical epidemiology, health services research, and more. Students in the Biostatistics specialization will study advanced biostatistics methods and epidemiology and conduct a thesis using those methods. Research topics and methods covered by this specialization include statistical methodological research in the context of public health, biomedical, or clinical studies.



Why QUEEN'S?

At Queen's, we have world class researchers and instructors who provide exceptional learning and mentorship for doctoral students on an historic campus in the heart of Kingston. The relatively small size of our program allows students to get to know faculty members and each other very well. PhD students take on leadership roles in the Department frequently acting as Teaching Assistants for graduate level courses and getting involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Kingston is a wonderful city to live, learn, and play in right on the shores of Lake Ontario. There are many affordable housing options for graduate students and upper year students who are always will to share their knowledge and expertise!

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →



Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years) with an option to remain in a general track or specialize in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. Each student completes at least 4 courses, comprehensive exam, and a dissertation.

Research AREAS

There are many research areas including:

- Biostatistics
- Cancer Epidemiology
- Clinical Epidemiology
- Global Health
- Health Economics
- Health Equity
- Health Services & Policy Research
- Mental Health
- Physical Activity Epidemiology
- Population Health
- And more!

Visit [PhD Public Health Sciences](#) to learn about faculty members who are accepting students and their research areas. 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.



GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

Public Health Sciences PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Public Health Sciences 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 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 Public Health Sciences can take your career in many directions. In Canada, about 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the rest will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academic labs
- Administration in academic, health care or government settings
- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Research labs
- Scientific supply companies
- Teaching positions in academic institutions or the private sector
- Technical positions in academic institutions or the 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.

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.



EPIDEMIOLOGY

Sue Preston, Graduate Assistant
(613) 533-2901
epid@queensu.ca
phs.queensu.ca

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in health sciences, epidemiology, biostatistics, statistics, health promotion, health geography, economics, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated research competency, usually through a research-based thesis or a research project with peer-reviewed publication.
- **Grade requirements:** First-class academic standing (equivalent GPA of 3.7 or 80%).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest (including area of research and potential supervisor).
- Transcripts and CV.
- Applicants with non-thesis based Master's training may include published, in-press, or under review research papers as documentation of academic research experience.
- 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: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 31. Late applications will be considered until all positions are filled.
- Application review begins in mid-February.

Before you start your application, please review the [PHS website](#) and reach out to potential supervisors. Please also be familiar with the [Graduate studies application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

The department guarantees a minimum funding package of \$20,000 per year for every PhD student. There are also opportunities to compete for internal/external awards and take on paid research or teaching assistantships. For more information on internal and external awards please see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on [awards and scholarships](#).

