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!
**2023-2024**

**Public Health Sciences**

**PhD Map**

### YEAR I

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities: completing required courses, researching ethics training, and attending seminars.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Start presenting your work at conferences and publication outlets.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental and university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS Online or Social Media outlets.
- Become involved in committees and events.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Explore your community through experiential opportunities.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit with a service workshop or meeting a career educator.
- Starting publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like the Graduate Student Career Forum.

### YEAR II

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss future research and teaching.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Continue to present your work at conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Hone skills for non-academic fields.
- For help with teaching, consult the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as student outreach programs.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Start building your teaching portfolio and seeking employment.

### YEAR III

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Continue to research and write your dissertation.
- Consider publishing dissertation elements.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Continue attending conferences and connecting with other scholars.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Continue public outreach through social media.
- Prepare for work or studies in multi-cultural environments.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Consider joining one of the many professional associations.

### YEAR IV

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Plan a date of thesis submission for examination.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve as an Alumni mentor.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in non-academic areas of interest.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Build connections with faculty outside your department.

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**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**
- **Project management**
- **Time management**
- **Leadership**
- **Creativity and innovation**

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WHERE CAN I GO?

A PhD in Public Health Sciences can take your career in many directions.

- **Academic**
- **Public Health**
- **Health Administration**
- **Long-Term Care**
- **Global Health**

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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
• 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.