

# Medical Sciences MSc Map

*Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies*



GRAD MAP FOR MSc STUDENTS

## Why combine **MEDICINE** and **GRADUATE RESEARCH** ?

The Professional Master of Medical Sciences is a new program offered through a partnership between the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences (DBMS), Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME), and Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME). This program has been specifically designed for graduates of medical schools who have not yet matched to a postgraduate residency program in Canada.

The Medical Sciences program provides medical school graduates with an opportunity to enhance their clinical and research skills before applying to a postgraduate residency program. Students will build on the foundations of their medical degree in many ways. They will further develop their clinical skills in the context of the Canadian healthcare system and explore current issues in medical sciences. They'll interpret foundational research and its relationship to clinical practice, conduct research responsibly using appropriate guidelines and procedures, and apply ethical behaviours consistent with academic integrity and professional standards.



It is anticipated that the emphasis on research, clinical skills, and scholarship will enhance any future applications for residency positions through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS).

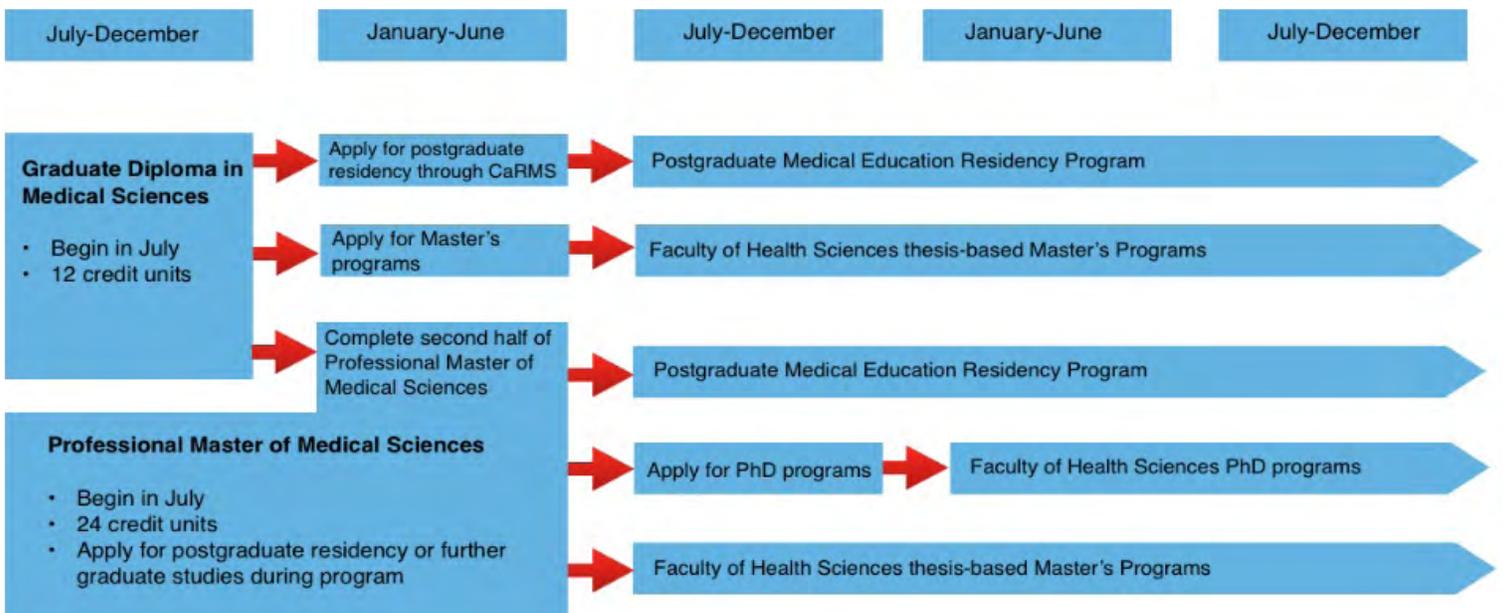
## Program **STRUCTURE**

**Professional Master's** (1 year). This program requires the completion of coursework (MSCI 800, 801, 802, + 1 elective) in addition to a research project. Upon completion, students who wish to pursue further training in research may opt to apply for one of the thesis-based Masters or PhD programs offered in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**Option 1:** Start in July and go to June

**Option 2:** Start in January and go to December

## Program **OVERVIEW**



## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

## ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start to develop ideas for your Masters research project.
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the [SGS website](#).

## 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 CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCF, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.

## BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, Studio Q and the SGS Blog. 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.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

## ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Kingston General Hospital.

## 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 counsellor. 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 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 School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Develop your research project in MSCI 898.
- Attend Evidence-Based Journal Club Meetings and participate in Facilitated Small Group Learning sessions.
- Demonstrate incorporation of CanMEDS competencies in to the clinical/simulated learning environment.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss clinical placement performance.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference. Ask your supervisor for recommendations.
- Expand your research audience through social media (Twitter or a blog).
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community 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 QUIC and FDISC.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Complete your coursework.
- Present your research project to Medical Sciences graduate students and faculty.

- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Attend a major conference in your field. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor for advice on which ones would be most relevant.
- Consider putting an article in [The Conversation](#).

- 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](#).
- Investigate internships from [MITACS](#) and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

- 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 joining one of the many professional associations.
- Attend a conference in your field.

- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and beginning of your job search plan. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Medical Sciences can equip you with:

- **Knowledge and technical skills:** CanMEDS Educational Framework
- 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
- An understanding of **ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity**
- **Professionalism** in work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership:** initiative and vision leading people and discussion

## WHERE CAN I GO?

A Master's degree in Medical Sciences can take your career in many directions. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academic and research labs Apply for residency through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS).
- Administration in academic, health care or government settings
- Data Analysis (Health units, government agencies)
- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)
- Marketing positions in private sector
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Scientific supply companies
- Teaching positions in academic institutions or the private sector
- Technical positions in academic institutions or the private sector

# 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 SGS 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 [SGS website](#) for available resources.

## What is the Queen's graduate 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

In order to be considered for admission to the Professional Master of Medical Sciences, applicants need to hold an MD or equivalent from a medical school on the [International Medical Education Directory](#) and have a B+ graduating average or higher in all postsecondary education.

Instructions on how to submit all required documentation will be sent to you by email upon application submission.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit:

- Official transcripts from all postsecondary education;
- Personal Statement indicating the alignment of the applicant's background and career aspirations with the objectives of the program;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- 2 references from individuals familiar with the candidates academic and/or clinical performance; and a
- Medical Student Performance Record or Dean's Letter.

All Applicants must submit their score reports on both Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part 1 and National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) examination. Applicants may submit the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) in place of the MCCQE part 1.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

While proof of English language proficiency is not required, a thorough understanding, as written, is essential. It is strongly suggested that applicants also review requirements for admission to residency programs and to the School of Graduate Studies.

Please note that these requirements are higher than the minimum standards set by the School of Graduate Studies. As these students will be involved in observing the clinical care of patients, and participating in the clinical team discussion about the investigation and management of their clinical problems and in the clinical assessment of standardized patients, a thorough understanding and ability to communicate in English is essential.

## The APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: Submit your online application via the School of Graduate Studies.

STEP 2: Once you have submitted your application, read instructions on how to submit all required documents.

STEP 3: Submit all required documents to the School of Graduate Studies. After review of the complete application, competitive candidates will be invited for an interview with the Medical Sciences Program (via Zoom).



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