Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NURSING?

Consider a graduate degree in Nursing for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical thinking, writing, research and, perhaps more importantly, skills to facilitate change in today's health care system. Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing knowledge creation process that provides the health care system with the necessary tools to understand phenomena using various ways of knowing. Today's job market seeks people with advanced practice skills who can critically analyze information and evidence, synthesize scholarly and public reports, create new knowledge, and lead change and transformation. Study Nursing and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEEN'S?

The School of Nursing at Queen's offers a challenging and innovative program to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills to conduct small research projects and participate in research teams, and the critical appraisal skills needed for developing the scientific basis for nursing practice. Our students are taught primarily in small graduate seminars, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of theory and research, and delve into their own research. Nurtured by close mentoring relationships with faculty supervisors, students engage early and continuously in research and successfully complete the program in 2 years. Situated in an academic environment that embodies scholarship, graduates are well-prepared for careers as leaders in clinical practice, education and health care management.

Program STRUCTURE

MNSc (2 years):
- Thesis option: 5 term-length courses and research thesis
- Course-based option: 7 term-length courses and clinical project.

RESEARCH Areas

Practice environments
- Models of care
- Leadership
- Workplace culture, structure and health
- Communication strategies and systems

Populations with complex conditions
- Optimizing function and well-being
- Multimorbidity
- Mental health and/or addictions
- Outcomes monitoring

Health care quality
- Advancing safety
- Risk assessment and reduction
- Educational and technological innovations
- Health system service and delivery and more

“I think that everyone should know that the School of Nursing does a fantastic job at making people successful. That skill of being pushed to... some place that is slightly uncomfortable, but knowing that you have the supports around you to be successful.”

– Morgan Batson, RN, MNSc

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

Visit the School of Nursing website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests, contact them to introduce yourself and discuss your interest in pursuing graduate studies.
The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

### How to use this map

#### CAREER
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Complete your core courses.
- Attend or present at the annual Graduate Nursing Research Day, the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, or in biweekly Academic Series.
- Create an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects or Queen’s Alumni Association.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Canadian Association for Nursing Research.
- Develop versatile skills, such as:
  - Communication: clearly express ideas, gather information, listen and lead people and discussion
  - Critical thinking: analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
  - Perseverance
  - Project management: develop and manage projects
  - Time management: meet competing demands
  - Interpersonal skills: work with people, research, and interactions

#### EXPERIENCE
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework.
- Find help with the academic process from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshops, the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs), and the SGS Habitat.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for TRI-Council and OGS funding.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, 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, and interviews.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Find 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 What Are You Going to do With That? 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 and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, cultural studies groups, or local healthcare organizations or groups.
- Serve on school, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development.
- Attend or present at the annual Graduate Nursing Research Day, the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, or in biweekly Academic Series.
- Create 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.
- 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.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Canadian Association for Nursing Research.

#### SKILLS AND BUILD
- Leadership: initiative and vision
- Capacity to work both independently and as part of a team
- Knowledge and technical skills
- Research: find, search, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Technical: analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Organizational: organizational and planning skills
- Problemsolving: problemsolve, write, research, and interactions
- Professionalism: professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Capacity to work both independently and as part of a team
- Awareness of sound ethical practices and understanding of research and cultural sensitivity
- Creative and innovative
- Perseverance
- Leadership: initiative and vision
- Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Complete your core courses.
- The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Attend or present at the annual Graduate Nursing Research Day, the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, or in biweekly Academic Series.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as an event organized by the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Kingston Nursing Research Conference.
- Attend and present at the Annual Graduate Nursing Research Day or in biweekly Academic Series.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing for settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTI, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Attend an event organized by the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Kingston Nursing Research Conference.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Canadian Association for Nursing Research.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A graduate degree in Nursing can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - Knowledge and technical skills
  - Ability to convey complex information to a diverse audience
  - 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
  - Leadership: initiative and vision

### WHERE CAN I GO?

A Master’s degree in Nursing can take your career in many directions. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Health Care Manager
- Advanced Practice Nurse
- Educator or Instructor
- Case Manager
- Health Policy Analyst

Many of our students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. 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 use this map?

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 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 personalized 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
- Baccalaureate program in Nursing accredited by a provincial/territorial authority.
- Grade requirements: minimum B average or equivalent.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Two academic letters of reference.
- Undergraduate courses in research methodology and statistics.
- Registration (or eligibility to register) as a Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- Statement of research interest. Advance contact with supervisors is recommended.
- Copy of Curriculum Vitae (Resume)
- 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 deadline: February 1st, or until all seats are filled.
- Notification of acceptance: mid-March to early April.

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

What about FUNDING?

In keeping with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs policy, eligible full-time MNSc students qualify for research assistantships (RA), teaching assistantships (TA), Queen’s Graduate Awards (QGA) and internal awards.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $5,000 award to incoming Masters students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs awards and scholarships.