

# Nursing MNSc Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MNSc STUDENTS →

## 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 even more importantly, skills to facilitate change in today's health care system. Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the health care system with ways of understanding phenomena using multiple ways of knowing. Today's employment marketplace seeks people who can critically analyze information and evidence, synthesize in both 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.

*"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 to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work.

## 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



## Program STRUCTURE

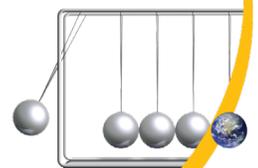
MNSc (2 years):

- Thesis option: 5 term-length courses and research thesis
- Course-based option: 7 term-length courses and clinical project.

School of Graduate Studies

Create an impact

[www.queensu.ca/sgs](http://www.queensu.ca/sgs)



## GETTING STARTED

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

## WRAPPING UP

## ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your thesis/project.
- Find help with the academic process from the School of Graduate Studies and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs), and the [SGS Habitat](#).

## MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for Tri-Council and OGS funding.
- Attend and participate in biweekly Academic Series, and the annual Graduate Nursing Research Day.
- Complete Course on Research Ethics (CORE).

## BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 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 [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, museums, cultural studies groups, or local healthcare organizations or groups.

## 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?* 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.

- Complete your core courses.
- Thesis stream: form your thesis committee, then write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Course stream: choose the direction of your clinical project.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Consider electives that may benefit your research and career goals.

- 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 participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- 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 Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak 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.

- Thesis stream: complete and defend your thesis.
- Course stream: wrap up your clinical project and finish any remaining electives.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [Canadian Nurses' Association Biennial Conference](#) 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 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 professional associations like the [Canadian Nurses' Association](#) or [Canadian Association for Nursing Research](#).

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start 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.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Nursing 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 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 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 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 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 [awards and scholarships](#).



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