Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a particularly diverse profession encompassing research, teaching and applied work. While the two former activities are relevant mainly, but by no means exclusively, to universities, applied psychologists work in a wide variety of settings including: industry, management, the school systems, private practice, penitentiaries, and hospitals. Like members of all professions, the conduct of psychologists whether they are engaged in practice, teaching or research, is regulated by principles, standards and by statute. In Ontario persons who call themselves a psychologist must meet at least, one of three criteria: they must be a university professor, be employed in a psychologist’s position by the federal penitentiary service, or must be registered.

Why QUEEN’S?
The graduate program in Psychology at Queen’s is internationally renowned for its excellent faculty and students, its innovative training and the value of its research, scholarship and skill development. We offer a wide range of Programs in core areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on fundamental research and discovery, as well as intensive training in clinical skills and applications. Our Department and Queen’s host world-class researchers and a number of state-of-the-art techniques and laboratories. Our goal is to prepare students for successful careers in a variety of settings, including academic institutions, clinical and health care settings, industry and the private sector, education, and many others.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work and thesis/dissertation.

**There is an additional 1 year internship for clinical students.

RESEARCH Areas

- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Clinical Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social/Personality Psychology

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

Visit the Psychology Department 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, area of research interest and related experience.

“I find that I’m getting a really good balance of experiences here. I’ve had the opportunity to travel a lot. In the last two years, I’ve presented at conferences in Halifax, Chicago, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.”

– Karen Blair, PhD
This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.

**Psychology PhD Map**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

**YEAR I**
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
  - Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
  - Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
  - Complete the human/animal research ethics training.
- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Think about audiences for your research.
  - Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
  - Apply to NSERC, OGs, and other funding.
  - Attend conferences in your field.
- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for tips on getting involved.
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
  - Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- **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 and events, such as the Got Your Back! campaign.
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
  - Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

**YEAR II**
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Write and defend your thesis proposal.
  - Embark on your substantive research.
  - Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.
  - Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.
- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences such as the Canadian Psychological Association, Annual Conference, or the European Congress of Psychologist.
  - Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
  - Keep starting an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS902 or the PTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
  - Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGPS.

**YEAR III**
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps, such as Dissertation on the Lake.
  - Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
  - Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Continue to present at conferences.
  - Consider participating in the 1 Minute Thesis (1MT) competition.
  - Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
  - Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CFP, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
  - 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.
- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversations, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ AFA-accredited internship site in North America.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- **ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
  - Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
  - Review submission and examination guidelines.
  - Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
  - Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.
- **MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
  - Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
  - Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
  - Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversations, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/AFA-accredited internship site in North America.
- **ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association.
  - Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- A graduate degree in Psychology 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 Psychology can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or not-for-profits.
  - Academia and research
  - Government agencies
  - Private sector
  - Clinical/Hospitals
  - Correctional Services Canada
  - Private practice
  - Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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 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 Psychology from a recognized university.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Scores above the 60th percentile are required.
- 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 due: December 1.
- Notification of acceptance: Decisions begin on December 1.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. This basic funding packages which include a combination of fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships. Apply for external funding from the Tri-Agency and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $10,000 top-up for Doctoral winners of federal government Tri-Agency awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships, or see Funding and Financial Support on the PSYC Dept website.