Public Health Sciences PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS

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 housing options for graduate students and upper year students who are always willing to share their knowledge and expertise!

Program **STRUCTURE**

PhD (4 years) with an option to remain in a general track or specialize in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. Each student completes at least 4 courses, comprehensive exam, and dissertation.

Research **AREAS**

There are many research areas including:

- Cancer Epidemiology
- Population Health
- Health Services & Policy Research
- Clinical Epidemiology
- Health Equity
- Global Health
- Health Economics
- Physical Activity Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Mental Health
- And more!

Visit **PhD Public Health Sciences** to learn about faculty members who are accepting students and their 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 and related experience.

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs

2021-2022

Public Health Sciences PhD Map *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

Queen's University

	YEAR I	YEAR II	YEAR III	YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS	• Key priorities include completing required health and safety, animal, human research ethics training, any required coursework, and your comprehensive 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.	• Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion. • Priorities include completing your research outline and proposal, and pursuing research. • Check out **Expanding Horizons** workshops and **SGS website** for guidance through the academic process. • Complete AODA training in accessible customer service.	• Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the **SGS Dissertation Boot Camp**. • Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons **workshops**. • Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.	• 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	• Think about audiences for your research. • Apply to CIHR, NSERC, OGS, and other funding. • Attend conferences in your field.	• Start to present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences. • Expand your research audience through social media. • If appropriate, apply for the Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research **other awards**. • Complete **CORE online module** on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.	• Continue to present at conferences. • Consider participating in the **3 Minute Thesis (3MT)** competition. • Contact the **Queen's Media Centre** for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.	• Continue attending conferences and connecting with other scholars and community partners. • Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE	• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the **SGPS** 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 Clubs Directory**. • Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.	• Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community. • Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies. • For help with teaching, get support from the **Centre for Teaching and Learning**. Enroll the **PUTL certificate** for more professional development in teaching and learning.	• Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills. • Investigate internships from **MITACS** and other sources. • Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the **QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate.**	• Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a **Grad Chat** or 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**.
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 the **Queen's Cancer Research Institute** or **KFL&A Public Health**. • Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.	• 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 SGS.	• 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 like the **Canadian Public Health Association**, the **Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics** or the **Canadian Cancer Trials Group**. • Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics.
LAUNCH YOUR CAREER	• Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a **Career Services workshop** or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to do With That? • 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 **Graduate Student Career Forum** to explore your career pathways.	• Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship. • Explore different careers of interest by using **Queens Connects** on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. For more information check out **Career Cruising**. • Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.	• Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials. • Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.	• Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions. • Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from **Career Services** with job searching, resumes, and interviews. • If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an **International Student Advisor**.

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**: 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 Public Health Sciences can take your career in many directions. In Canada, about 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the rest will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Academic labs
- Research labs
- Scientific supply companies
- Administration in academic, health care or government settings
- Teaching positions in academic institutions or the private sector
- Technical positions in academic institutions or the private sector

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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Visit **careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps** for the online version with links!

* 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.

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 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: (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:** 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 $18,000 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' information on awards and scholarships.

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Sue Preston, Graduate Assistant
(613) 533-2600
epid@queensu.ca
phs.queensu.ca