Why GRADUATE STUDIES in TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE?

The innovative Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Translational Medicine is a unique research-based graduate program. The program provides students with a fresh perspective, offering a curriculum interweaving graduate level research with authentic clinical experiences in a multidisciplinary environment across departments at Queen’s University.

Combining the fields of medicine and research, this program links graduate level research skills with a variety of clinical experiences including patient interactions, clinical observerships and medical rounds to enhance professional thinking and action. This innovative curriculum will offer important foundation work for future careers in the biomedical field, and will provide critical skills for pursuing careers that include clinician scientists, biomedical researchers, leaders in industry and public health and/or health policy.

What is TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE?

Translational Medicine is driven by our patients and their diseases. Guided by this primary focus, translational research spans across the spectrum from molecular and cell biology to preclinical models to patient studies and back again. Our programs aim to train the next generation of researchers to be effective translators of biomedical discovery. Our graduates will operate at the intersection of clinical and related sciences and will have the expertise to generate and lead discovery through an integrated process, increasing the efficiency of translating science knowledge into health improvement.

Program STRUCTURE

The PhD in Translational Medicine is a 4-year research-based program, which requires the completion of 12-credit courses (3 core courses, 3-credit electives), a comprehensive exam, and a thesis.

The PhD in Translational Medicine has the same coursework requirements such that students who have completed the MSc in Translational Medicine will be granted advanced standing and have no further coursework to complete thus providing an accelerated route to PhD completion.

Core COURSES

- TMED 800 Translational Medicine
- TMED 801 Profession of Medicine
- TMED 802 Research Success Skills

Program HIGHLIGHTS

- Build on your academic education or enhance your career with advanced knowledge and skills
- Learn about translational medicine from an interdisciplinary perspective with authentic clinical experiences
- Experience team-based learning in a close-knit community with small class sizes
- Network with students, alumni, and leaders in this emerging field
- Complete a supervised project on a topic of your choice

“I sincerely think the answer “everything” really does describe what gets me excited about Translational Medicine. It is like being a kid in a candy store, where you do get to pick one of each sweet. The confections are colourful, flavourful, exciting and unlimited, just like this program's experiences and opportunities.”

- Sophia Linton, PhD’23
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

YEAR I

• Start with key priorities like scheduling an initial meeting with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework (if applicable).
• Set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans with your supervisor.
• Complete your core course and electives.
• Complete TP220: Career Planning in Translational Medicine online module for a personalized career development plan.

YEAR II

• Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and meet with your committee at least twice a year.
• Priorities include completing your research proposal, and pursuing research. Complete the ethics review process if applicable.
• Complete the Comprehensive Exam (oral defense) and embark on your substantive research.
• Find your way through the academic process with help from the TMED Student Society, faculty or university committees.
• Serve on the TMED Student Society, faculty or university committees.
• Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
• Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.

YEAR III

• Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camp, such as Dissertation on the Lake.
• Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshops.
• Use conference presentations to reach and refine your dissertation material.
• Continue to meet your supervisor regularly and your committee twice a year.

YEAR IV

• Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
• Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with your supervisor to prepare for defence.
• Review submission and examination guidelines.
• Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
• Defend your thesis and submit to the QSpace.
• Discuss career pathways, references, letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

YEAR I

• Think about audiences for your research.
• Apply for external funding to fund your research and seek advice from supervisors on appropriate granting agencies.
• Attend conferences in your field.
• Serve on the TMED Student Society, faculty or university committees.
• Consider positions in student services, the SGSA, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFCR, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.

YEAR II

• Start to present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
• Expand your research audience through social media.
• Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
• Start presenting your research at TMED Seminar Day.
• Investgate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CFTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

YEAR III

• Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
• For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
• Participate in the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
• Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

YEAR IV

• Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in your research, such as communication, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
• Continue 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.
• Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
• Continue to attend academic and professional conferences. Consider attending the Queen’s Media Centre.
• Continue public outreach through social media and media outlets about your work.
• Consider doing a Grad Chat and share your research.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

YEAR I

• Think about audiences for your research.
• Apply for external funding to fund your research and seek advice from supervisors on appropriate granting agencies.
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YEAR III

• Investgate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CFTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, 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 QUC.
• Using a Teaching Assistant position to develop your teaching skills.

YEAR IV

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ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

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YEAR IV

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• Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
• Continue to attend academic and professional conferences. Consider attending the Queen’s Media Centre.
• Continue public outreach through social media and media outlets about your work.
• Consider doing a Grad Chat and share your research.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

YEAR I

• Think about audiences for your research.
• Apply for external funding to fund your research and seek advice from supervisors on appropriate granting agencies.
• Attend conferences in your field.
• Serve on the TMED Student Society, faculty or university committees.
• Consider positions in student services, the SGSA, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFCR, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.

YEAR II

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WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Translational Medicine can equip you with:
• 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 degree in Translational Medicine can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers such as:
• Medicine
• Post-doctoral fellowships or academia
• Public Health
• Health Policy
• Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)

Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. For more information visit Queen's Student Employment Service, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, and Queen’s Connects. Get help from the Queen’s Media Centre, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshops, or other sources to boost your skills.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

APPLICATION DEADLINE
• February 1

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• A master’s degree from a recognized university with a minimum of an A- average. At Queen’s an A- is equivalent to a percentage conversion of 80-84.9% and a Grade Point Average of 3.7 (out of 4.3).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Applications for admission are completed and submitted on the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs website, including an online application form and specific instructions regarding how to submit the following documents:
  • A Statement of Interest about how applicants’ background experiences and career aspirations make them ideally suited for the program (up to 4000 characters in the online application);
  • Transcripts for all postsecondary education;
  • Two references from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic performance.
• Applicants are required to submit an electronic resumé/curriculum vitae to tmed@queensu.ca.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
• In cases where English is not the first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. Those applicants will need to provide proof of English language proficiency through one of the following:
  • International English Language Testing System (Academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each component, or
  • TOEFL iBT with a passing score of 93 including a minimum score of 24 on the speaking section.

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

What about FUNDING?

We offer our PhD students a minimum funding of $23,000 per year for four years.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR/NSERC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. See the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships for more.