Why GRADUATE STUDIES in AGING AND HEALTH?

Graduate studies in Aging and Health are offered through innovative programs that provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of aging, with a focus on health and healthy living. Students will develop multi-disciplinary knowledge of individual aging processes, the effect of aging on social systems, and the policies needed to support healthy aging. The program is meant to enhance students' ability to contribute to the development, delivery and implementation of evidence-based care, services, and policies for older adults across a range of settings.

Why QUEEN’S?

The program is full-time and is completed from a distance, through a blended format of on-line and in-person learning. Intensive on-site sessions introduce students to core courses and e-learning technology, as well as provide an opportunity for in-person interaction with faculty and fellow class members. Elective courses are completed at a distance, on-line. The blended format of on-site intensives and on-line components couples networking and experiential opportunities with the flexibility of distance learning.

Queen's University programs in Aging and Health position graduates for success in a variety of settings that serve the growing population of older adults including government, universities and colleges, for-profit and non-profit organizations, business and industry, and various healthcare settings.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full time): Course work consisting of 4 courses (normally including 2 core courses), comprehensive exam, thesis and defense.

Core COURSES

- AGHE 901 Knowledge Translation and Uptake
- AGHE 903 Critical Analysis of Theories of Aging

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

Visit the Aging and Health page on the School of Rehabilitation Therapy 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 was pleased to know that I could continue to work full-time while going to school.... I am drawn to incorporating research into my current clinical world, while also pursuing a joint career in academia.”
2019-2020

Aging and Health PhD Map *

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Meet early with your supervisor to discuss expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your research proposal and comprehensive examination.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORI online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Consider positions in student services, the community organizations that are focused on community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CQR, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs 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 and on-campus.
- Consider volunteering or working with local community organizations that are focused on supporting healthy aging and aging in place.

**PROPEL 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? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education, or take non-academic labour market websites.
- Start building your academic career of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’s Connect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**YEAR I**

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing research.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the Aging and Health Program Director and Program Assistant and the SGS Habitat.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Seek experiential/professional learning opportunities.

**YEAR II**

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the Graduate Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine thesis or project material.
- 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 exams.

**YEAR III**

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisors 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.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

- 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 3MT Chat to discuss your research interests.
- 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.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A professional degree in Aging and Health can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Ethical approaches to research and practice with older adults
- Management skills to meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management skills to develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Independence and experience as a professional
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership skills to take initiative and lead discussions and influence people.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

Queen’s University programs in Aging and Health position graduates for success in a variety of settings that serve the growing population of older adults including for-profit and non-profit organizations. Potential career opportunities include:

- Program development, implementation, and oversight in community based or public healthcare organizations;
- Coordination and management roles in for-profit organizations that deliver services or create products for older adults;
- Policy development and analysis related to aging and society;
- Program evaluation for aging and health-related services.

In addition, graduates of this program have taken the knowledge and skills gained in this program back to their own places of employment to contribute to the development of age-sensitive services and practices. Taking time to explore career options while building your experience and networks can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

*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.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Completion of a Master’s degree in a related field with a minimum B+ standing. Contact the program director and potential supervisors to discuss how your studies and experiences to date may be related to the Aging and Health program studies.
- The entire transcript is reviewed but particular attention is given to your last 20 courses and how well you have progressed throughout your academic career. Preference is given to students with higher academic standing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Two references.
- Current CV.
- Letter of Intent.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application deadline: February 15.
- Decisions will be made following that date.

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

What about FEES?
- Application Fee: $105
- Program Fee: An annual fee of approximately $1,530.00 (2019-2020) that covers costs of on-site intensive sessions including hotel room and meals, and textbooks for core courses.
- Tuition Fees: The tuition fees for the 2019-2020 year are just over $2,100 per term.

Apply for external funding and see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

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