Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4-year Bachelor’s degree.
- All students must also have sound math skills. See the Department’s website for a self-assessment of essential mathematics background.
- Grade requirements: An overall average of 75% in undergraduate studies.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- 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, (internet-based): 90, IELTS: 6.5 (overall IELTS score of 6.5 for the program, with the highest score for any single section of the IELTS test).
- The GRE is mandatory for applicants with degrees from non-Canadian universities, and a minimum score of 149 is required on the quantitative section.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 31 to qualify for internal funding.
- Application review begins in mid-February.

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

What about FUNDING?

The Department usually guarantees a minimum funding level and provides individual funding packages for full-time students (years 1 and 2) in the program, based upon the student’s academic standing and on the sources of money available each year. These packages are funded through a combination of external awards, internal awards, internal departmental awards, faculty support, teaching assistantships, graduate research assistant fellowships, and research assistantships. Apply for external funding from CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CRCF, the Department of Defence, the Canadian Cancer Society and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one-time $5,000 top-up to students who are granted a federal tri-council award in their first year of study. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships and the department’s graduate awards page.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN EPIDEMIOLOGY?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of the ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding health problems that occur at a local, regional, national, and even global level. Students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of disease incidence and prevalence, critically review scientific literature related to community health and epidemiology, collect and analyze data, and more.

The goal of the Master’s in Epidemiology program is to provide a common methodological foundation from which to conduct research in human populations across diverse health-related areas. The scope of the field of epidemiology is broad; it includes a range of content areas and methodologies. Depending upon their focus, students learn about various research designs, biostatistics, program evaluation, health economics, as well as how to design surveys and use administrative data.

Why QUEEN’S?

At Queen’s, our established strengths are in the areas of cancer, injury, obesity, disability, and mental health epidemiology as well as research in various health services contexts including public health, primary care, cancer care and critical care. We also have some emerging strengths in the areas of Northern health, Aboriginal health, and global health studies.

Epidemiology MSc Map
Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

“Combined with the intimate and supportive environment cultivated by the faculty, the Queen’s Epidemiology program is an outstanding choice for your graduate career!”

– Atif Kukaswadia, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years): Course work (4 core courses, 2 electives) and a thesis. Part-time studies are an available option.

Research AREAS

Examples of research areas include, but are not limited to:
- Epidemiology and Population Health
- Cancer Biology and Control
- Injury Epidemiology
- Mental Health Epidemiology
- Health Services Research

Visit the Epidemiology website to learn 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 and related experience.
### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Critically review the scientific literature.
- Design an epidemiologic research study.
- Present thesis proposal and apply for ethics approval.
- Begin your research.
- Collect and/or analyze and interpret research data.
- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and thesis committee.

### WRAPPING UP

- Present your research to Epidemiology graduate students and faculty.
- Choose your thesis format: Traditional or manuscript based.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis (EPID 899).
- Talk with your supervisor about presenting your research at a major conference in your field.
- Consider publishing your research in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Practice articulating your skills in different forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Meet with health agency professionals to understand your options after graduation.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest through QueensConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Attend or present at a conference such as the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics student conference.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or resume and job application materials.
- Participate in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Public Health Sciences Student Association (PHSSA) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Rehabilitation Science Department.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Attend or present at a conference such as the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics student conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Epidemiology 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 of 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 Epidemiology can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students (96%) find jobs within 6 months of graduation. Some choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD or an MD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Data Analysis (Health units, government agencies)
- Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)
- Project management in pharmaceutical and scientific research industries
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.