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.”

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Aging and Health

Year I

Achieve Your Academic Goals

- Meet early with your supervisor to set 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

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SG Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant for guidance on how to manage deadlines and responsibilities.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Seek experiential/professional learning opportunities.

Year II

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 SG Habitats.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Seek experiential/professional learning opportunities.

Year III

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGs writing camps, such as Dissertation Boot Camp and Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine theses or project material.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizon publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

Year IV & Transitioning

- 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.

Build Skills and Experience

- Consider volunteering or working with local community organizations that are focused on supporting healthy aging and aging in place.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects, on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Association of Gerontology.
- 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.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
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- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures.
- Get help from Career Services with job searching, networking, and interview preparation.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- 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.
- 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 or working with local community organizations that are focused on supporting healthy aging and aging in place.
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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 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 networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen's Connects, on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
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Career Map

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

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
- Time management skills to meet deadlines and manage dependencies despite competing demands
- Project management skills to develop ideas, gather information, analyze and critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and Innovation
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- 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 government, 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 will help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
### Graduate Studies FAQs

#### How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

#### 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 Habitat 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.

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### 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: $110
- Program Fee: An annual fee of approximately $1,568.00 (2020-2021) 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 2020-2021 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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