Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NEUROSCIENCE?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social and technological phenomena. The multidisciplinary graduate program in Neuroscience is educating the next generation of leaders who will build on the progress in reducing the impact of neurological disorders. Top students from across North America and beyond come to the Centre to learn in a collaborative environment where they can learn from the best minds in the field. The Neuroscience graduate program is firmly rooted in research because our objective is to produce highly-trained graduates who will continue our efforts to prevent and treat neurological diseases. The program offers studies spanning the full spectrum of neuroscience research, from cellular/molecular to clinical studies.

Why QUEEN’S?

At the forefront of discovery and innovation is the Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) at Queen’s University. A hub of multidisciplinary research and teaching aimed at improving the understanding of the brain, how it works and how new therapies and diagnoses can play an important role in the prevention and treatment of diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Stroke, Obesity, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Schizophrenia, Behavioral Disorders, and Depression.

The Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) welcomes applications from students from a variety of different academic backgrounds. It offers an interdisciplinary program recruiting expertise from a wide range of research areas and backgrounds, ranging from the use of cellular/molecular and genetic approaches to those that emphasize neuronal systems, whole organism and clinical studies.

“Right from the day I started at the Centre for Neuroscience Studies, it felt like family. The camaraderie and support you get is amazing.”

– Alicia Peltsch, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years, full time): Course work, research project, thesis, and defense.

Research AREAS

- Cellular/Molecular Neuroscience
- Systems Neuroscience
- Cognitive/Behavioural Neuroscience
- Clinical Neuroscience

Visit the Neuroscience website to learn more about faculty members 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.
**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, completing WHMIS hazard training, and doing your coursework.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.
- Complete the MSc Thesis Form Part 1.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your thesis.
- Take the Lab Safety Training course and AODA training.
- Complete MSc Thesis Form Part 2.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Present your research to Neuroscience graduate students and faculty.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- 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 issues and ethical practices
- Professionalism: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

- Post-doctoral study or academia
- Outreach education
- Scientific writing
- Biomedical industry
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Medical school
- Health Canada
- Clinical trials
- Biotechnology companies

A Master's degree in Neuroscience can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

**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 Neuroscience Outreach Program.
- Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CPRI, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Society of Graduate and Professional Students for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Rehabilitation Science Department.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CHIR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCT, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- 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 publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the International Society for Neuroscience Meeting or the Canadian Neuroscience Meeting. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor for advice on which ones would be most relevant.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. 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. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

- 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.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Honours Bachelor's degree in Arts or Science, Applied Science, degree of Doctor of Medicine, or equivalent.
- Grade requirements: B in the second, third and fourth years of an Honours Bachelor’s degree.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest.
- Current CV.
- 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 due: To be eligible for internal awards, applications must be submitted by February 1st. Applications received after the deadline will be accepted based on supervisor availability.

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

What about FUNDING?

Master's students in Neurosciences are offered a minimum funding of $21,000 per year. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant, but it is not guaranteed. Applicants to the Centre for Neuroscience program with external funding awards will have a greater opportunity of being accepted to the program.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CIHR/NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Master's winners of federal government tri-council awards. See the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships for more.