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.

“...I wanted to equip myself with transitional knowledge that allows me to successfully advocate for the lives of older adults, without having to move to campus and quit my job.... This program is designed for the lifelong learner, delivering rich education on a profoundly relevant topic, in a flexible format.”

– Stephanie Gurr, MSc’19

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (12 months): Seven term courses (three core and four electives), plus a project.
GDip (8 months): Five term courses (two core courses and 3 electives).

Core COURSES

• Evaluating Aging-Related Programs and Services
• Ethics and Aging
• Normal Aging Processes

Students in the MSc program will complete a project that develops skills for critical appraisal and integration of evidence to address a defined question related to aging and health.

Visit the Aging and Health website to learn more about the program and its opportunities.
**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 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 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 can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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**GETTING STARTED**
- Start with key priorities like doing your coursework and preparing for your project.
- Determine your elective courses.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the GSS Habitat.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**
- Complete your coursework.
- Begin to do research for your major project.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- If interested in further developing teaching skills, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SG5902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete your coursework and project.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the annual conference of the Canadian Association on 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.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your practice.

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**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Start with key priorities like doing your coursework and preparing for your project.
- Determine your elective courses.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the GSS Habitat.

**MAXIMIZE SCHOLARLY IMPACT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your project.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and other foundations related to your area of research.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, 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 program director or assistant for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**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.
- 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 QUCIC and FIDISC.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

**PROPEL 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.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

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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.*
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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Honours Bachelor’s degree or equivalent.
- Grade requirements: Minimum B+ average or above from any 4-year undergraduate program or equivalent.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2 copies of previous transcripts.
- 2 references, with one academic reference if you have graduated from university less than 5 years prior to application.
- Current CV or resume e-mailed to the program assistant.
- 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

- Complete applications are reviewed and offers are made on an on-going basis by the program.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply early, before the final application deadline of April 1.

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 2020-2021 year are just over $3,600 per term.

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

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