Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies
Biomedical & Molecular Sciences PhD Map

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in BIOMEDICAL & MOLECULAR SCIENCES?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the scientific community with ways of understanding fundamental biomedical and molecular processes underlying normal cellular and microbial processes, organ system function, and human disease. The faculty, staff and trainees in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences are engaged in world-class research and teaching, attracting and mentoring the best students, the finest educators, dedicated support staff, and internationally-competitive researchers. We value curiosity, creativity, commitment, and collegiality.

Why QUEEN’S?
The Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Department at Queen's provides a cross-disciplinary environment and delivers the programs in a collaborative and integrated manner. This interdisciplinary approach gives candidates access to over 80 faculty members engaged in a broad spectrum of biomedical research, using techniques to address questions concerning single molecules, cellular/microbial function, organ-systems, and whole-animal biology.

“DBMS provides graduate trainees the opportunity to conduct novel research in a collaborative, inclusive, and close-knit environment. Faculty promote cross-disciplinary learning by ensuring students are exposed to various scientific themes and cutting edge research techniques.”

– Rylend Mulder, PhD Candidate

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years, full time): Research and comprehensive exam, thesis, and oral defense.

Fields of SPECIALIZATION

- **Biochemistry and Cell Biology**: focuses on understanding the fundamental processes of life and human disease.
- **Experimental Medicine**: employs interdisciplinary methods to explore the processes responsible for both the normal and diseased state.
- **Microbes, Immunity, and Inflammation**: focuses on questions at the cellular and molecular level involving viral and bacterial organisms and the immune system.
- **Reproduction and Developmental Sciences**: spans clinical and basic science, with a focus on fertilization and embryo implantation, perinatal health, women’s health, and more.
- **Therapeutics, Drug Development, and Human Toxicology**: focuses on the effects, both beneficial and deleterious, of chemicals including drugs and environmental contaminants, on human health.

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.
What will I learn?
A graduate degree in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills

- Effective communication 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 sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity

- Professionalism: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions

Where can I go?
A Master’s degree in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences 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:

- Health Care

- Pharmaceutical Industry

- Research in Academic and Private Sectors

- Academic Health Care, Government, Private Sector Administration

- Teaching in Academic Institutions or Private Sector

- Marketing positions in Private Sector

- Educational specialization in Patent Law, Public Health, Business

- Entrepreneurial Ventures

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you take a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2020-2021. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

*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.

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

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- A Master's degree is normally required for admission to the PhD program. In certain circumstances, direct admission to the PhD program is possible.

**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, (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: March 1st (To be considered for internal awards). Flexible deadline.
- Notification of acceptance: Pending confirmation of a supervisor.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

**What about FUNDING?**

PhD students in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences are offered a minimum funding of $21,000 per year. As part of the basic funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant for at least one term per year.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#).

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**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.

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**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.