Why GRADUATE STUDIES in EDUCATION?

Join our collaborative and inclusive research community of education experts and advance your career with a PhD. With a PhD in Education, you will become a leader in your field with strong scholarly knowledge. Program course work and research opportunities emphasize the application and development of knowledge to teaching and learning. Our funded PhD is a full-time four-year program, which leverages expertise, collaborations, and partnerships within the Queen’s research community.

Why QUEEN’S?

Queen’s University has an active and vibrant graduate student community. Our Faculty of Education brings together diverse perspectives on education, fostering multidisciplinary expertise within an active collaborative research community. Our research leads to new knowledge and understandings about teaching and learning, and progressive changes in educational policies and practices.

As a researcher at Queen’s, you will engage in outreach initiatives that serve and enhance communities of practice through local, national, and international partnerships.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): Course work, comprehensive examination (2), thesis, and defense.

We develop progressive, ethical and thoughtful leaders in education through teaching, research, and professional collaboration.

RESEARCH Areas

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Curriculum Studies
- Early Childhood Education
- History and Philosophy of Education
- Language and Literacy
- Leadership and Policy Studies
- Math, Science and Technology in Education
- Social Justice and Inclusion
- Special Education

Introduce yourself and share your ideas with one of our faculty members. We highly recommend you identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying. Our faculty members in Education are approachable, accessible and collaborative. Our faculty members can be invaluable in supporting your application for admission. Visit the Faculty of Education website to read faculty profiles to learn more about faculty members’ research areas.
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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Education can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Knowledge and research 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 researcher
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision, leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?
A PhD in Education can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits

- University faculty/researchers
- Post-doctoral fellows
- Researchers at research agencies and school boards
- Leaders in health sciences and government
- Provincial and Territorial Departments of Education
- Educational Organizations
- Teachers

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and to network, can help you achieve a smooth transition to employment after graduation.

* 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 upon, 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. With over 130 graduate programs throughout more than 50 departments and research centres, you will find friends, peers and support among our graduate students. 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
- Master's degree in Education or a related discipline with first-class standing from a recognized university.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Professional experience in education or a related field is an asset.
- Two-page research proposal.
- 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: January 15
- Notification of acceptance: Late February

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

What about FUNDING?

All eligible full-time graduate students who request funding (financial support) as part of their initial application can expect to receive a funding offer to help them with the costs associated with their graduate studies in the Faculty of Education.

The minimum guaranteed funding package for PhD students is $20,000 per year, and it is important to note that they must apply for all major external and internal (where appropriate) scholarships for which they are eligible in order to qualify for the minimum guarantee. Recipients of external awards will not receive $20,000 on top of them; however, their packages are likely to be higher than those who do not win external funds. Normally, if students apply for and successfully obtain a Teaching and/or Research Assistantship the average funding for eligible PhD students is approximately $25,000 per year.

Funding packages are awarded to students based on academic merit and they may consist of any or a combination of the following: scholarships, fellowships, external awards the student may bring with them, internal awards, research assistantships, teaching assistantships or graduate teaching fellowships. The Faculty also offers funding for participation in conferences.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC/NSERC 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 and the Faculty of Education’s funding information.