Why GRADUATE STUDIES in EPIDEMIOLOGY?

Graduate students and their work are an important part of the ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding health problems that occur at a local, regional, national, and even global level. Students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of disease incidence and prevalence, critically review scientific literature related to community health and epidemiology, collect and analyse data, and more.

The goal of the Master’s in Epidemiology program is to provide a common methodological foundation from which to conduct research in human populations across diverse health-related areas. The scope of the field of epidemiology is broad; it includes a range of content areas and methodologies. Depending upon their focus, students learn about various research designs, biostatistics, program evaluation, health economics, as well as how to design surveys or use administrative data.

“Combined with the intimate and supportive environment cultivated by the faculty, the Queen’s Epidemiology program is an outstanding choice for your graduate career!”

– Atif Kukaswadia, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years): Course work (4 core courses, 2 electives) and a thesis. Part-time studies are an available option.

Research AREAS

Examples of research areas include, but are not limited to:

- Epidemiology and Population Health
- Cancer Etiology and Control
- Injury Epidemiology
- Mental Health Epidemiology
- Health Services Research

Visit the Epidemiology website to learn 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 and related experience.

Why QUEEN’S?

At Queen’s, our established strengths are in the areas of cancer, injury, obesity, disability, and mental health epidemiology as well as research in various health services contexts including public health, primary care, cancer care and critical care. We also have some emerging strengths in the areas of Northern health, Aboriginal health, and global health studies.
**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

**GETTING STARTED**

- Begin your coursework.
- Identify a thesis supervisor and research project.
- Consider how your course work can contribute to your Master’s thesis.
- 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- 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 Public Health Sciences Student Association (PHSSA) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Rehabilitation Science Department.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB).
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Kingston General Hospital, Hotel Dieu, KFL&A Public Health Unit, and Kingston Community Health Centres.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry.
- Start reading publications like For That or Planning a Scientific Career in Industry.
- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Start building your network through career fairs and other events.

**WRAPPING UP**

**GETTING STARTED**

- Present your research to Epidemiology graduate students and faculty.
- Choose your thesis format: Traditional or manuscript based.
- Complete and defend your Master’s research thesis (EPID 899).

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Become active in the PHS Student Association and tell other students about your research.
- Attend or present at a conference such as the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSER) conference.
- Consider participating in the 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Participate in 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.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with the Alumni Association for more information.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- 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.
- Practice articulating your skills in different forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Meet with health agency professionals to understand your options after graduation.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Epidemiology can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills
- 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
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A Master’s degree in Epidemiology can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students (96%) find jobs within 6 months of graduation. Some choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD or an MD. Our Masters students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Data Analysis (Health units, government agencies)
- Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)
- Project management in pharmaceutical and scientific research industries

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

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
- 4-year Bachelor’s degree.
- All students must also have sound math skills, and have achieved a grade of A- in at least one statistics course. See the Department’s website for a self-assessment of essential mathematics background.
- Grade requirements: An overall average of 75% in undergraduate studies.

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.
- The GRE is a mandatory requirement for applicants with degrees from non-Canadian universities, and a minimum score of 149 is required on the quantitative section.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 31 to qualify for internal funding.
- Application review begins in mid-February.

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

What about FUNDING?

The Department usually guarantees a minimum funding level and provides individual funding packages for full-time students (years 1 and 2) in the program, based upon the student’s academic standing and on the sources of money available each year. These packages are funded through a combination of external awards, internal awards, internal departmental awards, faculty support, teaching assistantships, graduate research assistant fellowships, and research assistantships.

Apply for external funding from CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBFC, the Department of Defence, the Canadian Cancer Society and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $5,000 top-up to students who are granted a federal tri-council award in their first year of study. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships and the department’s graduate awards page.

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