Why GRADUATE STUDIES in EPIDEMIOLOGY?

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. Students gain skills to communicate scientifically, describe trends and patterns of disease incidence and prevalence, critically review scientific literature related to public health and epidemiology, collect and analyse data, and more.

The goal of the Epidemiology PhD 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

PhD (4 years): Course work (3 core courses), comprehensive exam, and dissertation.

Research AREAS

- Epidemiology and Population Health
- Health Services and Policy Research
- Clinical Epidemiology

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.

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.
### Year I

#### Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Key priorities include completing required health and safety, animal, human research ethics training, any required coursework, and your comprehensive exam.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

#### Build Skills and Experience
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the TIPS for tips on getting involved.
- 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.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

#### 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 Queen’s Cancer Research Institute or KFL&A Public Health.
- Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.

#### Launch Your Career
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. 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.

#### Maximize Research Impact
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply to CHPR, NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field such as CSEP’s Annual Conference.

### Year II

#### Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Priorities include completing your research outline and proposal, and pursuing research.
- Check out Expanding Horizons workshops and SGPS Habitat for guidance through the academic process.
- Complete AODA training in accessible customer service.

#### Build Skills and Experience
- Start to present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.

#### Engage with Your Community
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

#### Launch Your Career
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

### Year III

#### Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGPS writing camps, such as Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.

#### Build Skills and Experience
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTP, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate by QUIC and FIDSC.

#### Engage with Your Community
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

### Year IV & Transitioning

#### Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at or conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.

#### Build Skills and Experience
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

#### Engage with Your Community
- Consider joining one of the many professional associations like the Canadian Society for Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health or the Canadian Cancer Trials Group.
- Consider partnering with science teachers to build connections with high school students.

#### Launch Your Career
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

---

*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.*

---

**Epidemiology PhD Map**

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

---

**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 in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management, prioritization, and organization
- 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, 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 PhD in Epidemiology can take your career in many directions: In Canada, about 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the rest will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Academic labs
- Research labs
- Scientific supply companies
- Administration in academic, health care, or government settings
- Teaching positions in academic institutions or the private sector
- Technical positions in academic institutions or the private sector
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

---

*Image credit: Queen's University, 2020-2021*
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
- Master's degree in epidemiology or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated research competency, usually through a research-based thesis.
- **Grade requirements:** First-class academic standing (80%).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest (including area of research and potential supervisor).
- Transcripts and CV.
- Applicants with non-thesis based Master’s training may include published, in-press or under review research papers as documentation of academic research experience.
- 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: (1) 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 31.
- Application review begins in early March.

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

What about FUNDING?

The Epidemiology department guarantees a minimum funding of $18,000 per year. There are also opportunities for paid research assistantships.

Apply for external funding from CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCF, the Department of Defence, the American Cancer Society and other sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.