Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HEALTH QUALITY?

This two year, part-time, interdisciplinary course-based program consists of seven (7) core courses and a supervised project leading to a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality (MScHQ) degree that will prepare you for practice, research and education in the developing area of Health Quality, Risk and Safety. Ensuring patient safety and minimizing risk are crucial concerns of those working in healthcare related fields. The MScHQ provides professionals with the knowledge and tools to research, advocate and implement strategies for risk reduction and quality improvement within the healthcare system.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Master of Science in Healthcare Quality (MScHQ) at Queen's is the first online program of its kind in Canada, specializing in linking theory and practice in quality, risk, and safety in healthcare. We offer interdisciplinary courses, led by leaders in their fields, convenient distance learning and valuable international exposure. Un paralleled in its scope, the Master of Science in Healthcare Quality is the only program in Canada to address the growing need for interactions across disciplines, professions and communities. Join us on the forefront of improving health quality, risk, and safety in Canada and worldwide.

Program STRUCTURE

MScHQ (2 years, part-time study): Online, course-based with two (2) 1-week in-person intensive courses; seven (7) required courses and a supervised project.

Part-Time STUDIES

The Master of Science in Healthcare Quality degree program will be delivered on a part-time basis over two years by a interdisciplinary team from the Faculties of Health Science, Law, and Engineering as well as the Schools of Business and Policy Studies at Queen's University. The interndisciplinary team of experts in the areas of quality, risk and safety will provide learners with a unique opportunity to link theoretical foundations with practical application.

Our program is designed for working professionals who would like to pursue a graduate degree. The majority of courses are delivered through interactive online classes and independent learning, but students will be expected to attend two, one-week intensive on campus sessions in July/August of your first and second year of the program. Students will be expected to carry between 1-2 courses at a time.

Required COURSES

- HQRS 840 - Introduction to Quality, Risk and Safety (in Kingston)
- HQRS 841 - Process Improvement in Healthcare
- HQRS 844 - Law, Risk and Healthcare
- HQRS 847 - International Perspectives on Policy, Economics, and Quality Healthcare
- HQRS 846 - Human Factors in Healthcare (in Kingston)
- HQRS 845 - Organizational Behaviour in Healthcare
- HQRS 842 - Research and Evaluation Methods to Assess Quality, Risk & Safety
- HQRS 898 - Project in Healthcare Quality (Final project)

Program HIGHLIGHTS

- Study where you work and live
- Build on your academic education or enhance your career with advanced knowledge and skills
- Learn about healthcare quality from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Spend time with a cohort of peers during your two (2), one-week intensive courses at Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada
- Experience team-based learning with other students
- Network with students, alumni, and leaders in this emerging field
- Complete a supervised project on a topic of your choice
## GETTING STARTED

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Start with key priorities like getting set up in online courses.
- Attend the first intensive in-person session.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the Graduate Coordinator and the SGS Habitat.

**MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your research project.
- Monitor the online student community and other healthcare quality communities such as Health Quality Ontario and IDEAS for job postings or skill development workshops.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and SGS Habitat.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in the second intensive in-person session.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Health Quality Research Forum.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Participate in graduate student outreach programs like the Health Quality Transformation.

**BUILD YOUR CAREER**
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials.
- Participate in organizing awareness and start putting together your industry resume and beginning of your job search plan (if applicable).
- Consider joining professional associations like the Health Sciences Association.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen's Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni.

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

**WRAPPING UP**

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
A graduate degree in Health Quality can equip you with:
- Knowledge and technical 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 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.
- Interprofessional Education foundations.

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.

Where to go from here?
- 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.

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**MSc Map**

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and work on your major project (989).
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as Health Quality Transformation.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Contact the MScHQ Program through e-mail, social media, and/or HQ Connects Facebook group for contacts and career opportunities.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your coursework and research project.
- Submit your research project in a relevant journal.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
- 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.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and beginning of your job search plan (if applicable).

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**WHERE CAN I GO?**

The Master of Science in Healthcare Quality program is designed for young professionals or mid- to senior-level executives who wish to continue to work full time, while pursuing an advanced degree. Professionals that may be well suited to taking the Master of Health Quality are:
- Lawyers
- Engineers
- Business professionals
- Healthcare administrators
- Healthcare Information Technologists (IT)
- Healthcare professionals
- Policy advisors
- QI leader/QI focus to your profession

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

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Grade requirements: Graduated from an accredited, baccalaureate-granting university with a minimum of a second class standing of a B or 73% (GPA 3.0).
• Received a preferred degree in a healthcare discipline, law, business, engineering, or policy studies.
• Have an undergraduate course in statistics and evidence of an understanding of research methodology and/or quality improvement experience.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• A statement of interest in the program is required to match the applicant’s academic and work experience with the objectives of the program.
• Current curriculum vitae.
• 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 deadline: February 1.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process and the HQ Programs Website.

What about FEES?

For more information on MScHQ fees and tuition, please visit the program website.

*Please note that tuition and fees are subject to changes from the Queen’s University Board of Trustees. Visit the Office of the University Registrar for more information on program fees.