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, 3 electives) and a thesis. Part-time studies are an available option.

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.
**Epidemiology MSc MAP**

**MASTERS OF SCIENCE (MSc)**

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**GETTING STARTED**

- Begin your coursework.
- Identify a thesis supervisor and research project.
- Consider how your course papers 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**.

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**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Critically review the scientific literature.
- Design an epidemiologic research study.
- Defend your thesis proposal.
- Begin your research.
- Collect and/or analyze and interpret health data.
- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and thesis committee.

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**WRAPPING UP**

- 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).

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**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: 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

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**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 Master’s 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

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**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Consider positions in student services, the **SGS**, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, **CFRG**, 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.

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**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- Apply for funding from sources such as CHKL, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CRC, the Department of Defence and the Canada Cancer Society Research Institute for your second year of studies.

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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- 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.

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**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).
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alumni”.

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**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 counsellor. 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 Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

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**WHAT TO EXPLORE FIRST**

- 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.
- Participate in the 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 Queen’s Journal, and the AMS Clubs. Look in the SGS Blog, or media outlets like SGPS, Queen’s Journal, and the AMS Clubs.

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**WHAT TO EXPLORE NEXT**

- Begin your coursework.
- Identify a thesis supervisor and research project.
- Consider how your course papers 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.
- Participate in the graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
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**WHERE TO GO NEXT**

- Defend your thesis proposal.
- Collect and/or analyze and interpret health data.
- Schedule regular meetings with your supervisor and thesis committee.

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**WHAT ELSE TO EXPLORE**

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Kingston General Hospital, Hotel Dieu, KFL&A Public Health Unit, and Kingston Community Health Centres.
- 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.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alumni”.

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**WHAT I LEARNED**

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

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**VISIT CAREERS.QUEEN’S.CA/GRADMAPS FOR THE ONLINE VERSION WITH LINKS!**

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

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*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. 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 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 MSc in Epidemiology does not guarantee a minimum funding amount. The Department 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, CBCF, 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.