Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HEALTH QUALITY?

The PhD in Health Quality (PhDHQ) will prepare experts who will improve the delivery of healthcare through teaching, developing new methodologies and theoretical frameworks, as well as testing innovation in the field of health quality. The PhDHQ program offers a collaborative approach to comprehend and address the complexities within the healthcare system. Graduates of the program will be prepared to take senior leadership roles in health quality portfolios in practice and policy settings across Canada and will also be educated to assume tenure track positions in university programs. While the degree is research intensive, it will also be grounded in pragmatism and will help prepare independent researchers for quality improvement research and developing leadership capabilities in health settings.

The PhDHQ program is a four (4) year, interdisciplinary program using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous study using interactive online videoconferencing. The PhDHQ program consists of five (5) courses in year one, including an internship over the summer months. The internship will be tailored to the learners’ interests and to broadening their perspectives on health quality. In the fall term of year two, students will complete their written comprehensive exam. The comprehensive exam will be a take home two (2) week written submission. In the winter and summer terms of year two (2) students will focus on their PhD thesis, and complete HQRS 905 Current Topics in Health Quality.

Who should APPLY?

A PhD degree in Health Quality can take your career in many directions. Our students come from varied backgrounds including but not limited to:

- Law
- Engineering
- Healthcare
- Business
- Administration
- Policy advisors
- Healthcare information technologists (IT)

Required COURSES

- HQRS 900: Philosophy of Health Quality Science
- HQRS 901: Research and Theory of Change Management and Leadership
- HQRS 902: Qualitative Methods for Research in Health Quality
- HQRS 903: Quantitative Methods for Research in Health Quality
- HQRS 904: Internship in Health Quality
- HQRS 905: Current Topics in Health Quality
- HQRS 999: Thesis

Program OBJECTIVES

- Prepare health quality professionals for leadership roles in practice, education and research
- Provide learners with skills to apply theoretical and practical knowledge of health quality, risk and safety to enhance safer healthcare for Canadians
- Integrate theoretical and practical opportunities for learners to ensure graduates have acquired applied skills in quality, risk and safety
- Ensure learners can articulate policy and legislative responsibilities and accountabilities for safer healthcare for Canadians
- Support learners to apply for grants and awards to support research in health quality, risk and safety
YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health and safety, and any required coursework, and developing your thesis proposal.
- 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 supports.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to CIHR, NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the graduate representatives for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CIFC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Monitor the online student community and other healthcare quality communities such as Health Quality Ontario and IDEAS for job postings or skill development workshops.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as Kingston Health Sciences Centre.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Follow #QueensHQ on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Join the HQ Connects Facebook group to connect with current students and alumni.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like 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.

YEAR II

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of expanding Horizons and SGS Habitat.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

YEAR III

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertations Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with your supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Health Quality 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, organization 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

WHERE CAN I GO?

The PhDHQ program will prepare graduates to pursue careers and/or leadership positions such as:

- Faculty positions
- Clinical scientists
- Clinicians with the mandate to lead quality improvement in health organizations
- Health quality researchers in business, not for profit agencies, hospitals, policy, healthcare insurance and accreditation, and government agencies

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
Applicants who have a project based or thesis based research master’s degree in health, health-related law, business, architecture, or engineering will be eligible to apply for admission. Potential applicants who have master’s degrees in other disciplines would be encouraged to discuss the suitability of the degree with the Associate Director (Health Quality Programs) prior to applying.

The overall grade point average required is B+ at the master’s level as per the School of Graduate Studies’ regulation.

Applicants from under-represented groups will be encouraged to apply and specific recruitment will be targeted to ensure the applicant pool reflects the population of Canada. As the program will be offered in a hybrid format, access to the program is unlikely to be a barrier as students will be required to be on campus for one-week periods at select times over the four years.

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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application deadline: February 1.

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

What about FUNDING?
Queen’s University provides a minimum funding guarantee currently valued at $18,000 per year, for eligible doctoral students. This amount is a minimum, and actual doctoral student support may be substantially higher in many cases, depending on the program of study.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
The guaranteed minimum will apply to all full time doctoral students registered in years 1 – 4 (ie. new and continuing students) of their programs.

Eligible doctoral students must maintain good academic standing in order to qualify.

Eligible doctoral students must be qualified to receive the usual sources offered by their home department as part of a funding package. This implies that, particularly in the case of a TA position, the student must be in residence for enough of the full academic year in order to be reasonably available for employment. In addition, students must apply for all major external and internal (where appropriate) scholarships for which they are eligible in order to qualify for the minimum guarantee.

Students must have requested financial support upon their initial application for admission to a Queen’s doctoral program in order to be eligible. It is assumed that the information provided in terms of a Yes or No in response to the query ‘Do you require financial support from Queen’s University’ applies throughout the student’s academic program.

All questions pertaining to tuition and fees should be directed to the Queen’s University Registrar’s Office at fees@queensu.ca or by phone at (613) 533-2040.