Why combine MEDICINE and GRADUATE RESEARCH?

The Professional Master of Medical Sciences is a new program offered through a partnership between the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences (DBMS), Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME), and Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME). This program has been specifically designed for graduates of medical schools who have not yet matched to a postgraduate residency program in Canada.

The Medical Sciences program provides medical school graduates with an opportunity to enhance their clinical and research skills before applying to a postgraduate residency program. Students will build on the foundations of their medical degree in many ways. They will further develop their clinical skills in the context of the Canadian healthcare system and explore current issues in medical sciences. They'll interpret foundational research and its relationship to clinical practice, conduct research responsibly using appropriate guidelines and procedures, and apply ethical behaviours consistent with academic integrity and professional standards.

It is anticipated that the emphasis on research, clinical skills, and scholarship will enhance any future applications for residency positions through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS).

Program STRUCTURE

Professional Master’s (1 year). This program requires the completion of coursework (MSCI 800, 801, 802, + 1 elective) in addition to a research project. Upon completion, students who wish to pursue further training in research may opt to apply for one of the thesis-based Masters or PhD programs offered in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Option 1: Start in July and go to June
Option 2: Start in January and go to December

Program OVERVIEW

Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences
- Begin in July
- 12 credit units
  
  Apply for postgraduate residency through CaRMS

Postgraduate Medical Education Residency Program

Apply for Master’s programs

Faculty of Health Sciences Master’s Programs

Complete second half of Professional Master of Medical Sciences

Apply for PhD programs

Faculty PhD programs

Note: Completion of the Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences or the Professional Master of Medical Sciences does not guarantee entry into a postgraduate medical education residency program, Master’s program, or PhD program.
MASTERS OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (MMSC)

**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, and doing your coursework.
- 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.
- Complete WHMIS hazard training.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBIC, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, Studio Q. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the graduate representatives for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**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 Kingston General Hospital.

**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 look out for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Continue your coursework.
- Take the Lab Safety Training course and AODA training.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Present your project to Medical Sciences graduate students and faculty.
- Complete your coursework.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Medical Sciences 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 principles, 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 Medical Sciences can take your career in many directions. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Academic and 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
- Marketing positions in private sector

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

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

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In order to be considered for admission to the Professional Master of Medical Sciences, applicants need to hold an MD or equivalent from a medical school on the International Medical Education Directory and have a B+ graduating average or higher in all postsecondary education.

Instructions on how to submit all required documentation will be sent to you by email upon application submission.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In cases where English is not the first language, nor was the language of instruction in medical school, applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. Those applicants will need to provide proof of English language proficiency through one of the following:

- International English Language Testing System (Academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each component or
- a TOEFL iBT with a passing score of 93 including a minimum score of 24 on the speaking section.

Please note that these requirements are higher than the minimum standards set by the School of Graduate Studies. As these students will be involved in observing the clinical care of patients, and participating in the clinical team discussion about the investigation and management of their clinical problems and in the clinical assessment of standardized patients, a thorough understanding and ability to communicate in English is essential.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit:

- Official transcripts from all postsecondary education;
- Personal Statement indicating the alignment of the applicant’s background and career aspirations with the objectives of the program;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- 2 references from individuals familiar with the candidate’s academic and/or clinical performance; and a
- Medical Student Performance Record or Dean’s Letter.

Applicants with an MD from a Canadian or U.S. university, must submit their score reports on Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part I.

Applicants, who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents with an MD from a country outside Canada or the U.S. must submit their score reports on both Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) and National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) examination. International applicants, who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents, must submit their score reports on Medical Council of Canadian Evaluating Examination (MCCEE).

The APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: Submit your online application via the School of Graduate Studies.

STEP 2: Once you have submitted your application, read instructions on how to submit all required documents.

STEP 3: Submit all required documents to the School of Graduate Studies. After review of the complete application, competitive candidates will be invited for an interview with the Medical Sciences Program (via Skype).