Graduate Studies FAQs

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 120 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professionals and development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for your 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

- Honours Bachelor’s degree in Arts or Science, Applied Science, degree of Doctor of Medicine, or equivalent.
- Grade requirements: B+ (77-79.9%) in the second, third and fourth years of an Honours Bachelor’s degree.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest.
- Current CV.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the 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 (acadeaic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application due: To be eligible for internal awards, applications must be submitted by February 1st. Applications received after the deadline will be accepted based on supervisor availability.

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

What about FUNDING?

Master’s students in Neurosciences are offered a minimum funding of $21,000 per year. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant, but it is not guaranteed. Applicants to the Centre for Neuroscience program with external funding awards will have a greater opportunity of being accepted to the program.

Apply for external funding from OGS, CHRM/NSEIR and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Master’s winners of federal government tri-council awards and scholarships.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NEUROSCIENCE?

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. The multidisciplinary graduate program in Neuroscience is educating the next generation of leaders who will build on the progress in reducing the impact of neurological disorders. Top students from across North America and beyond come to the Centre to learn in a collaborative environment where they can learn from the best minds in the field.

The Neuroscience graduate program is firmly rooted in research because our objective is to produce highly-trained graduates who will continue our efforts to prevent and treat neurological diseases. The program offers studies spanning the full spectrum of neuroscience research, from cellular/molecular to clinical studies.

Why QUEEN’S?

At the forefront of discovery and innovation is the Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) at Queen’s University. A hub of multidisciplinary research, we are committed to understanding the brain, how it works and how new therapies and diagnoses can play an important role in the prevention and treatment of diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Stroke, Obesity, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Schizophrenia, Behavioral Disorders, and Depression.

The Centre for Neuroscience Studies (CNS) welcomes applications from students from a variety of different academic backgrounds. It offers an interdisciplinary program recruiting expertise from a wide range of research areas and backgrounds, ranging from the use of cellular/molecular and genetic approaches to those that emphasize neuronal systems, whole organism and clinical studies.

“Right from the day I started at the Centre for Neuroscience Studies, it felt like family. The camaraderie and support you get is amazing.” – Alicia Peitsch, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years, full time): Course work, research project, thesis, and defense.

Research AREAS

- Cellular/Molecular Neuroscience
- Systems Neuroscience
- Cognitive/Behavioural Neuroscience
- Clinical Neuroscience

Visit the Neuroscience website to learn more about faculty members and their 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.
**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, completing WHMIS hazard training, 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 the MSc Thesis Form Part 1.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your thesis.
- Take the Lab Safety Training course and ADDA training.
- Complete MSc Thesis Form Part 2.
- Present your research to Neuroscience graduate students and faculty.
- Complete and defend your Master’s research thesis.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Neuroscience 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

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A Master’s degree in Neuroscience can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Post-doctoral study or academia
- Outreach education
- Scientific writing
- Biomedical industry
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Medical school
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.