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 and teaching aimed at improving the understanding of 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 Peltsch, 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.
Neuroscience MSc MAP *

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc)

**GETTING STARTED**
- 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.

**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, CBICF, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.
- Consider joining the SGS Habitat for experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Society of Graduate and Professional Students for tips on getting involved.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Neuroscience Outreach Program.
- Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Global Neuroscience Conference, or the International Society for Neurochemistry Meeting.
- Complete the MSc Thesis Form Part 2.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Neuroscience Meeting, or the Society for Neuroscience's Annual Meeting. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor for advice on which ones would be most relevant.
- Attend the Lab Safety Training course and AODA training.
- Take the Lab Safety Training course and AODA training.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Explore publications like the Neurochemistry Meeting, or the Neuroscience Conference, or the Neuroscience Conference.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Society of Graduate and Professional Students for tips on getting involved.
- Consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Meet with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through QueensConnects on LinkedIn to connect.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**
- Start reading publications like the Neurochemistry Meeting, or the Neuroscience Conference, or the International Society for Neurochemistry Meeting.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your thesis.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Global Neuroscience Conference, or the International Society for Neurochemistry Meeting.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Neuroscience Meeting, or the Society for Neuroscience's Annual Meeting. There are many to choose from, so talk to your supervisor for advice on which ones would be most relevant.
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- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your thesis.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Global Neuroscience Conference, or the International Society for Neurochemistry Meeting.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**LUCKY FIVE**
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Global Neuroscience Conference, or the International Society for Neurochemistry Meeting.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- A graduate degree in Neuroscience can equip you with valuable 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.
Graduate Studies FAQs

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 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 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, CIHR/NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Master's winners of federal government tri-council awards. See the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships for more.

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE

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