Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, this map is designed to help you 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 SOS, 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 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful learning environment for 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 on 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
- A Master’s degree in Neuroscience, or in a field with a strong neuroscience and research component.

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; (i)TOEFL iBT: Writing (20/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 68/120 (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 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?

At Queen’s, graduate students in Neuroscience are offered a minimum funding of $23,000 per year. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant, but it is not guaranteed. The Centre for Neuroscience offers numerous academic awards. 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 GOG, CHRI/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.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NEUROSCIENCE?

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 Queen’s. At 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.

“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

Research AREAS
- Cellular/Molecular Neuroscience
- Systems Neuroscience
- Cognitive/Behavioural Neuroscience
- Clinical Neuroscience
- Computational 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 them/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

Neuroscience PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why

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# Neuroscience PhD MAP

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

## YEAR I

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<tr>
<th>ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS</th>
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<td>- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, completing required health and safety, animal, human research ethics training and any required coursework, developing your research proposal, and finishing part 1 of your Ph.D thesis form.</td>
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<td>- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.</td>
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## YEAR II

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<th>MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT</th>
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<td>- Think about audiences for your research.</td>
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<td>- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.</td>
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<td>- Apply to CIHR, NISERG, OGS, and other funding.</td>
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<td>- Attend conferences in your field such as the Society for Neuroscience (SFN), or the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN).</td>
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## YEAR III

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<th>BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE</th>
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<td>- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.</td>
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<td>- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFCR and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.</td>
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<td>- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.</td>
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## YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

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<th>ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY</th>
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<td>- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.</td>
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<td>- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Neuroscience Outreach Program.</td>
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<td>- Attend the seminar series put on by the Centre for Neuroscience Studies.</td>
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<th>LAUNCH YOUR CAREER</th>
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<td>- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor 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.</td>
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<td>- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.</td>
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## 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 PhD in Neuroscience can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Post-doctoral study or academia
- Outreach education
- Scientific writing
- Medical industry
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Medical school

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

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

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities to support all careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.*