Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NURSING?

Consider a graduate degree in Nursing for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical thinking, writing, and research and, perhaps even more importantly, skills to facilitate change in today's health care system. Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the health care system with ways of understanding phenomena using multiple ways of knowing. Today's employment marketplace seeks people who can critically analyze information and evidence, synthesize in both scholarly and public reports, create new knowledge, and lead change and transformation. Study Nursing and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEEN'S?

The School of Nursing at Queen's now offers an online PhD program. Students attend two on-campus residencies in Year 1 (September and May), and complete their coursework online. This innovative program prepares graduates with analytical and research skills required to expand knowledge of clinical, theoretical, and health systems issues. Our students are taught primarily in small graduate seminars, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of philosophy and research, and delve into their own research. Nurtured by close mentoring relationships with faculty supervisors, students engage early and continuously in research and successfully complete the program in 4 years.

Program STRUCTURE

Professor (4 years): course work, comprehensive exam, research thesis.

RESEARCH Areas

Practice environments
- Models of care
- Leadership
- Workplace culture, structure and health
- Communication strategies and systems

Populations with complex conditions
- Optimizing function and well-being
- Multimorbidity
- Mental health and/or addictions
- Outcomes monitoring

Health care quality
- Advancing safety
- Risk assessment and reduction
- Educational and technological innovations
- Health system service and delivery

and more

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the School of Nursing website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' 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.

“I loved the collegial atmosphere provided by the caring and supportive faculty. It was at Queen's that I developed my thirst for knowledge through evidence based research.”

– Judeline Innocent, RN, PhD (2013)
# Nursing PhD MAP *

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- **YEAR I**
  - Attend two 10-day on-campus residencies (September and May).
  - Complete 5 courses (4 online; 1 on-campus during May residency).
  - 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 a variety of supports.

- **YEAR II**
  - Write your comprehensive exams.
  - Form your thesis committee, embark on your substantive research, and write and defend your dissertation proposal.
  - Consider enrolling in additional electives that may benefit your research and career goals.
  - Seek experiential/professional development opportunities. Attend PhD Seminar every other week.

- **YEAR III**
  - Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation 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 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- **YEAR I**
  - Attend and present at the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research Day, in biweekly Academic Series.
  - Attend the Graduate Nursing Program Research Day, the Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Workshop, and participate in biweekly Academic Series.

- **YEAR II**
  - Attend present at conferences.
  - Consider participating in the 1 Minute Thesis (1MT) competition.
  - Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. Check out the Nursing and Health Research Centre.
  - Attend and present at the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research Day.

- **YEAR III**
  - Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
  - Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
  - Attend and present at the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research Day.
  - Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- **YEAR I**
  - Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs) for tips on getting involved.
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
  - Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- **YEAR II**
  - Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
  - Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS901 or PUTL certification for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- **YEAR III**
  - Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
  - Find opportunities for extra training through CTI, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multicultural environment by taking QUIC and Four Directions, Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - 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.
  - Attend and present at the Annual Graduate Nursing Program Research Day.
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Nurses’ Association, Canadian Association for Nursing Research.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- **YEAR I**
  - Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
  - If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as Fulbright Scholarships.

- **YEAR II**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

- **YEAR III**
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
  - Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

- **YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
  - Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
  - Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
  - If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- **YEAR I**
  - Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? 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**
  - Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alumnus. For more information check out Career Cruising.
  - Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- **YEAR III**
  - Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
  - Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

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  - Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
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**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A PhD in Nursing 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. Graduates from the Nursing PhD program have found careers as:

- Professors
- Advanced Practice Nurses
- Healthcare Administrators
- Research Scientists
- Deans or Directors

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have 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 and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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. Keep in mind that certain resources, such as Career workshops, may not be available while you are completing your degree off-campus.

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 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 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**
- Master's degree in Nursing or equivalent. Applicants without an undergraduate university degree in nursing will be considered on an individual basis, and are strongly encouraged to contact the School of Nursing to discuss this opportunity prior to applying.
- **Grade requirements**: minimum B+ average over core courses.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
- Two academic letters of reference.
- Registration (or eligibility to register) as a Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- Statement of academic, research and professional plans.
- Copy of Curriculum Vitae (Resume)
- Questions for Doctoral Nursing Program
- 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 deadline**: February 1st, or until all seats are filled.
- **Notification of acceptance**: mid-March to early April.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

In keeping with the School of Graduate Studies policy, eligible full-time Ph.D. students qualify for research assistantships (RA), teaching assistantships (TA), teaching fellowships (TF), Queen’s Graduate Awards (QGA) and internal awards.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from CIHR, OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on [awards and scholarships](#) or see what awards are offered through the [School of Nursing](#).