Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Honours BSc or equivalent in life sciences, biochemistry, biology, or equivalent program with at least a B+ average. (Students with only a general degree can be admitted for a qualifying year.)
- We consider all of your grades, but pay particular attention to the last two years of science-related courses.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 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 (20/30); Speaking (21/30); Reading (18/30); Listening (18/30), 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: 6.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academic: 59.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application due: February 1st to be considered for internal funding.
- Notification of acceptance: Quickly pending confirmation of a supervisor.

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

What about FUNDING?

We offer our Master's students minimum funding of $21,700. For internal, provincial and national competitive award winners, the funding package increases by 2.5%, 5% and 10% respectively.

Apply for external funding from OGS, 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 available resources.

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 SGSS handbook 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 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.

Pathology & Molecular Medicine MSc Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PATHOLOGY & MOLECULAR MEDICINE?

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. Graduate students in Pathology and Molecular Medicine have opportunities to pursue comprehensive training in basic and translational biomedical research. They pursue advanced degrees under the supervision of an exceptional group of basic, clinical and translational researchers.

Queen’s is a great setting to learn firsthand how the fast pace of molecular genetic research is changing clinical practice, leading to exciting new diagnostic and treatment approaches for cancer and other diseases.

Research AREAS

- Cancer Research and Developmental Biology
- Human Genetics and Cytogenetics
- Hemostasis, Thrombosis Research, and Vascular Biology
- Microbiome

Visit the Pathology and Molecular Medicine website to read faculty profiles and learn more about our experts’ 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, area of research interest and related experience. Please include a current CV, contact information for 2-3 references who would be familiar with your academic performance and any research experience and an unofficial transcript.

Why QUEENS?

With a focus on cancer – 12 of our 20 investigators are cancer biologists – our department members deliver comprehensive diagnostic laboratory and clinical services to Southeastern Ontario through the Kingston General Hospital, offering great training for the next generation of biomedical research scientists and laboratory physicians.

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years): Course work, research demonstrating experimental competence, and a thesis.
### Pathology & Molecular Medicine

**MSc MAP**

#### GETTING STARTED

- **ACQUIRE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
  - Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
  - Consider how your course papers can contribute to your Master's thesis.
  - 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.

- **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, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.
  - Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA).
  - 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.

- **BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
  - Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, or the SGS Blog. Look into the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
  - Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
  - Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine.
  - Start keeping an epoofolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
  - Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
  - For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Enroll in S5901 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- **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 the Canadian Cancer Society, Kingston General Hospital and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.
  - Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking Expanding Horizons, or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

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

#### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- **COMPLETE YOUR COURSEWORK**
  - Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your thesis.

- **WRAPPING UP**
  - Present your research to Pathology & Molecular Medicine graduate students and faculty.

  - Complete and defend your Master's research thesis.

- **GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY**
  - Consider putting an article in one of the following outlets: SGS Blog, Queen's Journal, Expanding Horizons, Kingston General Hospital, and the SGS Habitat.

- **PRACTICE ARTICULATING YOUR SKILLS**
  - Expand your research audience through social media.
  - Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your thesis.
  - Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor and forming your committee.

#### WRAPPING UP

- **PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH TO PATHOLOGY & MOLECULAR MEDICINE GRADUATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY**
  - Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
  - Attend a major conference in your field, such as the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, The Canadian Association of Pathologists' Annual Meeting.
  - Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

- **RESEARCH AND CURIOSITY**
  - 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.
  - Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
  - Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
  - Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest.
  - 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 the Alumni Network. Ask an Alum.
  - If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
  - 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.

- **HIGHLY PERSONALIZED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
  - Find your way through the academic process with help from the Career Services workshop.
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Association of Pathologists, the Canadian Cancer Society or the Ontario Association of Pathologists.

- **WHERE CAN I GO?**
  - A Master's degree in Pathology & Molecular Medicine 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:
    - Health Care (hospital clinical labs)
    - Pharmaceutical companies
    - Academic 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 companies

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

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*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.*