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 first class standing, or MSc, or equivalent research experience.
- 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, (iBT): Writing 22/30, 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: 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?

Minimum funding guarantee for PhD students: $22,700. For internal, provincial and national competitive award winners, the funding package increases by 2.5%, 5% and 10% respectively. 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 SOSS HABITAT for 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. Depending on your needs, you may find support from one or several of the services we offer. From academic tutoring, career advice, personal and mental health support, to many other services such as cross-cultural support, discrimination and harassment services, and more. For more information, please see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

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 students. 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 PhD MAP**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

**YEAR I**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Key priorities include completing any required coursework and training, and developing your research proposal.
- 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to CIHR, NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

**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.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a 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 So 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 labor market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

**YEAR II**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons, a professional development workshop, the Pathology and Molecular Medicine Graduate Coordinator and the SGSS Habitat.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Present your work at graduate conferences such as Canadian Cancer Research Conference, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in the 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 SGSS909 or the PITT Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- 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 the Jeremy Nightingale Graduate Travel Award which supports travel to an expert laboratory to learn new methods.

**YEAR III**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- 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 multi-cultural environment by taking UQIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- 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.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- 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 for any necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- 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.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Join professional associations like the American Society of Hematology, the American Association for Cancer Research, the Canadian Cancer Society.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in pathology and molecular medicine.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Pathology and Molecular Medicine 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
- Professionalism: in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A PhD in Pathology & Molecular Medicine can open 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.

- 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

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.