Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Pathology & Molecular Medicine PhD Map

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. The faculty, staff and trainees in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences are engaged in world-class research and teaching, attracting and mentoring the best students, the finest educators, dedicated support staff, and internationally-competitive researchers. We value curiosity, creativity, commitment, and collegiality.

The department is a distinguished academic centre engaging a wide range of research endeavours including anatomical sciences, bacteriology, biochemistry, cancer biology, cardiovascular sciences, cell biology, developmental biology, immunology, molecular biology, neuroscience, pharmacology, physiology, reproductive biology, toxicology and virology. The breadth and depth of our research has a strong foundation in multidisciplinary discovery. The faculty and trainees collaborate with numerous research institutions locally, nationally and internationally.

Queen's is a great setting to learn first-hand 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.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): Course work, research making novel contributions to the field of study, and a thesis.

Research AREAS

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

Visit the Pathology and Molecular Medicine 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, area of research interest and related experience.

Why QUEEN’S?

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.

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. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.
**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.
  - Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing research.
  - Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the Pathology and Molecular Medicine Graduate Coordinator and the SGS Habitat.

**YEAR II**
- Continue your academic journey
  - Present your work at graduate conferences such as CanCancerResearch, 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.
  - 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.

**YEAR III**
- Maximize your 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.
  - Find opportunities for extra training through CTS, 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 a QUSC and Four Directions, Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- Plan your transition
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in developing settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - Continue attending 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.
  - 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.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
- A PhD in Pathology & Molecular Medicine 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-profit.
  - 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

**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
  - Perseverance
  - Indepedence 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

**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.
  - If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as the Jeremy Nesheim Graduate Travel Award which supports travel to an SGS Graduate Travel Award or investigate options such as the SGS Habitat.
  - 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.

**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.
  - Present your work at graduate conferences such as CanCancerResearch, 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**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Present your work at graduate conferences such as CanCancerResearch, 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.
  - Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in developing settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
  - 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.
  - 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.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding a 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? 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.
  - 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 Nesheim Graduate Travel Award which supports travel to an SGS Graduate Travel Award or investigate options such as the SGS Habitat.
  - 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.
  - 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.

**SET UP A MEETING WITH**

**A GRADUATE STUDENT**

**CONSIDERATION**

**DATE**

**LOCATION**

**WHY DO I WANT TO DO THIS?**

**WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TO DO THIS?**

**WHO ELSE CAN HELP ME GET TO THIS POINT?**

**MY GRAD MAP**

* 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.

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

Apply for external funding from CIHR, NSERC, OGS, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBCF, the Department of Defence, the American Cancer Society 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, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.