Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Master's degree in Psychology from a recognized university.
• Grade requirements: minimum B+ average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Statement of Interest
• Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Scores above the 60th percentile are required.
• 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, (computer-based): 213, (IBT): 96; IELTS: 7.0; PTE: 65.

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1–4. This basic funding package includes a combination of fellowships, scholarships, and teaching assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from 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, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the Psychology Department.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a particularly diverse profession encompassing research, teaching, and applied work. While the two former activities are relevant mainly, but by no means exclusively to universities, applied psychologists work in a wide variety of settings including: industry, management, the school systems, private practice, penitentiaries, and hospitals. Like members of all professions, the conduct of psychologists whether they are engaged in practice, teaching or research, is regulated by principles, standards and by statute. In Ontario persons who call themselves a psychologist must meet at least, one of three criteria: they must be a university professor, be employed in a psychologist’s position by the federal penitentiary system, or be on the territorial rolls.

Why QUEEN’S?

The graduate program in Psychology at Queen’s is internationally renowned for its excellent faculty and students, its innovative training and the value of its research, scholarship and skill development. We offer a wide range of programs in core areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on fundamental research and discovery, as well as intensive training in clinical skills and applications. Our Department and Queen’s host world-class researchers and a number of state-of-the-art techniques and laboratories. Our goal is to prepare students for successful careers in a variety of settings, including academic institutions, hospitals, and the private sector, education, and many others.

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 SSS, 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 1,300 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres.

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.
Psychology PhD MAP

YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- 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.
- Complete the human/animal research ethics training.

YEAR II

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 NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGIP, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CPJR, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club 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 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 the PUTF 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 and events, such as the Got Your Back campaign.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- 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 III

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences such as the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference, or the European Congress of Psychology.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Participate in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
- List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ APA-accredited internship site in North America.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

- 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Psychology can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills
- Experience 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 Psychology 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.

- Academia and research
- Government agencies
- Private sector
- Clinical Hospital
- Correctional Services Canada
- Private practice

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

* 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.