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 service, or must be registered.

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, clinical and health care settings, industry and the private sector, education, and many others.

“I find that I’m getting a really good balance of experiences here. I’ve had the opportunity to travel a lot. In the last two years, I’ve presented at conferences in Halifax, Chicago, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.”
– Karen Blair, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work and thesis/dissertation.

**There is an additional 1 year internship for clinical students.

RESEARCH Areas

- Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science
- Clinical Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social/Personality Psychology

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

Visit the Psychology Department 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.
# Psychology PhD Map *

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**

## Achieve Your Academic Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR I</th>
<th>YEAR II</th>
<th>YEAR III</th>
<th>YEAR IV &amp; TRANSITIONING</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.</td>
<td>• Write and defend your thesis proposal.</td>
<td>• Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation.</td>
<td>• Plan date of thesis submission for examination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.</td>
<td>• Embark on your substantive research.</td>
<td>• Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.</td>
<td>• Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.</td>
<td>• Set up meetings with your department to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.</td>
<td>• Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.</td>
<td>• Review submission and examination guidelines.</td>
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<td>• Complete the human/animal research ethics training.</td>
<td>• Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.</td>
<td>• Participation in your graduate and professional community through various activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.</td>
<td>• Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.</td>
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## Build Skills and Experience

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<tr>
<td>• Think about audiences for your research.</td>
<td>• 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 Psychologists.</td>
<td>• Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.</td>
<td>• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.</td>
<td>• Continue to present at conferences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.</td>
<td>• Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.</td>
<td>• Consider participating in the 1 Minute Thesis (1MT) competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attend conferences in your field.</td>
<td>• Start teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.</td>
<td>• Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.</td>
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## Engage with Your Community

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Serve on departmental or university committees.</td>
<td>• Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for tips on getting involved.</td>
<td>• Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/AFPA-accredited internship site in North America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consider positions in student services, the SGs, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog.</td>
<td>• Find opportunities for extra training through CTI, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.</td>
<td>• Prepare for work on studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QC4 and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.</td>
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## Launch Your Career

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>• Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.</td>
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### 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 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/Hospitals
- 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.

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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.*

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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: (1) 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: December 1.
• Notification of acceptance: Decisions begin on December 1.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1–4. This basic funding packages which include 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.

DEPARTMENT OF
PSYCHOLOGY

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