

Rehabilitation and Health Leadership DSc RHL MAP



Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN REHABILITATION AND HEALTH LEADERSHIP?

The DSc (RHL) is a 36 month executive-style degree program that allows students to continue working while completing the degree through a blend of onsite sessions and online learning.

The DSc (RHL) equips currently practicing rehabilitation and health professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to confidently pursue career opportunities that require advanced competencies in leadership, program development, applied research and evaluation, advocacy, change management, and knowledge translation.

The program format and curriculum design are firmly rooted in the belief that collaboration, creativity, and the discovery of new knowledge can inspire changes that benefit people affected by or at risk of disability.

The program is open to all professionals, whose current work or future career goals focus on advancing programs, services, and systems that will positively influence the everyday lives of people affected by or at risk of disability.

The cohort-based program has been designed with the working professional in mind. The blended program format includes short, intensive on-campus components (3-7 days) once or twice per year (depending on year of study), coupled with online learning.

Why QUEEN'S?

As the first professional doctorate program at Queen's University, the DSc (RHL) will train *leader scholars* who are able to apply theory and use rigorous methodologies to inform decision-making in rehabilitation and health settings across the country and around the globe.

Where CAN I GO?

A Professional Doctorate degree in Rehabilitation and Health Leadership can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Leadership positions in organizations that provide direct healthcare services to those with or at risk of disability.
- Policy advisory roles in government and non-governmental organizations.
- Leadership roles in advocacy and non-profit organizations.



Program OUTCOMES

DSc (RHL) Graduates will be able to:

- Critically appraise, synthesize, and integrate knowledge from multiple sources and consider the impact of its application on various stakeholders (e.g., patients/clients, practitioners, families, public and private systems that fund or deliver services), in order to improve rehabilitation and health practice and service delivery;
- Design, implement and evaluate novel services, programs and processes in diverse areas of rehabilitation and health;
- Advocate for and lead services and programs to enhance the lives of people affected by or at risk of disability.

DSc (RHL) – Program Progression Flow Chart

| | Spring/Summer Term (May-August) | Fall Term (September-December) | Winter Term (January-April) |
|--------|--|--|--|
| Year 1 | 5 day on-site¹ RHL 900 – Applying Theory to Enable Change RHL 902 (start) – Leadership Development Seminar | RHL 902 (cont'd) – Leadership Development Seminar RHL 905 (BSc entry) – Critical Literature Review Elective (MSc entry) Required group check-in ^a | 3 day on-site² RHL 901 – Applied Research and Evaluation Elective |
| Year 2 | 5 day on-site³ RHL 904 – Preparing Competitive Funding Proposals Comprehensive exam Elective | RHL 903 – Communication, Advocacy & Action Proposal defense/ethics submission Elective Required group check-in ^a | Dissertation Elective Required group check-in ^a |
| Year 3 | 4 day optional on-site (writing retreat) Dissertation Elective | Dissertation Elective Required group check-in ^a | On-site defense |
| Year 4 | Optional program conference Graduate | | |

¹The initial on-site will be used for orientation to the program and Queen's resources, technology training, cohort development activities, and to launch the first two courses (students will continue course work on-line).

²The second on-site will be held at the intersection of late in the fall term and the beginning of the winter term (occurring in either late November/early December, or early January). It will be used to wrap up the fall term courses and engage in related experiential learning activities (e.g., oral presentations) and provide opportunities for meetings with faculty advisors.

³The third on-site will serve two purposes. First, it will be used to introduce the 904 course (proposal writing) and orient students to the applied dissertation process and the comprehensive exam process. Second, it will provide an opportunity for engagement with the in-coming cohort. Meetings with faculty advisors and committees will be held. For some students, the third on-site may be used for comprehensive exam and/or dissertation proposal defenses.

^a Required group check-ins will be synchronous sessions to bring the cohort together for mutual support, peer-to-peer learning and feedback, and progress monitoring.

Graduate Studies FAQs

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 [SGS 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 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, and prize-winning professional development opportunities, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.



Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

Program Structure

Students progress through the program on a full-time basis in order to complete requirements in 36 months. Students entering with a Master's degree will complete a total of 5 required (core) courses (15 credits), two electives (6 credits), a comprehensive exam, and an applied dissertation. Students entering with a Bachelor's degree will complete one additional core course (Critical Literature Review).

Core Courses Include:

- Applying Theory to Enable Change
- Applied Research and Evaluation
- Leadership Development
- Communication, Advocacy and Action
- Preparing Competitive Funding Proposals

Applied Dissertation:

Students identify a real-world problem in a rehabilitation or health setting, and design, implement and evaluate a process, program or system to address this problem.

Requirements

Academic Requirements

- A B+ average in a Master's degree with a minimum of one-year work experience in a setting that develops, implements or manages programs, services, policies or processes for people affected by or at risk of a disability and evidence of progressive involvement in leadership activities or roles as evidenced in a curriculum vitae and through letters of reference OR
- A B+ average in a Bachelor's degree (four-year undergraduate program or equivalent) with a minimum of 5 years work experience in a setting that develops, implements or manages programs, services, policies or processes for people affected by or at risk of a disability and evidence of progressive involvement in leadership activities or roles as evidenced in a curriculum vitae and through letters of reference.

Additional Requirements

- One Professional Reference: A reference that addresses your work and/or volunteer experience and potential for leadership in rehabilitation and health.
- Two Academic References.
- Current curriculum vitae (CV) or Resume: 4 pages maximum, submitted directly to the Graduate Assistant.
- Letter of Intent: Maximum 2500 characters without spaces, submitted directly to the Graduate Assistant.

Key Dates & Deadlines

- Complete applications are reviewed and offers are made on an on-going basis by the program.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply early, before the final application deadline of **January 15**.

Funding

- The DSc (RHL) is a professional program designed to allow students to continue working throughout their studies. While funding packages are not provided to students, all applicants are automatically considered for entrance scholarships specific to the program, are encouraged to seek external funding (including employer support), and are eligible to apply for Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantship positions.



DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
REHABILITATION AND
HEALTH LEADERSHIP

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