Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
In order to be considered for admission to the Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences, applicants need to hold an MD or equivalent from a medical school on the International Medical Education Directory and have a B+ graduating average or higher in all postsecondary education.

Instructions on how to submit all required documentation will be sent to you by email upon application submission.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
Applicants must submit:
- Official transcripts from all postsecondary education;
- Personal Statement indicating the alignment of the applicant’s background and career aspirations with the objectives of the program;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- 2 references from individuals familiar with the candidates academic and/or clinical performance; and a
- Medical Student Performance Record or Dean’s Letter.

All Applicants must submit their score reports on both Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part 1 and National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) examination. Applicants may submit the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCCE) in place of the MCCQE Part 1.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
While proof of English language proficiency is not required, a thorough understanding, as written, is essential. It is strongly suggested that applicants also review requirements for admission to residency programs and to the School of Graduate Studies.

Please note that these requirements are higher than the minimum standards set by the School of Graduate Studies. As these students will be involved in observing the clinical care and participating in the clinical team discussion about the investigation and management of their clinical problems and in the clinical assessment of standardized patients, a thorough understanding and ability to communicate in English is essential.

The APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: Submit your online application via the School of Graduate Studies
STEP 2: Once you have submitted your application, read instructions on how to submit all required documents.
STEP 3: Submit all required documents to the School of Graduate Studies. After review of the complete application, competitive candidates will be invited for an interview with the Medical Sciences Program via Zoom.

Why combine MEDICINE and GRADUATE RESEARCH?
The Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences is a new program offered through a partnership between the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences (DBMS), Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME), and Undergraduate Medical Education (UMGE). This program has been specifically designed for graduates of medical schools who have not yet matched to a postgraduate residency program in Canada.

The Medical Sciences program provides medical school graduates with an opportunity to enhance their clinical and research skills before applying to a postgraduate residency program. Students will build on the foundations of their medical degree in many ways. They will further develop their clinical skills in the context of the Canadian healthcare system and explore current issues in medical sciences. They’ll interpret foundational research and its relationship to clinical practice, conduct research responsibly using appropriate guidelines and procedures, and apply ethical behaviours consistent with academic integrity and professional standards.

Program OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1: Start in July and go to December</th>
<th>Option 2: Start in January and go to June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July-December</td>
<td>January-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July-December</td>
<td>January-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July-December</td>
<td>July-December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADUATE RESEARCH

Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences
- Begin in July
- 12 credit units
- Complete second half of Professional Master of Medical Sciences
- Apply for Master’s programs
- Apply for PhD programs

Professional Master of Medical Sciences
- Begin in July
- 24 credit units
- Apply for postgraduate residency or further graduate studies during program
- Faculty of Health Sciences PhD programs

GRAD MAP FOR GDip STUDENTS
# Intermediate Stage

## Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Start your coursework and review clinical interests for potential research proposal.
- Discuss the CanMEDS educational framework.
- Complete a workshop on conducting literature searches.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the GSS Habitat.

## Maximize Research Impact
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for funding from sources such as CIHR, NSERC, SSH, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, CBIC, the Department of Defence and the American Cancer Society.
- Start to think about the audiences for your research.

## Build Skills and Experience
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC Studio O and the SGS Blog. Look in the AM Hockey Directory for more ideas.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Rehabilitation Science Department.

## 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 Kingston General Hospital.

## Launch Your Career
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like "What Am I Going to Do With That?" or Planning A Scientific Career in Industry from the Queen's Journal, University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

### Wrapping Up

## Achieve Your Academic Goals
- Complete the Fundamentals of Academic Research course (BMED 860) and develop your research proposal in MSC 800.
- Attend Evidence-Based Journal Club Meetings, participate in Facilitated Small Group Learning sessions, demonstrate incorporation of CanMEDS competencies in to the clinical/simulated learning environment, take the Nightmares Course (simulation-based critical events training), and perform technical/procedural skills in our state-of-the-art simulation lab.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss clinical placement performance.

## Maximize Research Impact
- Meet with course faculty to develop research interests.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Attend a graduate conference. Ask your supervisor for recommendations.

## Build Skills and Experience
- 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 3565932 or the PUTL 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.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate, hosted by QUIC and FERSE.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

## Launch Your Career
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueensConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum".
- If you are considering entering the Professional Masters of Medical Sciences or other MSc programs, reach out to faculty and apply to programs and external scholarships.

### What Will I Learn?
A Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences can equip you with:
- Knowledge and technical skills: CanMEDS Educational Framework
- 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.
- An understanding of ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in work, research, and interactions
- Leadership initiative and vision leading people and discussion

### Where Can I Go?
A Graduate Diploma in Medical Sciences can take your career in many directions. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Academic and research labs
- Administration in academic, health care or government settings
- Apply for residency through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS).
- Data Analysis (Health units, government agencies)
- Health Care (Hospital clinical labs)
- Health research (research associates in universities, hospitals, government, public health units)
- Marketing positions in private sector
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Scientific supply companies
- Teaching positions in academic institutions or the private sector
- Technical positions in academic institutions or the private sector