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 admissions committee requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30), Speaking (22/30), Reading (22/30), Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must meet 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 Academic: 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: $23,000 annually. 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.

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 firsthand 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.

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.
2019-2020
Pathology & Molecular Medicine PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

YEAR I
- 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.

YEAR II
- 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 SGSS Habitat.

YEAR III
- Continue to research and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

YEAR I
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE 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.

YEAR II
- Present your written at graduate conferences such as Canadian Cancer Research Conference, 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.

YEAR III
- 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

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

YEAR I
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGSS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CBC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

YEAR II
- 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. Enroll in SGSS92 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

YEAR III
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, 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 the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUG and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.

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

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

YEAR I
- 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.
- Particpate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

YEAR II
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate opportunities such as the creamy Nesher Graduate Travel Award which supports travel to an expert laboratory to learn new methods.

YEAR III
- 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 IV & TRANSITIONING
- Join professional associations like the American Society of Hematology, the American Association for Cancer Research, the Canadian Cancer Society.
- Continuous targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in pathology and molecular biology.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

YEAR I
- 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.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II
- Start building your teaching portfolio, including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGSS website, and using Queen's Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through ‘Ask an Alum’. For more information check out Career Cruising
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR III
- 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.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job search, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

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
• Persistence
• 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 Pathology & Molecular Medicine can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.
• 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
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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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

* 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.