Doctor of Science in 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 on-site 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 rehabilitation or health settings, and design, implement and evaluate a process, program or system to address this problem.

Why QUEEN’S?

As the first professional doctorate program at Queen’s University, the DSc (RHL) will train rehabilitation and health professionals who are able to apply theory to address this problem.

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

• 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 rehabilitation or health setting, and design, implement and evaluate a process, program or system to address this problem.

Program DELIVERY

Learning outcomes will be achieved through several interwoven strategies:

• An initial 5 day, on-site intensive to orient students to the program in general, launch work on core courses, and meet peers, faculty members, academic advisors, etc.
• On-line course work that integrates synchronous and asynchronous components including regular, technology-supported, group-based discussions that are independent of course work to support the development of a community-of-learning and professional network.

For more details on the program visit the Program website - https://rehab.queensu.ca/academic-programs/dsc

Why do I need to know to APPLY?

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 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.

Application FAQs

What can I get help with?

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.
CAREER
PROPEL YOUR
SKILLS AND
BUILD IMPACT

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Meet early with your advisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any accommodation plans.
- Consider how your coursework can contribute to your research proposal and comprehensive examination.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of support.
- Complete your comprehensive examination.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons: professional development workshops, the RHE, Program Director ad Program Assistant and SGS, Habitat.
- Set up regular meeting with your advisor to discuss progress and obstacle to timely completion.
- Seek experiential/professional learning opportunities.

MAXIMIZE SCHOLARLY IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Present your work at graduate conferences such as the Rehabilitation Research Colloquium.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experience and competencies.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueenConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Health Leadership.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- 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 QueenConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Health Leadership.

PROPEL YOUR CAREER

- Finding 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.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse the non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s Alumni Association, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum! For information check out Career Counseling.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- 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.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

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PROGRAM OUTCOME

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/client, 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.

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.

Taking time to explore career options while building your experience and networks can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.