

Introduction to Graduate Studies

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Graduate Studies

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What does graduate studies entail?

- Applying knowledge from undergrad to research
- Developing skills useful for a wide range of future endeavors
 - Reading scientific literature
 - Teaching
 - Writing skills (abstracts; papers; etc)
 - Presentation skills (posters; seminars)
- Some programs are course based, most require a substantial research (practicum) component
- MSc ~16-24 months (program-dependent)
- PhD ~4-5 years
- Stipends (program-dependent)
- Travel!
 - Conference attendance
- Coursework

Career options after grad school

A word cloud on a blue background with a large, faint circular graphic. The words are in various colors (white, light blue, orange, and grey) and sizes, representing different career paths. The most prominent word is 'scientist' in large white letters. Other significant words include 'research' in large light blue letters, 'communicator' in large orange letters, and 'pharma' in large white letters. Smaller words include 'specialist', 'science', 'health', 'diagnostic', 'policy', 'clinical', 'coordinator', 'allergist', 'physician', 'public', 'patent', 'law', 'developer', 'infection', 'government', 'biology', 'application', 'analyst', 'education', 'academic', and 'laboratory'.

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How do I apply?

- complete the online application located at: <http://www.queensu.ca/sgs/applications-admissions>
 - helpful information on registration, fees, awards, cost of living and information for international students
- When you complete and submit your online application, then your referees will be emailed instructions to provide online letters of support
 - 2 reference letters required
 - Choose referees who know you well, eg your 4th year project supervisor or faculty with whom you have interacted (eg someone who evaluated your presentation/writing skills)
- Identify and contact a potential supervisor (recommended, but not always a requirement)
- Deadlines for applications are program dependent (some are firm, some are flexible)

Programs and Graduate Coordinators within the School of Medicine



Biomedical and Molecular Sciences – Dr. Katrina Gee

(<https://dbms.queensu.ca/graduate>)

Neurosciences – Dr. Gunnar Blohm (<http://neuroscience.queensu.ca/graduate>)

- program offers a full spectrum of neuroscience research, from cellular/molecular to clinical studies

Public Health Sciences – Dr. Harriet Richardson (<https://phs.queensu.ca/>)

- M.Sc. program offers the chance to specialize in one of three streams of study:
 - Epidemiology and Population Health
 - Health Services and Policy Research
 - Clinical Epidemiology
- Ph.D. program trains epidemiologists as independent investigators and leaders in health or health-related agencies where research is an important function

Programs and Graduate Coordinators within the School of Medicine



Translational Medicine – Dr. Mark Ormiston & Paula James

(<https://deptmed.queensu.ca/academics/translational-medicine-graduate-programs>)

- combining the fields of medicine and research linking graduate level research skills with clinical experiences

Pathology and Molecular Medicine – Dr. Peter Greer

(<https://pathology.queensu.ca/academics/graduate-studies>)

- research foci in cancer, hemostasis and vascular biology

Cancer Research – Dr. Lois Mulligan (<https://www.queensu.ca/cancergradprogram/>)

- jointly offered by the Departments of Public Health Sciences, Pathology & Molecular Medicine, Psychology and Biomedical & Molecular Sciences
- encourages interactions of researchers and students with common interests in cancer, regardless of departmental home

MD/PhD – Dr. Chandra Tayade (https://meds.queensu.ca/academics/md_phd)

DBMS programs

MSc (Anatomical Sciences)

- 16 months long
- Program structured around three pillars of competency (content, pedagogy, inquiry) designed to educate students interested in the art of teaching and designing curricula in the anatomical sciences.

Thesis-based MSc research degree

Thesis-based PhD degree

- students choose one of the following Fields of Specialization, which represent the current research strengths of the Department:

Biochemistry and Cell Biology

Experimental Medicine

Microbes, Immunity, and Inflammation

Reproduction and Developmental Sciences

Therapeutics, Drug Development, and Human Toxicology



DBMS MSc Course requirements

Anatomical Sciences:

- 30 credit units

Thesis Based Degrees:

- MSc requires: minimum of 12 credit units at the graduate level.
- BMED 860* (3 credit units, Fundamentals of Academic Research)
- BMED 897* (3 credit units, DBMS Seminar Program)
- 6 additional units

How do I choose a supervisor?

- Identify someone whose research interests you
 - Visit faculty websites
 - Read papers and look up corresponding authors
- Speak to others who work with (or have worked with) your potential supervisor
- Email and ask if they are accepting new students
 - Attach your CV
 - Attach a copy of your transcript
 - Explain why you would like to work under their supervision

Funding & Awards

- <https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/prospective-students/applying-scholarships>
- Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), NSERC
 - these are “Tri-Council” awards
- Queen's provides an automatic one-time top-up of \$5000 (Master's) or \$10,000 (PhD) to all incoming federal Tri-Council award winners
- Ontario Graduate Student Scholarship (OGS)
- Internal Awards

Important websites

University policies:

<https://www.queensu.ca/safereturn/>

School of Graduate Studies:

<https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/>

Faculty of Health Science:

<https://healthsci.queensu.ca/>

