

# Psychology PhD Map

*Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies*



GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS →

## Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a particularly diverse profession encompassing research, teaching and applied work. While the two former activities are relevant mainly, but by no means exclusively to universities, applied psychologists work in a wide variety of settings including: industry, management, the school systems, private practice, penitentiaries, and hospitals. Like members of all professions, the conduct of psychologists whether they are engaged in practice, teaching or research, is regulated by principles, standards and by statute. In Ontario persons who call themselves a psychologist must meet at least, one of three criteria: they must be a university professor, be employed in a psychologist's position by the federal penitentiary service, or must be registered.

## Why QUEEN'S?

The graduate program in Psychology at Queen's is internationally renowned for its excellent faculty and students, its innovative training and the value of its research, scholarship and skill development. We offer a wide range of Programs in core areas of Psychology, with a strong emphasis on fundamental research and discovery, as well as intensive training in clinical skills and applications. Our Department and Queen's host world-class researchers and a number of state-of-the-art techniques and laboratories. Our goal is to prepare students for successful careers in a variety of settings, including academic institutions, clinical and health care settings, industry and the private sector, education, and many others.



*"I find that I'm getting a really good balance of experiences here. I've had the opportunity to travel a lot. In the last two years, I've presented at conferences in Halifax, Chicago, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico."*  
– Karen Blair, PhD

## Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work and thesis/dissertation.

\*\*There is an additional 1 year internship for clinical students.

## RESEARCH Areas

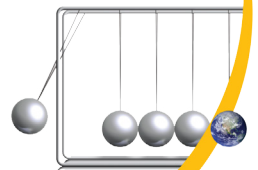
- Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science
- Clinical Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social/Personality Psychology

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the [Psychology Department website](#) to read [faculty profiles](#) and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience.



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# Psychology PhD MAP \*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



## YEAR I

## YEAR II

## YEAR III

## YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- 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.
- Complete the human/animal research ethics training.

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete [ROMEO online module](#) on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and [other funding](#).
- Attend conferences in your field.

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the [Association of Graduate Students in Psychology \(AGSIP\)](#) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the [SGPS](#), or media outlets like the [Queen's Journal](#), [CFRC](#), and the [SGS Blog](#). Look in the [AMS Club Directory](#).
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

### 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 and events, such as the [Got Your Back campaign](#).

### LAUNCH 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](#) for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like [University Affairs](#) and the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#). Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like [Graduate Student Career Week](#) to explore your career pathways.

- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of [Expanding Horizons](#).
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences such as the [Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference](#), or the [European Congress of Psychology](#).
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in 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 [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL certificate](#) for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like [Material Matters](#).

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- 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](#)". For more information check out [Career Cruising](#).
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS [Dissertation Boot Camp](#) or [Dissertation on the Lake](#).
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons [Publishing workshop](#).
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- 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. List yourself on the [Arts and Science University Research website](#).

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- 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 [QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).

- 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.
- Check out the free online modules at [MyGradSkills](#) to help you plan your career.

- 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.

- 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.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Complete a one-year internship placement at a CPA/ APA-accredited internship site in North America.

- Consider joining professional associations like the [Canadian Psychological Association](#).
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

- 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 searching, 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 Psychology 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**
- **Perseverance**
- **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 Psychology can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.

- Academia and research
- Government agencies
- Private sector
- Clinical/Hospitals
- Correctional Services Canada
- Private practice

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.



# Graduate Studies FAQs

## How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone's journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen's and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online [My Grad Map](#) tool.

## 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, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's [Discover Kingston](#) page.

# Application FAQs

## What do I need to know to APPLY?

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Master's degree in Psychology from a recognized university.
- **Grade requirements:** minimum B+ average.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Interest
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Scores above the 60th percentile are required.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the [English language proficiency requirements](#) in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have 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 Academics: 65.

### KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** December 1.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Decisions begin on December 1.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

## What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Psychology PhD students is \$18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. This basic funding packages which include a combination of fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a \$10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#) or see what awards are offered through the Psychology Department.



**Queen's**  
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