



## Short-Term Enrolment Projections 2025-2028

March 2025

*For approval by SCADP on March 26, 2025, and University Senate on April 17, 2025*

This report contains enrolment targets for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 and enrolment projections for 2027-2028, which have been developed by the Strategic Enrolment Management Group (SEMG). More specifically, this report includes:

- **2025-2026 enrolment confirmation:** there are no changes to the 2025-2026 targets that were seen by Senate in April 2024.
- **2026-2027 targets:** initial 2026-2027 targets were provided for information to Senate in April 2024 as enrolment projections. These revised targets are now submitted for SCADP endorsement and Senate approval; and
- **2027-2028 enrolment projections:** these are submitted to Senate for information only.

### The Development of Enrolment Targets

The SEMG includes the Provost, Vice-Provosts, Deans, and representatives from the Office of the University Registrar, Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment, and the Office of Planning and Budgeting.

This year, Senate and SCADP are presented with a multi-year plan, which constitutes a prospective plan for three years of enrolment. In addition to a validation of enrolment for the 2025-26 academic year, planned enrolment targets for 2026-27 are also presented for approval. In addition, projections for 2027-28 are provided, for information only.

The enrolment targets were developed as follows:

- Meetings were held with each Dean to review enrolment priorities, applicant demand, program capacity and any other issues affecting enrolment;
- The SEMG reviewed data on Queen's applications, province-wide applications, sector trends, provincial and federal policy issues and initiatives, and annual faculty and school enrolment plans;
- Preliminary targets for the upcoming three years were presented to SEMG and assessed against the data, and university priorities and goals;
- SEMG recommended the rolling three-year enrolment targets and projections to SCADP.

## Undergraduate Enrolment Context

Applications to Queen's for 2025-26 remain strong, with over 59,000 applications to undergraduate programs. This is the largest number of applications ever received. This continues a pattern of stable growth in applications over the past five years.

The Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) reports that first-year direct-entry applications to Ontario universities for 2025-2026 have increased by 2 per cent year-over-year as of February 26, 2025. Over the last five years, the OUAC reports a 10 per cent increase in applications, while Queen's has experienced a 15 per cent increase over that same period.

Applications to Queen's from international fee-paying students have decreased by 15 per cent this year. This is consistent with a trend across the broader Ontario post-education/university sector, where applications from international fee-paying applicants are down 14 per cent. More information on international enrolment is provided in the international student enrolment section of this report.

## Graduate Enrolment

As of March 5, 2025, the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs has received a record-breaking 11,134 applications for all SGSPA programs for 2024-25, representing a significant 5 per cent increase from the previous year. This growth encompasses a 12 per cent rise in domestic applications and an 11 per cent decrease in international student applications. This follows nearly a decade of volatility in graduate student enrolment. For example, the university experienced a significant 29 per cent growth between 2017-18 and 2021-22, followed by a measured yet noticeable 6 per cent decline between 2021-22 and 2023-24, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In contrast, international applications have declined significantly year-over-year, with the exception of graduate diploma programs. This is largely driven by continued growth in international applications for the Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship Law (GDICL). These international trends reflect an increasingly complex global landscape, further compounded by recent IRCC announcements introducing student visa caps, which will now extend to graduate programs beginning in January 2025.

Within the Smith School of Business, Professional Graduate Programs domestic applications are consistent with previous years. GDA numbers appear strong, potentially yielding a larger cohort in 2026. MBA program numbers are marginally softer, as are MFIT and MDPM. Other Master of Management programs, including MMA, MMAI, MIB and MMIE, are currently trending above plan for 2026. Aggregate numbers are in-line with plan.

## International Student Enrolment

The international portfolio continues to experience significant volatility due to geopolitical tensions and government policy changes, most notably the ongoing changes to federal student visa caps and associated government policies. Nonetheless, the university remains committed to increasing the number, proportion, and diversity of international students on campus.

International students currently comprise 12 per cent of the full-time student population. Queen's has embedded undergraduate recruitment staff in China, India, Vietnam, and the United Arab Emirates to support growth and outreach in those countries and their neighbouring regions. In addition, Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment works with a select group of education agents to guide applicants throughout the application process. Once on campus, Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment, in partnership with the QUIC, continues to lead efforts, in collaboration with the faculties and schools, to support incoming international students with enhanced transition support and outreach activities that contribute to an improved student life and learning experience.

To help position Queen's as the most attractive option in Canada for international students, we have expanded our support services to ensure a seamless transition, enhanced immigration advising, and proactive measures to facilitate timely arrivals. These services include:

- Airport pickup and early residence move-in, allowing students to take care of essential logistical and administrative requirements upon arrival in Canada;
- Comprehensive immigration assistance, providing dedicated Study Permit application support through a new RISIA-certified International Student Advisor, embedded in Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment, as well as a partnership with BorderPass, which offers expert guidance and application submission assistance throughout the process;
- Proactive Study Permit Application incentives, encouraging early action by offering a one-time tuition credit to students who submit their Study Permit application by May 15, ensuring sufficient processing time for a September arrival. This builds on our existing services offering pre-arrival and orientation programming as well as strengthened student success supports.

The university supports all students through the transition to their academic careers at Queen's and provides robust international student support through the Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) and other student services with expertise in serving international students. The first- to second-year undergraduate retention rate among international students in 2023 was 89.1 per cent.

## **Prioritizing Indigenization, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism and Accessibility (I-EDIAA)**

Queen's Access and Inclusion team in Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment continues to expand outreach and connections with students, families, and community organizations in underserved communities from Hamilton to Ottawa, as well as Nova Scotia, to provide information on programs and options for financing a Queen's education. Key to supporting this increased outreach is our Equity Ambassador program – trained upper-year students who develop and deliver workshops and webinars in schools and communities, as well as connect with youth through social media and one-on-one meetings, sharing their perspectives and experiences at Queen's. Queen's continues to focus on need-based financial aid through the Major Access Awards, the Commitment Bursaries, and the Promise Scholars programs (see below).

Queen's Commitment Scholar program, which recognizes equity leadership in schools and communities, continues to attract a strong applicant pool.

### **Indigenous Student Enrolment**

The university continues to enhance targeted and sustained recruitment and outreach strategies to maintain the growth of self-identified Indigenous learners at Queen's at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Longstanding outreach and recruitment activities to increase Indigenous student enrolment continues with a dedicated Indigenous Recruitment Coordinator in Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment. In partnership with dedicated staff at the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre, along with current Indigenous students, they connect with prospective applicants and families, promote Queen's Indigenous Admission Pathway, and provide support throughout the admission process.

The introduction of Indigenous Community-Based Research Funds (ICRF) and the launching of the Indigenous Graduate Pathways Program, which is designed to encourage Indigenous students from other Ontario Universities to experience Queen's graduate programs through access to online courses has enhanced the accessibility of Indigenous students. Implementing the Indigenous Admissions policy, with its focus on recruiting Indigenous students, combined with the introduction of the Teyonkwayenawá:kon – Graduate Scholarship, has increased the representation of Indigenous applicants.

### **First-Generation Student Enrolment**

The university is committed to increasing the number of self-identified first-generation students who would be the first in their families to attend college or university.

Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment's Access and Inclusion team works in communities and in schools to assist students applying through Queen's First-Generation Admission Pathway. Initiatives to reduce financial barriers among first-generation students include the

Promise Scholars program, which is currently providing dedicated financial, academic, and career supports to 16 local, first-generation students.

## Enrolment Tables

Two tables are included in this report:

- Table 1: Student Enrolment Intake; and
- Table 2: Enrolment Summary (Total Enrolment).

### Table 1: Student Enrolment Intake

#### University-Wide Intake:

For 2025-2026 and beyond, the total **first-year direct-entry** target remains 5,074.

For 2025-2026, the planned **first-year second-entry** target decreases from 616 to 570. The Juris Doctor program increases from 216 to 220, while Post-Graduate Medicine decreases from 260 to 210. For 2026-2027, the planned **first-year second-entry** target decreases from 621 to 573.

The projected intake of graduate students for 2025-2026 will decline by 352 students. The revised intake target is set at 3,098, a reduction from the Senate-approved target of 3,450. We anticipate an upturn in projected graduate intake for the subsequent academic year, with an increase to 3,152 in 2026-2027, followed by a modest decrease to 3,136 in 2027-2028.

These adjustments to the graduate intake targets reflect evolving faculty/institutional priorities, influenced by various recruitment challenges such as demographic shifts, a strong job market, the rising cost of living in Kingston, the comparative strength of our funding packages, and the progressively intricate global landscape.

#### Undergraduate Intake by Faculty and Program:

Table 1 shows first-year and upper-year intake by faculty, school, and program. A summary for each faculty/school is set out below.

#### Arts and Science:

The total intake target for 2025-2026 remains unchanged. In 2026-27 and 2027-28 total enrolment decreases from 3,050 to 2,850. Additionally, there is an internal shift of intake from general Arts to Computing, Kinesiology, and direct entry into Life Sciences within Bachelor of Science (Honours).

For 2025-26 and 2026-27, the upper-year Arts and Science transfer student target remains at 118 students and is projected to decrease to 105 in 2027-28. The decrease is attributed to the suspension of St. Lawrence College's intake into the joint Bachelor of Music program. The final year of anticipated flowthrough of those students to Queen's is 2026-27.

#### Bader College

Academic programming at Bader College remains suspended for the foreseeable future, due to ongoing structural work underway at Herstmonceux Castle.

#### Smith Engineering and Applied Science:

For 2025-2026, the first-year intake remains at 915. In 2026-27, the first-year intake target increases to 990 students, and the upper-year target intake decreases to 60.

#### Smith School of Business

For 2025-2026, the first-year intake target for the Commerce remains at 580 students. In 2026-27, the first-year intake increases to 655, and the upper-year target remains at 5.

#### Faculty of Health Sciences:

Planned intake to the on-campus Bachelor of Health Sciences program in 2025-2026 remains at 370. In 2026-27, the first-year intake increases to 420. The intake targets for the online Bachelor of Health Sciences program for 2025-2026 and beyond remain at 35.

The planned intake to the Nursing program remains unchanged at 124 for 2025-2026 and 2026-27. The intake targets for the Nursing-Advanced Standing program remain at 48.

The School of Medicine's first-year intake remains at 140 students for 2025-2026 and beyond.

As noted above, the 2025-2026 intake target for Post-Graduate Medicine decreases from 260 to 210. The intake target then increases to 213 for 2026-2027, and 233 in 2027-28.

#### Faculty of Law:

Planned intake to the Juris Doctor program increases from 216 to 220 for 2025-2026 and beyond.

#### Faculty of Education:

The faculty adjusts the intake targets for the Consecutive Education programs to maintain a balance with the students progressing from the Concurrent Education program. The target intake for 2025-2026 is 647, and is projected to be 591 for 2026-27.

#### Graduate Intake:

As highlighted in Table 1, the revised enrolment targets for master's and doctoral programs reflect modifications in planned enrolment intakes for 2025-2026. Following a careful review of

the faculty enrolment targets for master's programs, Queen's institutional target has been reduced from the previously anticipated enrolment of 2,262 to 2,007, primarily due to a reduction in projected intakes for Smith School of Business professional master's programs, which have been impacted by several economic and political factors; International numbers remain softer than historical levels. The enrolment target for doctoral students has been similarly reduced from 351 to 336.

The revised target for graduate diplomas, currently at 755, has decreased from its original target of 837. This modification is driven by a projected shift in the full-time to part-time ratio of projected intakes for the Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship Law (GDICL) program in the Faculty of Law.

The planned intake for all graduate programs is projected to be 3,152 for 2026-27 and 3,136 for 2027-2028.

#### Table 2: Enrolment Summary

Table 2 shows total enrolment by faculty, school, and program, and includes all enrolment data that inform faculty budgets. Also included is a full-time-equivalent column to reflect the various course loads and weighting per student and the associated budget implications for each faculty and school. This table demonstrates the university's strong undergraduate and graduate retention rates — continually among the highest in the country — and tracks the flow-through of any enrolment changes included in Table 1.

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The SEMG has worked collaboratively to enhance enrolment planning information for SCADP and Senate. Feedback is welcome as the SEMG continues to improve enrolment-related data reporting.

The results of these plans and strategies are detailed in the annual Enrolment Report, which will be submitted to Senate in January 2026.

Table 1: Student Fall Enrolment Intake

Enrolment Report to the Senate Committee on Academic Development and Procedures											February 2025	
											Queen's University	
Table 1: Student Fall Enrolment Intake											Office of Planning and Budgeting	
Program	2024 Actual		2025 Prev Planned		2025 Planned		2026 Prev Planned		2026 Updated Plan		2027 Planned	
	First	Upper	First	Upper	First	Upper	First	Upper	First	Upper	First	Upper
	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
Undergraduate (Full-Time)												
Arts & Science												
BA/BAH	1,212	33	1,274	65	1,274	65	1,274	65	974	65	974	65
BSC/BSCH	924	9	936	35	936	35	936	35	961	35	961	35
BFAH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BMUS	13	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0
BCMP/BCMPH	463	4	350	5	350	5	350	5	400	5	400	5
BSCH KINE	181	0	175	0	175	0	175	0	200	0	200	0
BMT*	0	16	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	0
Con-Ed Arts/Science/Music/KINE	297	1	300	0	300	0	300	0	300	0	300	0
Distance Studies (BA1)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Degree/Certificate Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Arts & Science	3,090	64	3,050	118	3,050	118	3,050	118	2,850	118	2,850	105
Commerce	609	2	580	5	580	5	580	5	655	5	655	5
Engineering	950	5	915	90	915	55	915	90	990	60	990	65
Bachelor Health Science - Distance	43	5	35	0	35	0	35	0	35	0	35	0
Bachelor Health Science - On Campus	385	0	370	0	370	0	370	0	420	0	420	0
Nursing	138	0	124	0	124	0	124	0	124	0	124	0
Bader College**	0	0	155	30	0	0	155	30	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Direct Entry	5,215	76	5,229	243	5,074	178	5,229	243	5,074	183	5,074	175
Education (Yr 5 & Consec)		574		528		647		571		591		628
Law	218	1	216	4	220	4	216	4	220	4	220	4
Medicine	139	0	140	0	140	0	140	0	140	0	140	0
Post-Graduate Medicine	203	0	260	0	210	0	265	0	213	0	233	0
Nursing-Advanced Standing		51		48		48		48		48		48
Subtotal Second Entry	560	626	616	580	570	699	621	623	573	643	593	680
Subtotal Undergraduate (Fac/School)	5,775	702	5,845	823	5,644	877	5,850	866	5,647	826	5,667	855
Graduate (Full-Time)												
School of Grad Studies												
Research Masters	621		709		649		710		675		672	
Professional Masters	442		486		500		490		509		503	
Doctoral	327		351		336		349		348		339	
Diploma	651		767		680		769		687		689	
Subtotal SGS	2,041		2,313		2,165		2,318		2,219		2,203	
Smith School of Business												
Masters	875		1,067		858		1,077		858		858	
Diploma	75		70		75		70		75		75	
Subtotal Smith	950		1,137		933		1,147		933		933	
Subtotal Graduate	2,991		3,450		3,098		3,465		3,152		3,136	
Budgeted Total Enrolment	8,766	702	9,295	823	8,742	877	9,315	866	8,799	826	8,803	855

\* There is no planned upper year intake for the Bachelor of Music Theatre (BMT) program in 2027-28 due to the discontinuation of the St. Lawrence College partner program.

\*\* There is no planned enrolment at Bader College pending resumption of academic programming at Bader College.



Table 2: Enrolment Summary

Enrolment Report to the Senate Committee on Academic Development and Procedures						February 2025			
						Queen's University			
Table 2: Enrolment Summary						Office of Planning and Budgeting			
Program		Fall Full-Time Enrolment				Annualized FFTE			
		Actual	Planned			Actual	Planned		
		Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Fall 2026	Fall 2027	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Undergraduate									
Arts & Science									
BA/BAH		5,770	5,555	5,198	4,971	5,710	5,452	5,127	4,915
BSC/BSCH		3,944	3,926	3,896	3,893	3,967	3,941	3,910	3,908
BFAH		31	25	20	0	34	29	24	0
BMUS		55	57	60	59	59	62	65	64
BCMP/BCMPH		1,461	1,367	1,419	1,436	1,464	1,374	1,442	1,450
BSCH KINE		693	667	690	700	691	665	686	695
BMT		37	20	17	15	40	25	18	16
Con-Ed Arts/Science/Music/KINE		926	887	873	899	905	911	887	910
Distance Studies (BA1)		200	165	144	139	318	300	283	279
Non-Degree/Certificate Programs		32	39	40	39	102	109	110	109
Subtotal Arts & Science		13,149	12,708	12,357	12,151	13,290	12,868	12,552	12,346
Commerce		2,162	2,211	2,339	2,471	2,202	2,236	2,359	2,481
Engineering		3,621	3,644	3,799	3,860	3,866	3,886	4,030	4,090
Bachelor Health Science - Distance		287	246	241	236	409	377	373	368
Bachelor Health Science - On Campus		1,256	1,201	1,359	1,473	1,301	1,150	1,297	1,397
Nursing		543	518	509	481	555	523	515	489
Bader College*		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Direct Entry		21,018	20,528	20,604	20,672	21,623	21,040	21,126	21,171
Education (Yr 5 & Consec)		694	779	723	760	1,233	1,264	1,198	1,207
Law		640	648	648	647	692	699	699	698
Medicine		500	524	551	553	500	524	551	553
Post-Graduate Medicine		598	646	679	733	597	646	679	733
Nursing-Advanced Standing		99	92	91	90	143	137	136	135
Subtotal Second Entry		2,531	2,689	2,692	2,783	3,165	3,270	3,263	3,326
Subtotal Undergraduate (Fac/School)		23,549	23,217	23,296	23,455	24,788	24,310	24,389	24,497
Graduate (Full-time)									
School of Grad Studies									
Research Masters		1,129	1,272	1,304	1,325	1,072	1,249	1,282	1,298
Professional Masters		654	747	746	741	894	978	989	988
Doctoral		1,604	1,609	1,676	1,730	1,601	1,608	1,680	1,718
Diploma		577	662	644	648	670	888	862	870
Subtotal SGS		3,964	4,290	4,370	4,444	4,237	4,723	4,813	4,874
Smith School of Business									
Masters		1,070	955	969	968	1,070	955	969	968
Diploma		75	75	75	75	38	38	38	38
Subtotal Smith		1,145	1,030	1,044	1,043	1,108	993	1,007	1,006
Subtotal Graduate		5,109	5,320	5,414	5,487	5,345	5,716	5,820	5,880
Budgeted Total Enrolment		28,658	28,537	28,710	28,942	30,133	30,026	30,209	30,377

\* There is no planned enrolment at Bader College pending resumption of academic programming at Bader College.