

Short-Term Enrolment Projections 2026-2029

March 2026

For approval by SCADP on March 25, 2026, and University Senate on April 16, 2026

This report contains enrolment targets for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 and enrolment projections for 2028-2029, which have been developed by the Strategic Enrolment Management Group (SEMG). More specifically, this report includes:

- **2026-2027 enrolment:** there are no changes to the 2026-2027 intake targets as these targets were approved by Senate in April 2025.
- **2027-2028 targets:** initial 2027-2028 intake targets were provided for information to Senate in April 2025 as enrolment projections. These intake targets, including revisions to 2026-2027 Law, and Post Graduate Medicine targets specifically, are now submitted for SCADP endorsement and Senate approval; and
- **2028-2029 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.

Each year, Senate and SCADP are presented with a multi-year plan, which constitutes a prospective plan for three years of enrolment. The enrolment targets were developed as follows:

- Meetings were held with each Faculty 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;
- In late February, the Government of Ontario announced broad changes to institutional funding models. The details of these announcements were not

available at the time of submitting this plan. Any relevant changes to the funding model will inform the next planning cycle.

Undergraduate Enrolment Context

Overall applications to Queen's for 2026-27 remain strong, with over 63,000 applications to undergraduate programs.

The Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) reports that first-year direct-entry applications to Ontario universities for 2026- 2027 have increased by eight per cent year-over-year as of February 20, 2026, while the broader sector is up only four per cent. Despite these strong trends, applicant demand for Computer Science and related programs has weakened over the last two years. This trend is consistent with the broader Ontario sector.

International Undergraduate Student Enrolment

International undergraduate applications for 2026–2027 have increased year-over-year by 10 per cent, marking the first growth cycle since 2021 following four consecutive years of decline. Growth at Queen's is currently outpacing both the sector (up only seven per cent) and the U6. Additional application growth via our new direct-to-Queen's application brings total applicant growth to 29 per cent. Gains are driven primarily by emerging markets, reflecting deliberate efforts to broaden geographic mix. While sector conditions remain volatile, this shift indicates early traction from targeted digital campaigns and expanded in-market engagement. Offers and confirmations are tracking in-line with planning, supported by earlier offers of admission, timely Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) issuance, and proactive study permit guidance.

International enrolment remains constrained by federal study permit caps and PAL allocation limits. Planning for 2027–2028 and projections for 2028–2029 align with confirmed PAL allocations, visa approval patterns, and anticipated yield performance. While application growth and diversification remain priorities, efforts are concentrated on maximizing yield to in-demand programs within the allocation and protecting enrolment stability in a constrained environment.

Graduate Enrolment

As of February 25, 2026, the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs has received 9,461 applications for 2025-26, a 15 per cent year-over-year decline following three years of growth. This change is largely attributable to a decrease in applicant demand for the Graduate Diploma in Immigration and Citizenship Law (GDICL) program. Domestic applications for SGSPA administered master's and doctoral

programs have increased by 5 per cent year over year while international applications have declined by 19 per cent. The share of international applicants has declined over the past few enrolment cycles, reflecting the increasingly complex global landscape and the impact of IRCC graduate student visa caps introduced in 2025. The recent IRCC decision to restore the PAL exemption for international master's and doctoral students in 2026, coupled with measures announced to ensure faster visa processing for doctoral applicants aim to boost demand for graduate programs from qualified international applicants. While graduate programs are in the early stages of the enrolment cycle for the 2026-27 academic year, preliminary application data suggests some degree of recovery in international application volumes compared to results for the same period in 2025-26.

As of February 2026, domestic application volumes for Smith's Professional Graduate Programs are consistent with the previous two years. International demand continues to experience downward pressure, impacting enrollment for the Full-Time Master of Business Administration (FTMBA), Master of Financial Innovation and Technology (MFIT), Master of International Business (MIB), and Master of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MMIE)—programs that typically draw heavily from global markets. However, this is partially offset by increased interest in data-centric and early-career offerings, specifically the Graduate Diploma in Accounting (GDA), Master of Management Analytics (MMA), and Master of Management in Artificial Intelligence (MMAI) programs. Despite shifts in demand, overall forecasted enrollment are in-line with plan.

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.

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

Indigenous Student Enrolment

Indigenous student recruitment continues with a dedicated Indigenous Recruitment Coordinator in Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment in partnership with staff at the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre. A robust fall 2025 recruitment season, in addition to revamped outreach efforts, have led to increased applications from self-identified Indigenous applicants, up 23 per cent (856 vs 700 last year) and verified Indigenous applicants, up 648 per cent (224 vs. 30 last year). Outreach efforts focus on connecting prospective applicants and families with supports and resources under the Indigenous Admission Pathway to guide them through the admission and matriculation processes.

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 work 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 18 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

Undergraduate Intake:

Direct-entry, full-time, university-wide intake will remain stable through 2028-29. The plan remains unchanged from last year's submission, and the 2028-29 projection unchanged from 2027-28. This plan balances applicant demand and program capacity to ensure enrolment is optimized within institutional constraints. While applicant demand informs part of enrolment planning, it is considered in conjunction with

government policy, longer-term cyclical trends, and institutional priorities to manage short-term volatility.

Table 1 shows first-year and upper-year intake by faculty, school, and program.

Graduate Intake:

Graduate education continues to experience change, highlighting the need for bold, forward-looking thinking and exploration of non-conventional ways to remain competitive and relevant in this rapidly changing environment. Recent trends indicate that market growth is most robust in professionally oriented master's programs, online and hybrid delivery formats, and employer aligned offerings. The School of Graduate Studies and Post-Doctoral Affairs (SGSPA) is leading discussions with faculties and schools to focus on four key strategies to address these challenges, specifically to grow programs in high demand areas, transform curricular innovations for programs with weaker enrolment trends, reimagine program delivery and credential options and codesign programs with external organizations to address upskilling and reskilling to mid-career professionals. These strategies will inform future program development and complement existing research-based master's and PhD programs, which are critical to supporting the academic mission of the university.

Proposed enrolment intake targets for graduate programs in 2027-28 and 2028-29 remain stable.

Table 1 shows graduate intake by school and degree of study.

Table 2: Enrolment Summary

Table 2 shows total enrolment by faculty, school, and program, and includes all enrolment projections that inform faculty budgets. Also included is a full-time-equivalent column to reflect the various course loads and weighting per student 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.

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 early 2027.

Table 1: Student Fall Enrolment Intake

Enrolment Report to the Senate Committee on Academic Development and Procedures										February 2026	
Table 1: Student Fall Enrolment Intake										Queen's University Office of Planning and Budgeting	
Program	2025 Actual		2026 Approved		2027 Prev Planned		2027 Updated Plan		2028 Planned		
	First Year	Upper Year	First Year	Upper Year	First Year	Upper Year	First Year	Upper Year	First Year	Upper Year	
Undergraduate (Full-Time)											
Arts & Science											
BA/BAH	1,461	22	974	65	974	65	974	65	974	65	
BSC/BSCH	1,103	11	961	35	961	35	961	35	961	35	
BFAH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
BMUS	10	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0	
BCMP/BCMPH	262	5	400	5	400	5	400	5	400	5	
BSCH KINE	173	1	200	0	200	0	200	0	200	0	
BMT*	0	11	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Con-Ed Arts/Science/Music/KINE	324	0	300	0	300	0	300	0	300	0	
Distance Studies (BA1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Non-Degree/Certificate Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal Arts & Science	3,333	50	2,850	118	2,850	105	2,850	105	2,850	105	
Commerce	600	3	655	5	655	5	655	5	655	5	
Smith Engineering	917	33	990	60	990	65	990	65	990	65	
Bachelor Health Science - Distance	55	14	35	0	35	0	35	0	35	0	
Bachelor Health Science - On Campus	435	0	420	0	420	0	420	0	420	0	
Nursing	126	0	124	0	124	0	124	0	124	0	
Subtotal Direct Entry	5,466	100	5,074	183	5,074	175	5,074	175	5,074	175	
Education (Yr 5 & Consec)		574		591		628		644		626	
Law	237	5	220	4	220	4	230	4	240	4	
Medicine	142	0	140	0	140	0	140	0	140	0	
Post-Graduate Medicine	208	0	213	0	233	0	237	0	237	0	
Nursing-Advanced Standing		46		48		48		48		48	
Subtotal Second Entry	587	625	573	643	593	680	607	696	617	678	
Subtotal Undergraduate (Fac/School)	6,053	725	5,647	826	5,667	855	5,681	871	5,691	853	
Graduate (Full-Time)											
School of Grad Studies											
Research Masters	580		675		672		660		659		
Professional Masters	403		509		503		474		485		
Doctoral	312		348		339		323		329		
Diploma	480		687		689		561		564		
Subtotal SGS	1,775		2,219		2,203		2,018		2,037		
Smith School of Business											
Masters	734		858		858		733		733		
Diploma	68		75		75		75		75		
Subtotal Smith	802		933		933		808		808		
Subtotal Graduate	2,577		3,152		3,136		2,826		2,845		
Budgeted Total Enrolment	8,630	725	8,799	826	8,803	855	8,507	871	8,536	853	

* 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.

Table 2: Enrolment Summary

Enrolment Report to the Senate Committee on Academic Development and Procedures						February 2026			
Table 2: Enrolment Summary						Queen's University Office of Planning and Budgeting			
Program	Fall Full-Time Enrolment				Preliminary 2025-26	Annualized FFTE			
	Actual Fall 2025	Fall 2026	Planned Fall 2027	Fall 2028		Planned 2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	
Undergraduate									
Arts & Science									
BA/BAH	5,737	5,249	5,014	4,863	5,739	5,228	5,008	4,873	
BSC/BSCH	4,148	4,026	4,028	4,028	4,185	4,031	4,042	4,040	
BFAH	24	18	18	17	23	22	22	21	
BMUS	48	53	52	52	53	57	56	56	
BCMP/BCMPH	1,287	1,319	1,340	1,344	1,313	1,342	1,356	1,361	
BSCH KINE	680	700	705	717	680	698	702	714	
BMT	26	14	14	13	26	18	15	14	
Con-Ed Arts/Science/Music/KINE	954	897	926	930	937	879	904	910	
Distance Studies (BA1)	112	94	86	85	194	194	189	188	
Non-Degree/Certificate Programs	32	38	35	36	74	79	78	78	
Subtotal Arts & Science	13,048	12,408	12,218	12,085	13,224	12,548	12,372	12,255	
Commerce									
Smith Engineering	3,727	3,792	3,871	3,902	3,982	4,040	4,114	4,143	
Bachelor Health Science - Distance	286	255	236	218	411	391	375	358	
Bachelor Health Science - On Campus	1,315	1,397	1,485	1,528	1,360	1,403	1,495	1,538	
Nursing	534	523	494	478	545	531	504	490	
Subtotal Direct Entry	21,151	20,731	20,774	20,714	21,841	21,335	21,390	21,347	
Education (Yr 5 & Consec)	703	735	776	797	1,267	1,181	1,227	1,247	
Law	666	671	675	679	728	747	750	755	
Medicine	520	545	541	541	522	546	542	542	
Post-Graduate Medicine	576	669	696	716	582	669	696	716	
Nursing-Advanced Standing	93	90	92	92	140	136	138	138	
Subtotal Second Entry	2,558	2,710	2,780	2,825	3,239	3,279	3,353	3,398	
Subtotal Undergraduate (Fac/School)	23,709	23,441	23,554	23,539	25,080	24,614	24,743	24,745	
Graduate (Full-time)									
School of Grad Studies									
Research Masters	1,078	1,247	1,295	1,275	1,071	1,075	1,230	1,273	
Professional Masters	639	741	712	742	893	912	993	1,011	
Doctoral	1,558	1,626	1,670	1,677	1,603	1,570	1,662	1,708	
Diploma	573	599	600	556	650	657	815	800	
Subtotal SGS	3,848	4,213	4,277	4,250	4,217	4,214	4,700	4,792	
Smith School of Business									
Masters	871	978	920	868	871	978	950	913	
Diploma	68	75	75	75	34	38	38	38	
Subtotal Smith	939	1,053	995	943	905	1,016	988	951	
Subtotal Graduate	4,787	5,266	5,272	5,193	5,122	5,230	5,688	5,743	
Budgeted Total Enrolment	28,496	28,707	28,826	28,732	30,202	29,844	30,431	30,488	