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.

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years): course work, and thesis/dissertation.

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. The email correspondence is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Consider meeting with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.

“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
A Master’s degree in Psychology can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are well-equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- 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 make smooth transitions to the world of work after graduation.

**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 of understanding social, ethical, practical, 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?**
Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and expanding horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

**GETTING STARTED**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your dissertation/thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal CPRS, and the SGS Blog; look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the Association of Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the psychology department.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference, or the European Congress of Psychology.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (M3T) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**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 Get Your Back! campaign.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop, or meeting with a career consultant. 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.
- Meet with a career counselor. 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- 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 the Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Psychological Association or the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**
- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your dissertation/thesis.
- Complete the human and/or animal research ethics training.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (M3T) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete your dissertation/thesis.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Conference, or the European Congress of Psychology.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources to boost your skills.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4-year Bachelor’s degree in Psychology (or equivalent area).
- Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (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?

M.Sc. students in Psychology receive minimum funding of $18,000 per year for the two years of the program.

Apply for external funding from the Tri-Councils and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of 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.