



**Graduate Program, Department of Medical Biophysics
Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry
Western University**

Opportunities for MD/DDS/RN Graduates for MSc and PhD studies

The Department of Medical Biophysics Graduate Program has a long and rich history of working with trainees who show great promise and aptitude for research. We understand that the challenges of modern science demand interdisciplinary skills and graduates from MD/DDS and RN programs are encouraged to apply, especially if they are considering an academic position that requires a postgraduate degree. Many of our clinically-trained applicants have completed undergraduate courses in quantitative sciences such as physics, chemistry and engineering, while many others have joined with a life-sciences undergraduate background.

Our program is tailored to accommodate co-curricular clinical residency and fellowship training. Because Research is the heart of our graduate program, there only one course required and this is specifically focused on the needs of clinical trainees and their co-curricular residency and fellowship timelines and requirements. A Master's degree may take up to two years to complete, while PhD studies typically involve up to five years of research. A formal public dissertation and rigorous thesis defense are undertaken at the conclusion of your work. As your first year draws to a close, you will have completed a low-level examination and assembled and discussed your work with a thesis committee of three to five faculty members. This will be the team that provides you with advice and mentorship throughout the period of your thesis research, which along with publishing your results, will be the focus of your remaining years in our program.

Each year, approximately 5 clinically-trained MSc or PhD candidates are admitted to our graduate program, and, typically, they join at the beginning of the fall term. Tuition and stipend support is offered for all students in good standing throughout their graduate career. Most of our clinically-trained candidates are highly competitive and apply for and are awarded scholarship support from the National Science and Engineering Council (NSERC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). In a typical year, there are 5-6 such trainees in the program and another 2-4 complete their thesis defenses and graduate, roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ with PhD degrees. Overall we support about 100 graduate students in total, roughly 35% are MSc trainees and 65% are PhD candidates.

A detailed description of our graduate program and curriculum may be found under [Current Students](#). Our policies and guidelines, including student codes of conduct and the Medical Biophysics Statement on Professionalism, can be found on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page.

