In addition to conducting independent and original research for their thesis, students complete 4.5 FCE*:

- IMM1000Y (Recent Advances in Immunology, 1.0 FCE)
- IMM1200H (Scientific Skills for Immunologists, 0.5 FCE)
- IMM2000H (PhD Proposal in Immunology, 0.5 FCE)
- IMM2025H (Student Seminar Series, 0.5 FCE)
- IMM2050H (Easton Seminar Series, 0.5 FCE)
- IMM2075H (Special Topics in Immunology, 0.5 FCE)
- 1.0 FCE elective

Typically, students successfully complete this program within 4-5 years.

* Full course equivalent. A typical 0.5 FCE is over one term (13 weeks), meeting 1-2 times per week. A typical 1.0 FCE is over two terms (26 weeks), meeting 1-2 times per week.
Alumni profile
Mahmoud El-Maklizi, PhD
Graduated 2022

I wanted to be an immunologist for as long as I can remember and my PhD journey started as a step towards that goal, but ended with much deeper lessons, both for the lab and outside the lab. It taught me flexibility, creativity, accuracy, risk taking and, most importantly, focus. As I moved on to the next stage in my career, those lessons allowed me to approach my career choices from a different perspective. I looked for opportunities to allow me to step outside of the comfort zone of my PhD expertise and push me to learn new skills, new topics and subjects while keeping those skills geared towards a clear goal.

That mindset is one of the best lessons I learned, as a graduate student and as I transition to a postdoctoral fellow. Based on that lesson, the advice I would give to prospective students is not to be afraid of stepping outside of your comfort zone; it’s how the best lessons are learned and how the most impactful science is made.