



# The Excellence in Quality Improvement Certificate Program (EQUIP) 2023-24



## Overview

The goal of the EQUIP program is to train current and future clinicians and leaders working at university-affiliated academic health centres or clinics to build capacity in QI. The EQUIP program's enriched content and deeper dive into QI methodologies make projects more likely to succeed, and will prepare participants to maximize their project's impact and receive academic recognition for their work.

## Who is EQUIP for?

- Academic faculty seeking to more meaningfully integrate QI into their clinical or scholarly activities
- Senior trainees wanting to make QI an academic career focus
- Health professionals in advanced practice or leadership positions working in academic health centres

## Course application and fees

Registrants must submit an application form consisting of:

- Applicant information
- An abbreviated CV (max. 5 pages)
- A personal statement (max. 500 words)
- A letter of support from a department head, executive team member, professional practice lead, or program director (for trainees) on official letterhead with their contact information, confirming that the applicant works or trains in a university-affiliated academic health centre or clinic where they will carry out a QI project as part of this course.

Please email the complete application to [education@cquips.ca](mailto:education@cquips.ca).

**Application deadline:** April 28, 2023 @ 4PM ET

**Course fee:** \$6,500 CAD

For more information, visit  
[cpd.utoronto.ca/equip](http://cpd.utoronto.ca/equip)

## Key dates

- **July 24-26, 2023**  
Three-day virtual session
- **Sept. 2023 to April 2024**  
Seven monthly webinars  
Project coaching
- **May 1-3, 2024**  
Three-day virtual session

"The course content is extremely high yield and practical. You meet national and international colleagues who you can learn from and become future collaborators.

The faculty are world-renowned and the course gives you a network base of QI leaders. I have maintained connections with many of the certificate's faculty which has led to wonderful opportunities. It is the most worthwhile continuing education I have done that has had a measurable and lasting impact on my career."

– Dr. Samara Zavalkoff,  
2018 EQUIP graduate  
Medical Director of Quality  
and Safety, PICU  
Montreal Children's Hospital



# Key features of the EQUIP program

1

## A deeper dive into QI

- The EQUIP program's enriched content goes beyond a superficial introduction to QI principles. It takes a deeper dive into QI methodologies and will maximize participants' project impact, making them significantly more likely to succeed.

2

## Expert faculty who are clinicians with real-world QI expertise

- The multidisciplinary EQUIP faculty members have a track record of successfully executing QI projects in academic settings. Their project work has produced publications in high-impact journals such as JAMA Internal Medicine, Academic Medicine, and BMJ Quality & Safety.
- Core faculty members have made significant contributions to local, national and international educational programs in QI and patient safety through collaboration with organizations such as the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

3

## Dedicated project coach provides tailored advice on your QI projects

- Each participant is assigned an EQUIP faculty mentor who has a wealth of experience executing successful QI projects in academic settings. They provide one-on-one coaching and support for projects over the course of the program.
- The impact of interactive small group learning is maximized with a low faculty-to-participant ratio (1:3). This allows for personalized feedback on participants' QI projects.

4

## Emphasis on academic skill development

- EQUIP's enriched content and deeper dive into QI methodologies will not only make your projects more likely to succeed, but also foster:
  - Scholarly writing for optimal dissemination of QI innovations;
  - Teaching QI including role-modelling and project supervision;
  - Advanced quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods;
  - Preparing a portfolio for academic promotion on the basis of QI

5

## Graduates receive an academic certificate in QI

- Upon successful completion of EQUIP, participants are granted an academic certificate in quality improvement from the University of Toronto.

## Contact Us

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Twitter & LinkedIn @cquips | [www.cquips.ca](http://www.cquips.ca)

# Preliminary agenda - July 2022

	Monday, July 24	Tuesday, July 25	Wednesday, July 26
Morning	<p>Common QI pitfalls: Why many projects fail and what you can do about it</p> <p>Strategic selection of QI projects to maximize likelihood of impact and success</p>	<p>Diagnostic tools for characterizing quality problems</p> <p>Common QI interventions along the Hierarchy of Effectiveness</p> <p>Incorporating an equity lens to your QI work</p>	<p>Authentic use of PDSA to refine your QI intervention</p> <p>Anticipating problems and overcoming challenges to maximize return on your PDSA cycles</p>
Afternoon	<p>Developing a QI measurement framework</p> <p>The power of small samples</p>	<p>Design thinking</p> <p>Evaluating your QI impact: Statistical process control (SPC)</p>	<p>Applying ethical principles to your improvement work</p> <p>Leading change through meaningful stakeholder engagement</p>

# September 2023 to April 2024

## Project work

Participants carry out their QI project work at their local institutions

## Monthly teleconferences

Seven monthly webinars cover additional course content (e.g., qualitative methods, academic writing, teaching QI) and provide participants the opportunity to get direct feedback from peers and faculty coaches on their QI projects. Each webinar group consists of 4-5 participants and 2 faculty coaches.

## Coaching

Participants will be assigned an EQUIP coach. Through the use of cloud-based technology, coaches will monitor QI project progress and provide feedback and ongoing support

# Preliminary agenda - May 2024

	Wednesday, May 1	Thursday, May 2	Friday, May 3
Morning	<p>Capstone project presentations</p>	<p>Building your academic focus</p>	<p>How to supervise QI projects</p>
Afternoon	<p>Developing a business case for your QI work</p>	<p>Concurrent sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced quantitative methods</li> <li>Advanced qualitative methods</li> <li>SPC 2.0</li> </ul>	<p>Effective writing strategies to publish your QI work</p>

## The Excellence in Quality Improvement Academic Certificate Program (EQUIP) Application Form for 2023-2024

<b>1. Applicant Information</b>	
Name:	Profession:
Academic health centre or clinic:	Program / Department / Division:
University affiliation (if applicable):	Academic rank (if applicable):
Title:	Current training level (if applicable):
Mailing address:	Email: Phone:

<b>2. Personal Statement</b>
<p>Address the following in 500 words or less in the space provided below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please describe one quality improvement initiative that you have led or contributed to in the past. What was your role? What was the impact? What did you learn?</li> <li>Please describe your future career plans, placing particular emphasis on how taking part in the EQUIP program will help you to achieve them.</li> </ul>

<b>3. Abbreviated CV</b>
Please attach your abbreviated CV, max. 5 pages, to this application.

<b>4. Letter of Support</b>	
Please include a letter of support from a department head, executive team member, professional practice lead, or program director (for trainees) on official letterhead with their contact information, confirming that you work or train in a university-affiliated academic health centre or clinic where you will carry out a QI project as part of this course. The letter should also confirm that you will have protected time to attend the program and to carry out your project.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For <b>faculty</b>, the letter should confirm that you have an active academic appointment or defined organizational role in QI at an academic health centre or clinic</li> <li>• For <b>trainees</b>, the letter should confirm that you are on a clear track towards an academic appointment with a focus in QI.</li> <li>• For <b>health professionals</b> in advanced practice or leadership positions, the letter should indicate how your QI activities contribute to the academic mission of the institution</li> </ul>	
The letter of support may be received separately from the application information, CV and personal statement.	
Sponsor name:	Title:
Program/Department/Division:	Email: Phone:

**A completed application** consists of:

- 1) Applicant Information
- 2) Personal Statement (500 words)
- 3) Abbreviated CV (5 pages max)
- 4) One Letter of Support (*to be completed by your sponsor*)

**Submission deadline** for application: April 28, 2023 @ 4PM ET

**Confirmation of receipt** of application: Once your completed application has been received, you will be sent an emailed confirmation within 24 hours. If you do not receive this confirmation email, please contact [education@cquips.ca](mailto:education@cquips.ca) to ensure your completed application has been received.

Direct completed application to: **Email:** [education@cquips.ca](mailto:education@cquips.ca)  
**Phone:** 416-813-7654 x228513