Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CHEMISTRY?
A degree from Queen’s Department of Chemistry is highly regarded and an important consideration in today’s competitive science and technology job market. Our new $36 million state of the art building is home to the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance facility and its eight high-field instruments, an on-site Mass Spec facility with four mass spectrometers, an X-ray diffractometer, a C1-funded facility for materials characterization and more unique equipment in faculty labs.

Why QUEEN’S?
Queen’s University and the Department of Chemistry enjoy international reputations. With 25 award-winning faculty, and over 130 graduate students, post doctoral fellows and research associates performing cutting-edge research in a multitude of areas, you will find this an exciting place to do research. Research is performed in the areas of analytical, inorganic, organic, physical, polymers, and theoretical chemistry. Research in these areas ranges from the most fundamental to very applied.

“My years at Queen’s have left me with nothing but good memories. It was a great experience, a great city and a great education. It was a solid foundation to launch a career.”
– Will N. Rogers, PhD

What about FUNDING?
The minimum funding guarantee for Chemistry PhD students is $23,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package may be comprised of graduate awards, research assistantships, and teaching assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards.

Why do I need to know to APPLY?
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• MSc in Chemistry of equivalent, or direct entry from BSc for exceptional candidates with extensive research experience.
• Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (8+ average).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• 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: February 1st to be considered for awards. Later applications are accepted. International students are encouraged to apply early.
• Notification of acceptance: Accepted students are notified as the applications are reviewed.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

Where can I get help?
Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGS HABITAT for available resources.

What is the community like?
At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.
YEAR I
- Key priorities include forming your committee and coursework.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Complete WHMIS safety training.
- Write your PhD candidacy exam and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition.
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- Complete the Annual Research Progress Report (1/2).
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references, letters, and publication options with your supervisor.
- Complete the Annual Research Progress Report (2/2).

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Chemistry can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
- Knowledge and technical skills: Efficient 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 priorities.
- Project management: Develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions.
- Creativity and innovation: Personal.
- Independence and experience as a collaborator.
- Awareness: An understanding of sound ethical practices, 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?
A PhD in Chemistry can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education—the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.
- Research chemist
- Research engineer
- Scientist
- Technical leader
- ICP Analyst
- Professor
Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.