Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone's journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen's and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

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.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Bachelor degree in Engineering (any) or Science (closely related field).
- Grade requirements: Minimum cumulative average of 75% or 8 from Canadian or US Universities, or 80% for international students.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Statement of Interest/Statement of Research.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- English Proficiency Requirements as listed on the ECE graduate website.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: January 31 (international), March 1 (domestic).
- Notification of acceptance: usually before the end of April for international students, end of May for domestic students.

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

What about FUNDING?

Minimum funding guarantee for MASc students is $22,000 (domestic & international) per year throughout years 1-2. Students are usually funded through a combination of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and/or scholarships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically consider you for funding from all sources. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships.

FUNDING

- Queen’s awards, scholarships
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Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING?

As a MASc student in the important field of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), you can play a vital role in future developments in such areas as microchip design, biotechnology, machine intelligence, autonomous vehicles & robots, next-generation Internet, fibre optics, communications & wireless networks, network security, power engineering, green energy, and thousands of other areas. Almost every aspect of modern life is impacted by electrical and computer engineering.

Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the community with ways of understanding natural, cultural, imaginative, social and technological phenomena. Check out whygradstudies.ca for more reasons to choose graduate studies in engineering.

Why QUEEN’S?

As a MASc student in ECE at Queen’s you are part of one of the most research intensive universities in Canada. Our research program is internationally renowned with a wide range of research activities in all of the major specialization areas of electrical and computer engineering.

Queen’s ECE offers a number of cross-disciplinary opportunities in collaboration with the departments of Mathematics & Statistics, Physics, Computing, Mechanical Engineering and the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, as well as a collaborative graduate program in Computational Science and Engineering. Our students come from all over the world. At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community.

Program STRUCTURE

MASc (2 years): 4 courses and seminars, plus a research thesis.
**Intermediate Stage**

- Complete your coursework, continue to do your research and progressively write up your Master's research thesis.
- Complete the Academic Integrity Tutorial.
- 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.
- Submit your research for presentation at a research conference such as an IEEE sponsored conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Queen's Innovation Connector.
- Participate in 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 QUC's Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen's Connects 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 PUTL certificate.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships. Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as an IEEE conference.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through the Queen's University IEEE Student Branch's networking dinners, Queen's Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations. Talk to your supervisor for advice.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials.
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
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- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis.

**Wrapping Up**

- Present your research to ECE graduate students and faculty.
- Complete and defend your Master's research thesis.
- Complete the Academic Integrity Tutorial.
- 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.
- Submit your research for presentation at a research conference such as an IEEE sponsored conference.
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**What Will I Learn?**

- A graduate degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering 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 assess findings, draw and act on conclusions
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Perseverance
  - Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
  - Awareness of 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 Master’s degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering can take your career in many directions. Many of our MASc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in numerous sectors, such as:
  - Tech companies, such as Qualcomm, Ciena, Microsoft, Google, IBM, Cisco Systems, General Dynamics
  - Startups in all sectors, such as wearable devices, intelligent apps
  - Services such as financial, pension, and actuarial properties
  - Take time exploring career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.