Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Master of Applied Science or Master of Science.
- Grades Required: minimum cumulative average of 75% or B 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 PhD students is $23,000 (domestic) and $30,000 (international) per year throughout years 1-4. Students are usually funded through a combination of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and/or scholarships.

You are encouraged to apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $10,000 top-up award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies information on awards and scholarships.

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.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING?

As a PhD 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, bioelectronics, 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 PhD 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, Mining, the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, as well as the 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

PhD (4 years): 4 courses and seminars, thesis background and proposal exams, and thesis defense.

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**YEAR I**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework and comprehensive exams.
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss risks, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to the Student Academic Success Services and Expanding Horizons for supports and workshops.
- Attend the Departmental Speaker Series (ELEC 891).

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Write 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 help from Expanding Horizons, professional development workshops, and the SGS Habitat.
- If your industry internship is of interest, consult your supervisor: Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Engineering Society Design Team.
- Connect to broader communities of engineers through the Queen's University IEEE Student Branch.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Tune into IEEE messages and publications targeting student members and career building. Learn about the jobs and careers of other ECE graduates.
- Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alumnus for more information.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks.
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**YEAR II**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Continue to regularly meet with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation.
- Check out the SGS Dissertator 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 defense examiners.
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to ECE graduate students and faculty or at conferences and workshops 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.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Consider patent filing, e.g., through Partics Innovations.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Take part in the various international, multidisciplinary opportunities, and collaborate with other departments, such as Geological, Mechanical, Chemical and Civil Engineering.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Present your work at IEEE and other research conferences as often as possible.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Consider publishing elements of your research in (e.g., IEEE, ACM) journals. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SSLG301 or the PSTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Look into the Queen's University IEEE Student Branch.

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- Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest.
- Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.

**YEAR III**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Present to faculty or at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Consider patent filing, e.g., through Partics Innovations.
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**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to ECE graduate students and faculty or at conferences and workshops 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.

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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
- Initiative and vision
- Social responsibility
- Cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Fellowship

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

A PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education. Graduates from the PhD program have found careers with:
- Universities as professors or technologists.
- 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 finance, pensions, actuarial, intellectual properties.

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you make a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.