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.

“Thanks to Queen’s ECE, where my MASc and PhD study paved the way for my rewarding career as a professor. Besides my thesis supervisor, I also collaborated with student and faculty researchers at Queen’s and other universities. I presented my research at companies and government labs to cultivate connections, and I took stints as a visiting researcher at a university and a company in Europe.”

— Tiago Falk, MASc, PhD

RESEARCH Areas

- Communications and Signal Processing
- Computer and Software Engineering
- Microelectronics, Electromagnetics and Photonics
- Power Electronics
- Biomedical and Intelligent Systems

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Electrical and Computer Engineering website to read about research groups and faculty profiles. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest and related experience.
Electrical & Computer Engineering PhD MAP *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

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 roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Look to the Student Academic Success Services and the Expanding Horizons for support and workshops.
- Attend the Departmental Speaker Series (ELEC 895).

YEAR I

- 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 the Expanding Horizons, professional development workshops, and the SGS Habitat.
- If an industry internship is of interest, consult your supervisor. Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

YEAR II

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as an Engineering Society Design Team.
- Consider positions in student services, such as the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal CERC and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions to develop your skills and experience.

YEAR III

- 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.
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Participate in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Prepare patent filing, e.g., through Patent Innovations.
- 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.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science research website.
- Join professional associates like the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
- Consider attending conferences or meeting with the Queen's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
- Prepare your oral and research outputs for innovation ventures: check out Queen's Innovation Connectors.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with writing, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (Enroll in SGS 5950 or the PURL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning).
- Look into the Queen's University IEEE Student Branch.
- Follow the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science on LinkedIn to connect with other electrical and computer engineers.
- Consider speaking with the International Student Advisor.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as an 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.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Learn from the Queen's University IEEE Student Branch's networking dinners, QueenConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

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.
  - Tech companies, such as Qualcomm, Ciena, Microsoft, and IBM.
  - Systems, General Dynamics, and Industry.
  - Universities as professors.
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, including leadership, initiative, and vision.
- Universities as professors.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Tune into IEEE messages and publications targeting student members and career building. Learn about the jobs and careers of other ECE grads.
- Consider attending career planning workshops or meet with a career counselor for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alumni for more information check out Career Counseling.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. 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.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

- By 2025, Canada's tech industry will need 300,000 people.
- Of all PhDs, 70% will work in post-secondary education.

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, critique, find solutions, and act on conclusions.
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Perseverance
  - Independence and experience as a collaborative worker.
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, including leadership, initiative, and vision.

Visit careers.queensu.ca and Gradmap for the online version with links! * This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
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. Funding for international students offsets their higher tuition fees.

You are encouraged 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. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

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.