Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Master's degree in Applied Science or Engineering.
• Exceptional BSc students may be admitted.

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): 55, (internet-based): 79, TOEFL IBT: 88. 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: 63.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application deadline: No hard deadline. It is encouraged that prospective domestic and international students apply before March 1st to qualify for internal awards or to allow time to receive Visas.
• Notification of acceptance: End of March to July for September admissions.

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

What about FUNDING?

Minimum funding guarantee for PhD students: $18,000/year throughout years 1-4. Students are usually funded through a combination of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and/or scholarships. Funding levels differ for international students.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS or 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’ FAQs.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in MECHANICAL ENGINEERING?

As a PhD student in the field of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (MME), you can play a vital role in future developments in such areas as ergonomics, biomechanics and tissue engineering, fuel cells, fluid flow, gas turbines, design optimization, robotics, ceramics and polymers, and many other areas. Mechanical Engineering continues to play a vital role in modern life.

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 Mechanical and Materials Engineering 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 Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

The Mechanical and Materials graduate program has been recognized for the quality of its academic and research programs. It also focuses on multidisciplinary, collaborative research with faculty in other departments, other faculties and other universities.

Research Areas
• Biomechanical
• Energy and Fluid Systems
• Manufacturing and Dynamic Systems
• Materials Engineering

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

Visit the Mechanical and Materials 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 and related experience. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.
### YEAR I

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.
- Complete Part A of the PhD Comprehensive Examination (CPE) at Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Attend the Departmental Graduate Seminar Series (MECH 997).
- 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 the help of Expanding Horizons workshops.
- Complete Part B of the PhD Comprehensive Examination within 16 months of registration into the program.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal FPRC, and the SGSS Blog.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Exercise free academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL).
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Participate in a graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like the Material Matters.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Fuel-Cell Research Centre, the Human Mobility Research Centre, the Centre for Advanced Materials & Manufacturing.
- Connect to broader communities of engineers by joining one of the Engineering Society Design Teams.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like the Material Matters.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueuesConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and job websites.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like "So What Are You Going to Do With That?" or check out the Career Services workshop.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labor market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like the Graduate Student Career Week.
- 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 QueuesConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni or find alumni in various careers through "Ask an Alum". 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.

### YEAR II

**YEAR III**

- Attend or present at a graduate conference through the Canadian Society of Combustion Institute (CSCI).
- Expand your research through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Apply for funding opportunities such as the Queen’s Research Grant or the Queen’s Graduate Fellowship Program.
- Attend a departmental conference.
- 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.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.
- Continue to present at conferences.
- 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.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as causal conversation, networking, and interviews.

### YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as causal conversation, networking, and interviews.
- Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

- A graduate degree in Mechanical and Materials 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 appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Leadership: initiate and lead projects, teams, or social movements

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- PhD in Mechanical Engineering 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.
- Advanced Materials & Manufacturing.
- Mechanical & Materials Engineering.
- Creative.
- Leadership.
- Independence.
- Effective.
- Perseverance.
- Communication.
- Time management.
- Independence.
- Ethical.
- Technical skills.
- Social.
- Professionalism.
- Critical.
- Interactive.
- Science.
- Business.
- Government.
- Industry.
- Consulting.
- Non-departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Volunteer with different community organizations, such as the Fuel-Cell Research Centre, the Human Mobility Research Centre, the Centre for Advanced Materials & Manufacturing.
- Connect to broader communities of engineers by joining one of the Engineering Society Design Teams.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like the Material Matters.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueuesConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and job websites.
- Join professional associations like the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineers (CSME), the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO), or the Queen’s Alumni Association.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as causal conversation, networking, and interviews.

**HOW TO PLAN**

- Take career planning seriously, and make sure you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
- Explore careers in Mechanical and Materials Engineering.
- Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links.