

Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy MSc Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR MSc STUDENTS →

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in PHYSICS, ENGINEERING PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY?

Our department provides exciting opportunities for graduate students to study in many stimulating research environments. In addition to a large number of high-profile professors, we have recently recruited many new world-class physicists who are setting up exceptional research programs in cutting-edge areas of theoretical, applied and experimental physics. In 2016 we had a record intake of excellent new graduate students, bringing our department total to over 75 Canadian and International students.

Why QUEEN'S?

The Department of Physics at Queen's University is one of the leading Canadian research institutes in Physics. Our faculty includes high-profile, world-class physicists who work on cutting edge areas of theoretical, applied and experimental physics. Our staff and students carry out their research on campus as well as at external facilities including some of the largest astronomical and astro-particle observatories in the world, such as the Gemini Observatory in Hawaii, the Sudbury Neutrino Laboratory (SNOLAB), and the High Performance Computing Virtual Lab (HPCVL supercomputer).

Program STRUCTURE

MSc (2 years): course work, research project, thesis & defense.



A member of the Department of Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy, Professor Emeritus Art McDonald, was co-winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics for his research on neutrinos with the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory Collaboration.

RESEARCH Areas

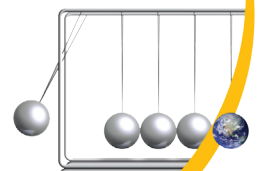
- Condensed Matter Physics & Optics
- Engineering & Applied Physics
- Astrophysics & Astronomy
- Particle Physics & Particle Astrophysics

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

Visit the [Department of Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy website](#) to read [faculty profiles](#) and learn more about faculty members' research areas. 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.



School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs



Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy MSc MAP*

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc)



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- 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](#).

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your thesis.

- Complete and defend your thesis.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for NSERC and OGS funding.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the [High Performing Computing Symposium](#).
- Consider participating in the [3 Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [Canadian Association of Physics Annual Congress](#), a [Canadian Astronomical Society Conference](#), or the [Canadian Astronomical Society Annual Meeting](#).

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the [SGPS](#), or media outlets like the [Queen's Journal](#), [CFRC](#), and the [SGS Blog](#). Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#) for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the [Society of Graduate & Professional Students](#) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from [Expanding Horizons](#) and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). Enroll in [SGS901](#) or the [PUTL certificate](#) for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- 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](#).
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, [Mitacs](#), or [other sources](#) to boost your skills.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as [Martha's Table](#), or [Loving Spoonful](#).
- Take advantage of the facilities linked to the department, including the [Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario](#), the [Sudbury Neutrino Observatory \(SNOLAB\)](#), the [Kingston Nano-Fabrication Laboratory \(KNFL\)](#), and more.

- Participate in your 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 QUIC's [Intercultural Competency Certificate](#).
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [QueensConnects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).
- Consider joining professional societies like the [Canadian Association of Physicists](#).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a [Career Services career planning workshop](#) or meeting with a career counsellor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to do With That?* or *Planning a Scientific Career in Industry* from the [Career Resource Area](#) for advice on various career options.
- 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by reading [alumni profiles](#) on the SGS website, and using [QueensConnects](#) 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 [MyGradSkills](#) to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with [job searching](#), [resumes](#), or [interviews](#).

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy 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**
- **Perseverance**
- **Independence** and experience as a **collaborative** worker
- **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 Master's degree in Physics, Engineering Physics & Astronomy can take your career in many directions. Many of our MSc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and research
- Consulting
- Medical technologies: radiation physics, x-ray physics
- Renewable energy
- Technology sector

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

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

- Honours undergraduate degree in Science or Applied Science and Engineering.
- **Grade requirements:** Minimum second class standing in undergraduate degree.

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 15th.
- **Notification of acceptance:** 4 weeks after the full application has been received.

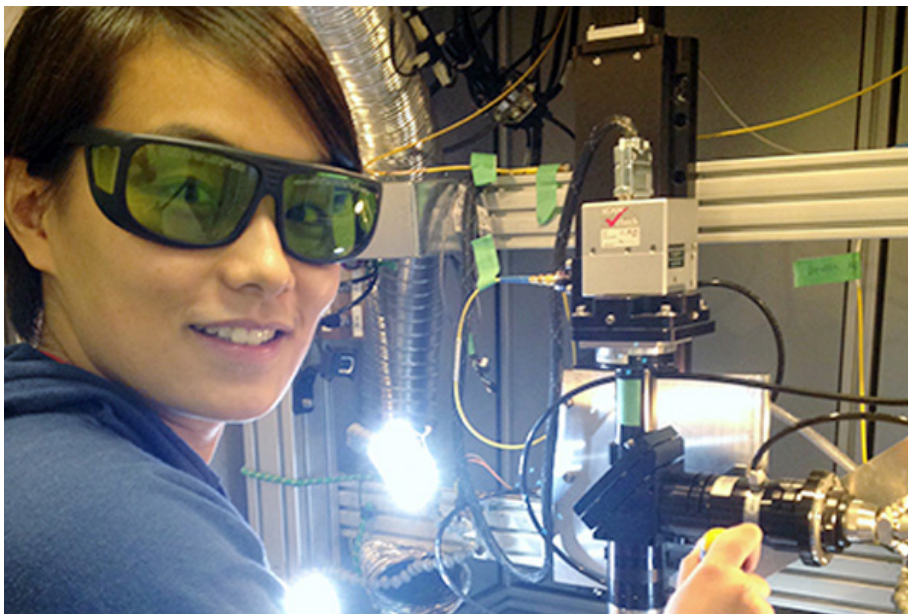
Before you start your application, please review the [graduate studies application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

MSc students in Physics receive minimum funding of \$25,820 per year for the two years of the program. This basic level funding consists of graduate awards, school support, external scholarships, internal fellowships and bursaries, teaching assistantships, and research grants.

Apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a \$5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards.

For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on [awards and scholarships](#).



DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS, ENGINEERING
PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

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