

# Electrical & Computer Engineering PhD Map

## Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

### 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, artificial intelligence, machine vision, IoT, autonomous vehicle & robots, speech and language processing, wireless and optical communications, nanoelectronics, photonics, power electronics and systems, green energy, cybersecurity, supercomputing, software engineering, 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.

### 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 Biomedical 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.



*"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



### Program STRUCTURE

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



**GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**

[queensu.ca/grad-postdoc](https://queensu.ca/grad-postdoc)

# Electrical & Computer Engineering PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



**Knowledge & Workplace Skills**

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 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

**Career Possibilities**

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:

- Startups in all sectors, such as wearable devices, intelligent apps
- Services such as financial, pension, actuarial, intellectual properties
- Tech companies, such as Qualcomm, Ciena, Microsoft, Google, IBM, Cisco Systems, General Dynamics, Nvidia, Intel, Amazon, and Samsung
- Universities as professors

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to

**How to use this map**

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: [careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps](https://careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps).



# Graduate Studies FAQs

## How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Individual Development Plan (IDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

## 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 SGSPA website 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

- 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:**
- Fall Semester Start: January 31 (international), March 1 (domestic).
- Winter Semester Start: August 15th.
- **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?

As of the 2025-26 academic year, doctoral students are guaranteed minimum funding of \$28,750 per year for 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. For the 2025-26 academic year, Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' information on awards and scholarships.

