

Civil Engineering PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Civil Engineering?

As a PhD student in the field of Civil Engineering, you can play a vital role in future developments in such areas as design of earth structures, water quality and treatment, sediment transport, coastal protection, water and sewer networks, groundwater resources, and construction and rehabilitation of structures, including consideration of climate change impacts and other issues.

Civil Engineering has a wide range of applications that contribute to modern life and its infrastructure.

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 Civil 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 Civil Engineering.

The Queen's graduate programs in Civil Engineering are home to some of the finest minds in the fields of civil and environmental engineering.

Students have the chance to study engineering in an environment where multidisciplinary research and activities are encouraged and facilitated.



The Civil Engineering Department's objective is to provide a broadly-based education in civil engineering which is intrinsically supported by world-class research in the areas of Structural, Geotechnical, Hydrotechnical, and Environmental Engineering.

Program Structure

PhD (4 years): 4 graduate term length courses, research, comprehensive oral examination, and a thesis.

Research Areas

- Environmental Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Hydrotechnical Engineering
- Structural Engineering

Visit the [Civil Engineering website](#) to read about research areas and learn more about faculty members' research specialization.

When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related

experience. We suggest that you review the specific research projects currently being investigated by faculty members to identify a potential supervisor. Please note, however, that contacting a faculty member does not guarantee acceptance and you will need to submit your full application in order to be considered.



Civil Engineering PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

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.



Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Civil Engineering can equip you with:

- 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 and 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 Civil 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. Our PhD students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and Research
- Civil Engineering in the public domain
- Consulting
- Law
- Manufacturing
- Policy and Governance
- Public 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 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 Professional Development Plan (PDP) 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?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on 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's degree in Civil Engineering. Applicants with a Master's degree in a cognate science may be admitted.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** March 1 to qualify for internal funding.
- **Notification of acceptance:** 2-3 months after the full application has been received.

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

What about Funding?

The current median funding package for Civil Engineering PhD students is \$30,000/year (with a guaranteed minimum of \$27,500/year), which may include teaching or research assistantships and graduate awards.

Higher funding levels can be achieved by applying for external funding from OGS, NSERC, and other sources. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.

