Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CHEMICAL ENGINEERING?

As a PhD student in the field of Chemical Engineering, you can play a vital role in future developments in such areas as biological conversion, pollution prevention and treatment, tissue engineering, process control and optimization, (bio)chemical sensing, nanocomposites, and many other areas. Chemical Engineering has a wide range of applications that contribute to modern life and its technologies.

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?

Queen’s University is one of Canada’s leading research-intensive universities, with over $14 million in sponsored research funding and almost $5 million in revenues from technology transfer. It consistently ranks as one of the top three medical/doctoral universities in Canada and offers an unparalleled environment to facilitate academic development. Among Queen’s goals is to attract and retain students with outstanding potential from across Canada and around the world.

The Department of Chemical Engineering at Queen’s University is based in Dupuis Hall and the Biosciences Complex, which are multi-purpose facilities with extensive research laboratories, and large- and small-group teaching classrooms.

The Chemical Engineering Department offers opportunities to collaborate with scientists in the Centre for Health Innovation and Computational Science and Engineering, as well as with co-supervising faculty in other departments.

Areas of intense research in the department include: Biomedical engineering, polymer and reaction engineering, process systems engineering, sustainable energy sources and environmental engineering. Activities range from developing new bio- and polymeric materials and production techniques, to understanding how the dynamic structure of a chemical process limits the performance that can be achieved. Significant collaborations across these fields exist within the department, and faculty members also collaborate extensively with other researchers across Queen’s and at other institutions.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, research thesis, comprehensive exam, and two seminars.

RESEARCH Areas

- Bioengineering
- Clean Energy and Sustainable Environment
- Process Systems Engineering and Systems Biology
- Materials and Interfaces

We suggest that you review the specific research interests of individual 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.

Visit the Chemical Engineering Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas.
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.

The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- 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 Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Attend the Departmental Speaker Series (CHEE 897).
- 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 Society of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshops.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.
- Present your work at graduate conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Consider publishing elements of your research.
- Learn from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development publishing workshop.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel grant for Doctoral Field Research.
- Serve on departmental, faculty/university committees. Talk to the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association (CGSOA) about getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete the Core online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or other sensitive topics.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an epofolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSO2 or the PUT Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate, hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.
- 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate opportunities.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn or your professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider signing up for the PhD Community Initiative program run by the SGSPA.
- 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.
- 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, and interviews.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations.
- Connect to broader communities of engineers.
- Find career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop 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.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects, networking with Queen’s alumni, and looking for information on career counseling.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR II

BYE YEAR III

YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Chemical Engineering will empower you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple formats 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 PhD in Chemical 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. Graduates from the Chemical Engineering PhD program have found careers in:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Fuel Cells
- Macro-molecular Processes and Products
- Microfluidics & Biosensors
- Process Systems Engineering

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 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.
- Grade requirements: minimum cumulative average of B+, with a minimum of 77% in last year of study.

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 following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application deadline: There is a constant intake so there is no set deadline for application. If you are international, we recommend that you have completed your application at least 4 months ahead of your admission cycle.

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

What about FUNDING?

The level of financial support consequently varies among graduate students in the Department, with a guaranteed minimum level of $25,000 (Masters and PhD) for 2022-2023. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching Assistant for at least one term per year.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming PhD 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.