Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CHEMISTRY?

A degree from Queen's Department of Chemistry is highly regarded and an important consideration in today’s competitive science and technology job market. Our $56 million state of the art building is home to the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance facility and its eight high-field instruments, an on-site Mass Spec facility with four mass spectrometers, an X-ray diffractometer, a CFI-funded facility for materials characterization and more unique equipment in faculty labs.

Why QUEEN’S?

Queen’s University and the Department of Chemistry enjoy international reputations. With 27 award-winning faculty, and over 130 graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research associates performing cutting-edge research in a multitude of areas, you will find this an exciting place to do research. Research is performed in the areas of analytical, inorganic, organic, physical, polymer, and theoretical chemistry. Research in these areas ranges from the most fundamental to very applied.

“My years at Queen’s have left me with nothing but good memories. It was a great experience, a great city and a great education. It was a solid foundation to launch a career.”

– Will N. Rogers, PhD

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): course work, research thesis, comprehensive oral exam, and research seminar.

RESEARCH Areas

- Analytical/Environmental
- Biological
- Inorganic/Organometallic
- Materials/Polymer
- Organic
- Physical
- Theoretical/Computational

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

Visit the Chemistry Department 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. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise.
2021-2022
Chemistry PhD Map*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

YEAR I

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- Key priorities include forming your committee and coursework.
- 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.
- Complete WHMIS safety training.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORS online module on research on ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.
- 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, CFRC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Science Renegades.
- Take part in events put on by the Queen’s Chemistry Innovation Council (Let’s Talk Science, or Women in Science & Engineering (WISE)).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. 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 labor market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Chemistry can equip you with:

Knowledge and Technical Skills
- Chemical synthesis
- Spectroscopic characterization
- 3D printing/rapid prototyping
- Mass spectrometry analysis
- Experimental design

Molecular modelling
- Manuscript writing
- Conference oral presentation
- Poster presentation (graph)

Creativity and Innovation
- Scientific patent writing/patent protection
- Business skills in chemical industry
- Grant writing, problem solving

Leadership and Collaboration
- Committee participation
- Supervision of junior researchers
- Industrial engagement

Research with international experts/partners

WHERE CAN I GO?
A PhD in Chemistry 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.

- Quality Control Chemist
- Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Forensic Scientist
- Environmental Law
- Patent Law
- Food Scientist
- Biochemistry
- Consumer Protection
- Pharmaceutical Chemist
- Materials Scientist
- Petroleum Engineer
- Chemical Education (University, College, Secondary/Primary)

Taking the knowledge into the world of work after graduation.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- MSc in Chemistry of equivalent, or direct entry from BSc for exceptional candidates with extensive research experience.
- Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (B+ average).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Two official transcripts for all post-secondary studies.
- Two letters of recommendation (academic)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Correspond with potential supervisors
- 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: 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 due: February 1st for International applicants; Flexible deadline for Domestic applicants.
- Notification of acceptance: Domestic students are notified on an ongoing basis as their applications are reviewed. International students are notified at the end of March.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Chemistry PhD students is $27,060 per year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package may be comprised of graduate awards, research fellowships, and research and/or teaching assistantships. Many students are awarded scholarships and awards, which allow them to exceed this level of income.

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’ information on awards and scholarships.