**Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING?**

As an MASc 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 an MASc 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.

In addition to the general MASc program, Queen’s ECE offers a Master of Applied Science with a Field of Study in Artificial Intelligence, as well as collaborative graduate programs in Biomedical Engineering, and Master’s in Applied Sustainability. It also has a number of cross-disciplinary opportunities in collaboration with the departments of Mathematics & Statistics, Physics & Engineering Physics, Computing, Mechanical Engineering, and the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies.

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.

"As a graduate student at Queen’s, you’re part of a small, tightly-knit community and you have the opportunity to connect with the faculty and students in your department in a way that is simply not possible at other universities."

— Dustin Dunwell, MASc (Eng)

**Program STRUCTURE**

MASc (2 years): 4 courses and seminars, plus a research thesis.

**RESEARCH Areas**

- Biomedical and Intelligent Systems
- Communications and Signal Processing
- Computer and Software Engineering
- Microelectronics, Electromagnetics, and Photonics
- Power Electronics

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

Visit the [Electrical and Computer Engineering website](#) to read about research groups and faculty profiles. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact them and tell them about your interest in graduate work, area of research interest, and related experience.
Getting Started

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor and completing your coursework.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your Masc thesis research.
- Start your research as soon as possible, aiming to get traction by the end of your first year.
- Attend the Departmental Speaker Series (ELEC 891).

Maximize Research Impact

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- Look into applying for NSERC, OGS, and other scholarships.
- Winning them will boost your academic career.
- Participate in innovation activities, such as the Graduate Innovation Connector.
- Submit your research for presentation at a research conference such as an IEEE sponsored conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Graduate Electrical & Computer Engineering (GCEC) student society for tips on getting involved.
- Use Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant positions to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Learn workshops from School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs - professional development.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Engineering Society.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
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- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Graduate Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences.
- Find a career that fits with knowing yourself. Tune into IEEE messages and publications targeting student members and career building. Learn about the jobs and careers of other ECE graduates.
- Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. Check out Career Creating for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships. Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Explores the career pathways to different fields of interest.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research careers of interest. Craft your CV or Resume and job application materials.
- Focus on starting areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

Engage with Your Community

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
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Launch Your Career

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Wrapping Up

- Present your research to ECE graduate students and faculty.
- Complete and defend your Master’s research thesis.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as an IEEE conference.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- 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, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from MinTAC, and other sources.
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What Will I Learn?

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
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

Where Can I Go?

A Master’s degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering can take your career in many directions. Many of our Masc students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in numerous sectors, such as:
- 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

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
- Bachelor degree in Engineering or closely related field.
- **Grade requirements:** 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?

Minimum funding guarantee for MASc students is $23,000 (domestic & international) per year throughout years 1-2. Students are usually funded through a combination of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and/or scholarships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, NSERC, and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs’ information on awards and scholarships.

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