Why GRADUATE STUDIES in GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES?

Geoscientists and geological engineers interpret the natural world. They bring methods such as geophysics, geochemistry, geobiology and field geology together to understand the modern and ancient Earth. Clues concealed in rocks and minerals, fluids and fossils, mountains and sediments, glaciers and volcanoes are marshaled to understand and explain the Earth system at all scales. Managing water, mineral and energy resources, designing sustainable strategies for infrastructure and industrial growth, and coping with natural and anthropogenic hazards facing increasing global populations, including climate change, all depend on a deep understanding of natural processes.

“Deciding to pursue a PhD in geology at Queen’s has allowed me to conduct original and exciting research, interact with knowledgeable and supportive faculty on a daily basis and form meaningful and long-lasting friendships with other graduate students. It has been a truly rewarding experience.”

– Chris Schuh, PhD

Why QUEEN’S?

As a PhD student in Geological Science 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 the major specialization areas in geological science.

Students are able to work in first-rate facilities with world-renowned scientists and research engineers, and have opportunities to collaborate with industrial leaders and engage in extensive fieldwork on six continents, making our program truly a world-class experience. Students can also collaborate with other departments at Queen’s, including Mining, Environmental Studies, Chemistry and Biology as well as other institutions like RMC.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): Thesis. The department has no minimum formal course requirement (beyond the MSc program requirements).

RESEARCH Areas

- Economic Geology & Mineral Exploration
- Petrology & Structural Geology
- Sedimentology, Sedimentary Geochemistry & Paleobiology
- Geophysics and Geochronology
- Applied Geoenvironmental Sciences & Geotechnique

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

Visit the Geological Sciences 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
Geological Sciences PhD Map *

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR I</th>
<th>YEAR II</th>
<th>YEAR III</th>
<th>YEAR IV &amp; TRANSITIONING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.</td>
<td>Priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing substantive research.</td>
<td>Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress and write your dissertation.</td>
<td>Continue the 4-SGS writing camps like Dissertation Boot Camp.</td>
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<td>Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.</td>
<td>Write and defend your thesis proposal.</td>
<td>Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.</td>
<td>Review submission and examination guidelines.</td>
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<td>Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.</td>
<td>Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons and the SGS website.</td>
<td>Learn from the Expanding Horizons publishing workshop.</td>
<td>Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.</td>
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<td><strong>MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT</strong></td>
<td>Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.</td>
<td>Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.</td>
<td>Discuss career pathways, reference letters, and publication options with your supervisor.</td>
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<td>Think about audiences for your research.</td>
<td>Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.</td>
<td>Attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners such as the International Conference on Geology and Geoscience.</td>
<td>Continue to attend conferences and connect with colleagues in your field and at your alma mater.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research regarding sensitive topics.</td>
<td>Attend or present at a graduate conference.</td>
<td>Consider participating in the 1 Minute Thesis (1MT) competition.</td>
<td>Attend or present at conferences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply to SSFRIC, OGS, and other funding.</td>
<td>Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.</td>
<td>Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.</td>
<td>Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners such as the International Conference on Geology and Geoscience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend conferences in your field.</td>
<td>Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.</td>
<td>List yourself on the Arts and Science Research website.</td>
<td>Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.</td>
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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

| Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Joliffe Club (graduate student society) for tips on getting involved. | Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community. | Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow. | 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. |
| Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like Queen’s, Q Magazine, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory. | Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies. | Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills. | Consider participating in the 1 Minute Thesis (1MT) competition. |
| Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience | For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSM02 or the PURL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning. | Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC. | Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. |

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

| Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, or Loving Spoonful. | Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups. | Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop. | Consider joining professional associations like the Geological Association of Canada. |
| Connect to broader communities of engineers by joining an Engineering Society Design Team. | Consider signing up for the PhD-Community Initiative program run by the SGS. | Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups. | Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest. |

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

| Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options. | Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship. | Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop. | Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions. |
| Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. | Explore different careers by using Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. For more information check out Career Counselling. | Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews. | Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews. |
| Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways. | Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest. | If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor. | If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. |

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Geological Sciences 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
- Resilience
- 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 Geological Sciences 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 Geological Sciences PhD program have found careers in:

- Academia and research
- Mineral and oil exploration
- Mining and hydrocarbon extraction
- Policy analysis
- Surface and underground construction
- Environment assessment
- Protection and rehabilitation
- Resource management
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- MSc in Geological Sciences or Geological Engineering, Mining Engineering or Civil Engineering are acceptable.
- Grade requirements: minimum B average.

**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: February 1 for September submissions.
- Notification of acceptance: 4 weeks after the full application has been received.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Geological Sciences PhD students is $23,000 per year for domestic students and $30,000 for international students throughout years 1-4. Research Assistantships are in consultation with the student’s supervisor.

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.

**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 SGS 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.

**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 SGS professional development framework and the new Individual Development Plan (IDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.