**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 School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL IBT: Writing 24/30, Speaking 22/30, Reading 22/30, Listening 20/30, for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

**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 $26,010 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 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 HABITAT for available resources.

**Where can I get help?**

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**What is the community like?**

As 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 website or contact our friendly staff at the Welcome Centre.

**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
2019-2020
Chemistry PhD Map

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 YOUR RESEARCH IMPACT

• Think about audiences for your research.
• Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research with living human or non-human subjects.
• Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
• Attend conferences in your field.
• Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition.
• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
• For the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.
• Conduct research at an International Collaborative University (i.e. Stuttgart, Nagoya, Piotier).
• Attend teaching workshops and seminars.
• Attend departmental seminars, Canadian Chemistry Congress, and other academic events.
• Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
• For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
• For help with research, get support from the Centre for Research and Innovation.
• Complete WHMIS safety training.
• Complete safety training in the lab.
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BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Queen's Graduate Chemistry Society about getting involved.
• Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or a media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CRTC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
• Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
• Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
• Start keeping an up-to-date record of your skills, experiences and competencies.
• For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in S35092 or the PUTS certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
• Participate as a graduate representative on a department committee (i.e. Graduate Committee, Appointments Committee).
• Participate in graduate and professional community activities through various graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
• Consider becoming an executive member of the Queen's Graduate Chemistry society.
• Do targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnect, LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
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ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

• Consider volunteering with different community organizations such as Science Rendezvous.
• Take part in events put on by the Queen's Chemistry Innovation Council, Let's Talk Science, or Women in Science & Engineering (WISE).
• Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counselor. Find out what you like and what you're good at.
• Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
• Participate as a graduate representative on a department committee (i.e. Graduate Committee, Appointments Committee).
• Attend teaching workshops and seminars.
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LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

• Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
• Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen'sConnect on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum” for more information check our Career Cruising.
• Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.
• 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 resume for potential positions of interest.
• Connect with Queen's Chemistry Innovation Council Members and chemistry alumni.
• 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, or interviews.
• 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.

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.
• Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for Chemistry, or the American Chemical Society.
• Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.
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WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Chemistry can enhance your skills and knowledge.
• Knowledge and Technical Skills
  • Chemical synthesis
  • Spectroscopic characterization
  • 3D printing/nanoparticle synthesis
  • Mass spectrometry analysis
  • Experimental design
  • Molecular modelling
  • Communications
  • Manuscript writing
  • Conference oral presentation
  • Poster presentation (graphic design)
  • Scientific writing
  • Scientific writing
  • Business skills in chemical industry
  • Grant writing, problem solving
  • Leadership and Communication
  • Committee participation
  • Supervision of junior researchers
  • Industrial engagement
  • Research with international experts/partners

Tool.

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