Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• Master’s degree in Civil Engineering. Applicants with a Master’s degree in a cognate science may be admitted.

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 School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, TOEFL iBT: Writing (20/30), 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 Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
• Application deadline: March 1 to qualify for internal funding.
• Notification of acceptance: 2-3 months after the full application has been received.

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 $18,000. As part of the minimum funding package, you may serve as a Teaching or Research Assistant.

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 Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the Civil Engineering Department.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in CIVIL ENGINEERING?
As a PhD student in Civil Engineering, you can play a vital role in future developments in such areas as rock mechanics, design of foundations, water quality, sediment transportation, pipeline flow, construction and rehabilitation of structures, and many other areas. Civil Engineering has a wide range of applications that contribute to modern life and its infrastructure.

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?
As a PhD student in Civil Engineering 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 Civil Engineering.

The Queen’s graduate programs in Civil Engineering are home to some of the finest minds in the fields of civil and environmental engineering. Students have the chance to study engineering in an environment where multidisciplinary research and activities are encouraged and facilitated. Research activity in the Department is generally classified under two fields: Civil Engineering Environment and Civil Engineering Infrastructure.

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**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Civil Engineering can equip you with:

- 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
- Perserverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness and 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 Civil 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. Our PhD students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and Research
- Consulting
- Public sector
- Manufacturing
- Policy and Governance
- Civil Engineering in the public domain
- Law

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Key priorities include completing your comprehensive examination and pursuing 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 the help of Expanding Horizons and the SGS Habitats.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

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**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete CORE online module on research ethics if doing research with human or sensitive topics.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field, based on supervisor advising.
- Present your work at graduate conferences through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Prepare for or work in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QCIC and FDIDC.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen's Media Centre.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the President of EGSS for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CPRC and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships with Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for or work in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QCIC and FDIDC.
- Participate in graduate and professional community organizations.
- Connect to broader communities of engineers by joining one of the Engineering Society's Design Teams.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueensConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional societies like the Canadian Society for Civil Engineers.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, and interviews. 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.
- 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.