Application FAQs

A CADACIC REQUIREMENTS
• MSc in Computing Science or a closely-related field.
• Grade requirements: minimum first class standing (A average).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Statement of research interests.
• If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the following proficiency requirements:
  - IELTS: 7.0 (academic module).
  - PTE Academic: 65.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• A minimum score in each test as shown:
  - TOEFL Writing: 22/30; Speaking: 21/30; Reading: 22/30; Listening: 23/30.
  - IELTS: 7.0.
  - PTE Academic: 65.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• An overall score of at least 80/120 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
• A minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate studies (4.0 scale).
• A minimum overall score of 80/120 on the Graduate Record Examination.
• A minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based), 80 (internet-based), or 100 (iBT).
• A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 (academic module).
• A minimum PTE Academic score of 65.

What do I need to know to APPLY?

We encourage all students to apply for available resources.

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Computing PhD students is $21,500 per year, throughout years 1-4. The funding package may be comprised of graduate awards and teaching assistantships.

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 completed a Master’s degree at Queen’s.

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 1,300 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. Kingston 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.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Queen’s School of Computing offers a graduate program that is unique in its quality, diversity, innovation and reach. Our faculty and students are engaged in research projects that span the spectrum of traditional computer science, while at the same time exploring areas never visited before. Some of us are discovering properties of certain computers that are radically different from the ones we have today, in the sense that a bit is the spin of an atom, or a register is a strand of DNA. Others are building organic interfaces for humans to communicate with computers. At Queen’s you will find a School reputed for its academic excellence and the wonderful atmosphere it enjoys.

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): Course work, topic proposal, comprehensive exam, research, thesis writing, thesis defence.

RESEARCH Areas

• Artificial Intelligence
• Biomedical Computing
• Data Analytics
• Databases and Cloud Computing
• Data Mining
• Game Development
• Human Computer Interaction
• Mobile Computer Networking
• Software
• Theory

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

Visit the School of Computing 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.
**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Key priorities include forming your committee, coursework, field exams, and language exam.
- 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.
- Prepare your topical proposal.

- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your 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 Exploring Horizons and the SGS Habitat.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

YEAR II

- 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 Exploring Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

YEAR III

- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or 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.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A graduate degree in Computing 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
  - Project management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
  - Professionalism: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Perseverance

WHERE CAN I GO?

- A PhD in Computing 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.
- Management positions in public, private and non-profit organizations
- Systems Software Developer
- Telecommunications/Network Engineer
- Biomedical Engineer/Bioinformatics specialist
- Industrial Analyst
- Computer Systems/Database Manager
- Operations Research Specialist
- Systems Analyst/Operating Systems Programmer
- Electronic Data Processing Auditor

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding 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 reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

- 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’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alumni.” For more information check out 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.
- Participate in valuable research.
- Develop connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Attend networking events such as casual conversation, networking, and job searching.
- Start looking for positions in industry, government, or non-profits.
- Find out more about the various career pathways available.
- Continue to attend and connect with networking workshops.
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.