**Application FAQs**

**What do I need to know to APPLY?**

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

- A Bachelor's degree in Geological Sciences or Geological Engineering, Mining Engineering, or Civil Engineering are acceptable. Degrees in related fields, such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Sciences, or Geography will be considered, but may require additional Geology courses during the period of study.
- Grade requirements: Work completed over all 4 years of the undergraduate degree will be considered, with emphasis on the last 2 years.

**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; (internet-based): 79; IELTS: 6 (overall band score), or (IBT) TOEFL: 90; PTE Academic: 65.

**KEY DATES & DEADLINES**

- Application due: February 1.
- Notification of acceptance: Typically 4 weeks after the full application has been received.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

**What about FUNDING?**

Geological Engineering Master’s students have a minimum funding of $21,000 for domestic students and minimum funding of $28,000 for international students. Research Assistantships are in consultation with the student’s supervisor. Students should also consult the [NSERC](#) for the current levels of support this agency provides.

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 a Master’s student in Geological 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 geological engineering.

The Department of Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering provides opportunities for advanced studies and research in the Earth Sciences. Faculty interests span disciplines in Applied Geoenvironmental Sciences and Geotechnique, Geophysics and Geochronology, Economic Geology and Mineral Exploration, Petrology and Structural Geology, Sedimentology, Sedimentary Geochemistry and Paleobiology often in a multi-disciplinary fashion and including applications to economic and environmental problems.

Our students come from countries all over the world, such as Brazil, Chile, Greece, and China. At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community.

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOLICAL SCIENCES & GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

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A graduate degree in Geological Engineering can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- **Knowledge and technical skills**
- **Effective communication skills**
- **Problem-solving**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Analytical skills**
- **Quantitative reasoning**
- **Qualitative reasoning**
- **Organizational skills**
- **Project management**
- **Leadership**
- **Strategic thinking**

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
A Master's degree in Geological 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:

- Academia and Research
- Consulting
- Mining Companies
- Mining equipment and technology providers
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Financial institutions
- Environmental consulting firms
- Government agencies
- Environmental and social impact assessment firms
- Financial institutions

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- **Academic inquiry**
- **Critical thinking and problem-solving**
- **Technical skills**
- **Communication and presentation skills**
- **Leadership and teamwork**
- **Project management**

**GEological Engineering MASc Map**

**GETTING STARTED**
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, doing your coursework, and creating a thesis proposal.
- Consider how your courses can contribute to your research thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the Graduate Coordinator and the SGS Habitat.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**
- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your Master’s research thesis.
- Complete the ADDA 800 non-credit course in Accessible Customer Service.
- Learn about academic integrity at Queen's.
- Become a Teaching or Research Assistant.
- Prepare a thesis proposal for supervisor(s) and the thesis committee.

**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete and defend your Master’s research thesis (GEOL 899).
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Geotechnical Society Annual Meeting, the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, or GeoConvention.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for NSERC and OGS funding.
- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Jolliffe Club (the departmental graduate-student society) for tips on getting involved.
- See professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Advances in Earth Science Research Conference.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as causal conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and FDISC.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueenConnects 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 Canadian Geotechnical Society.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career counselor. 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
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**Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!**