Why GRADUATE STUDIES in APPLIED GEOLOGY?

The Master of Science in Applied Geology is a one-year program leading to enhanced knowledge in Mineral Exploration/Resource Geology or Geological Engineering. The program normally commences in September and can be completed by the end of April or August of the following year depending on the project and/or pattern.

Why QUEEN’S?

As a Master’s 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 of the major specialization areas of geological science. As well, 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

The Master of Science in Applied Geology degree is based either on a project/course-work option, or a course-work only option:

- **Option 1**: GEOL 898 (project) plus 6 term length course credits.
- **Option 2**: Eight term length course credits.

Under the project/course-work option, a student is required to complete six primary term length course credits. The project course is in addition to these six courses, and is taken under the code GEOL 898. At least four primary courses must be taken in the Department of Geological Sciences & Geological Engineering. Up to 25% (1 course) of the primary courses can be 4th year and/or graduate courses which are co-taught and co-numbered with 4th year courses. The project culminates in a written report.

The requirements for the **course-work only option** are eight term length course credits, and at least four courses must be taken in the Department of Geological Sciences & Geological Engineering.

Selection of courses in both the 2 year Research Master’s and 1 year Master of Science in Applied Geology is subject to Supervisor and Graduate Coordinator approval. Students must obtain a satisfactory standing in all courses (minimum 70%) in both the 2 year Research Master’s and 1 year Master of Science in Applied Geology.
**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for NSERC and OGS funding.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Geological Association of Canada, professional associations, and at conferences.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha's Table, or Loving Spoonful.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counsellor. 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 Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Continue your coursework.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference. Ask your supervisor for suggestions.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, 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 or university committees. Talk to the Joliffe Club (graduate student society) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the International Conference on Geology and Geoscience.
- 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 casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueensConnects or LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Geographical Association of Canada.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your coursework.
- Option 2 students must complete GEOL 898.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the International Conference on Geology and Geoscience.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the International Conference on Geology and Geoscience.
- Option 2 students must complete GEOL 898.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Applied Geology 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
- Perseverance
- 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 Master’s degree in Applied Geology can take your career in many directions. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and research
- Mineral and oil exploitation
- Mining and hydrocarbon extraction
- Policy analysis
- Surface and underground construction
- Environmental 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.

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*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
- Bachelor degree in one of Geological Sciences, Geological Engineering, Mining Engineering, or Civil Engineering. Degrees in fields such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Sciences, or Geography are seriously considered, but may require additional Geology courses.
- Grade requirements: 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 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 September admission.
- Notification of acceptance: Normally 4 weeks after the full application has been received.

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

What about FUNDING?

There is no departmental or university funding available for 1 year Master of Science in Applied Geology students. Students are expected to obtain external funding prior to admission in the program. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.