Why GRADUATE STUDIES in COMPUTING?
The School of Computing is active in research on a broad range of topics, with a strong research record. We are finding methods to make data more secure, software more reliable, and computers more intelligent.

“The cutting-edge research, world-renowned supervisors, unparalleled social experience, and a devotion to school life […] result in nothing short of awesome.”
– Eric Rapos, PhD student

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

YEAR I

- 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.

YEAR II

- 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 Expanding Horizons and the SGS Habitat.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

YEAR III

- 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.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field. Hundreds of conferences exist in Computing.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Queen’s Graduate Computing Society about getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CRFC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Women are encouraged to take part in the annual Canadian Celebration of Women in Computing.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, or Loving Spoonful.
- Enjoy a hot beverage on Tuesday and Thursday coffee breaks with faculty and peers.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Careers Services career planning 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 Graduate Student Career Forum 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’s Alumni LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”. For more information check out Career Coaching.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Careers Services networking workshops.

- Consider joining professional associations like the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and IEEE.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest.

- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSS901 or the PTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC and Four Directions, Aboriginal Student Centre’s Training Certificate.

- 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.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Careers Services workshop.
- Take advantage of the state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities, feature NMR, mass spectrometry, X-ray diffractometers, a laser lab, and more.

- Page does some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’s Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Careers Services networking workshops.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- 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.
Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC 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 English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: (1) 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: January 15th for both September and January admissions.
- Notification of acceptance: Between February and June.

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

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 $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships.

Queen’s University
Debby Robertson, Graduate Assistant
(613) 533-6781
debby@cs.queensu.ca
cs.queensu.ca