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 following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper: 550, (2)) TOEFL IBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 86/120 (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 $21,100 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 submitted a teaching assistant application.

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Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN COMPUTING?
The School of Computing is active in research on a broad range of topics, with an 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.
The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2020-2021. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

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
• Knowledge of government priorities, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
• Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
• Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, and 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 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/Biometrics specialist
• Industrial Analyst
• Computer Systems/Database Manager
• Operations Research Specialist
• Systems Analyst/Operating Systems Programmer
• Electronic Data Processing Auditor

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

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

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