Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- A Bachelor’s degree in Geological Sciences or Geology.
- Acceptable degrees in related fields, such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Sciences, or Geophysics.
- May require additional Geology courses during the period of study.
- Grad 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 minimum English language test scores:
  - TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (internet-based): 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 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 $26,000 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.

Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

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 programs are internationally renowned with a wide range of research activities in all of the major specialization areas of geological engineering.


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.

Graduate level Geological Engineering has provided me with the opportunities to delve into my interests in Geophysics with intimate class sizes, impassioned instructors and spectacular locations for Graduate Field School.”

—Robin Maedel, MASc
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.

2020-2021

Geological Engineering MASc Map *

MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE (MASc)

GETTING STARTED

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- 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.

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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CIRC, 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.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Engineering Society Design Team.

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.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework, begin to research and write your Master’s research thesis.
- Complete the AODA 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Geological Engineering 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, understanding and handling of ethical social practices, professional 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 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

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to

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

* 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.