Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
• A Master’s degree in Mining Engineering. Applicants with a Master’s degree in a cognate science may be admitted.

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): 80, (listening): 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 deadline: March 1st.
• Notification of acceptance: April 30th.

What about FUNDING?

The level of financial aid is at a guaranteed minimum level of $18,000 for PhD students. As part of the minimum funding package, you may also serve as a Teaching Assistant and gain additional professional development opportunities.

You are encouraged 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.

Where can I get help?

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SG5 Habitat for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in MINING ENGINEERING?

Mining is the foundation of industrial civilization. It is the process of extracting minerals like gold, silver, copper, nickel and uranium (metallurgical) and salt, potash, coal, limestone aggregate and oil (non-metallic) formations that concentrate naturally in the earth. It may surprise you, but other than agricultural products, the raw ingredients for everything else in our modern lives comes from mining.

Mining Engineering is one part technical design and one part business management. Mining engineers are responsible for deciding how valuable a mineral deposit is and how best to mine it, for planning the day-to-day schedule and path of mining to maximize extraction and profit, and for ensuring the safety of people and equipment through applications in areas such as mine ventilation and rock mechanics.

Check out whygradstudies.ca for more reasons to choose graduate studies in engineering.

Why QUEEN’S?

As a PhD student in Mining 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 mining engineering.

Queen’s Mining Engineers work in metals and industrial minerals, with consulting companies, geotechnical groups, environmental groups, heavy and light equipment manufacturing companies, computer software and hardware development organizations, banks, government institutions and university organizations. We are at the forefront in developing computer applications for engineering design in mineral extraction and work in close contact with the mining industry.

Our students come from all over the world. At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community.

DEPARTMENT OF MINING

Kate Cowperthwaite, Graduate Assistant
(613) 533-2230
mine.office@queensu.ca

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Mining Engineering PhD MAP *

YEAR I

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Key priorities include forming your research committee, coursework and comprehensive exams.
- 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 and Expanding Horizons for supports and workshops.
- Complete the laboratory safety course (CHEM 801) or (MNE 862).

**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.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Serve on faculty or university committees. Talk to the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFCF, and the SGSS 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**
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations.
- Connect to broader communities of engineers by joining a Engineering Society Design Team.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services career planning tool 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 the Graduate Student Career Forum to explore your career pathways.

**WRITE AND DEFEND YOUR THESIS PROPOSAL**
- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Present your research in a seminar to Mining Engineering graduate students and faculty (MINE 897).
- Complete your PhD comprehensive exam within 4-18 months after registering.
- Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**YEAR II**

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Institute of Mining (CIM) Annual Meeting.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGSS91 or the PVTU certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**YEAR III**

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Metacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Metacs and other sources.
- Take part in the various international, multidisciplinary opportunities, and collaborate with other departments, such as Geological, Mechanical, Chemical and Civil Engineering.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings such as the university, such as making speeches, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the QUIC and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's Training Certificate.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- 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 defense examiners.
- Continue to present at conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work. List yourself on the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science research website.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
A graduate degree in Mining 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: Most 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 PhD in Mining Engineering 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-governmental organizations.
Graduates from the Mining Engineering PhD program have found careers within:
- 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 the world of work after graduation.