Graduate Studies FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Master’s degree in Applied Science or Engineering.
- Exceptional BSc students 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, (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 deadline: No hard deadline. It is encouraged that prospective domestic and international students apply before March 1st to qualify for internal awards or to allow time to receive Visas.
- Notification of acceptance: End of March to July for September admissions.

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

What about FUNDING?

Minimum funding guarantee for PhD students: $18,000/year throughout years 1-4. Students are usually funded through a combination of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and/or scholarships. Funding levels differ for international students.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ awards and scholarships.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in MECHANICAL ENGINEERING?

As a PhD student in the field of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (MME), you can play a vital role in future developments in such areas as: ergonomics, biomechanics and tissue engineering, fuel cells, fluid flow, gas turbines, design optimization, robotics, ceramics and polymers, and many other areas. Mechanical Engineering continues to play a vital role in modern life.

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

Why QUEEN’S?

As a PhD student in Mechanical and Materials 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 Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

The Mechanical and Materials graduate program has been recognized for the quality of its academic and research programs. It also focuses on multidisciplinary, collaborative research with faculty in other departments, other faculties and other universities.

“...I have enjoyed the freedom and independence to choose my own research topics...”

- Carla Fauser, PhD

RESEARCH Areas
- Biomechanical
- Energy and Fluid Systems
- Manufacturing and Dynamic Systems
- Materials Engineering

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.

Visit the Mechanical and Materials Engineering website to read about research groups and faculty profiles. 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. This is also an opportunity for you to find out if the faculty member is accepting new graduate students to supervise. Meet with your potential supervisor at departmental events for prospective students.
**Mechanical & Materials Engineering PhD Map**

**ACHIEVE YOUR aCADEMIC GOALS**

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<th>YEAR I</th>
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<td>• Meet early with your supervisor to set expectations and discuss roles, responsibilities, program requirements, resources, research/occupational goals, timelines, and any required accommodation plans.</td>
<td>• Write and defend your thesis proposal, and embark on your substantive research.</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
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<td>• Complete Part A of the PhD Comprehensive Examination to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.</td>
<td>• Set up regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss progress and obstacles to timely completion.</td>
<td>• Consider publishing elements of your research. Locate on the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.</td>
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<td>• Attend the Departmental Graduate Seminar Series (MECH 997).</td>
<td>• Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons workshops.</td>
<td>• Use conference presentations to create and refine dissertation material.</td>
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**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

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<td>• Think about audiences for your research.</td>
<td>• Attend or present at a graduate conference through the Canadian Section ofCombustion Institute, CFD, Society of Canada, etc. Talk to your supervisor.</td>
<td>• Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.</td>
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<td>• Apply to NSERC, OGS, and other funding support.</td>
<td>• Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
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<td>• Attend conferences in your field.</td>
<td>• Apply for the Graduate Dean’s Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.</td>
<td>• Attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.</td>
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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

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<td>• Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.</td>
<td>• Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.</td>
<td>• Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.</td>
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<td>• Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, ZER, and the SGS Blog.</td>
<td>• Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.</td>
<td>• Find opportunities for extra training through CFI, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.</td>
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<td>• Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.</td>
<td>• For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in S599R or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.</td>
<td>• Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.</td>
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**ENGAGE WITH YOUR Community**

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<td>• Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as the Human Mobility Research Centre, and the Centre for Advanced Materials &amp; Manufacturing.</td>
<td>• Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.</td>
<td>• Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through QueenConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.</td>
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<td>• Connect to broader communities of engineers by joining one of the Engineering Society Design Teams.</td>
<td>• Start building your academic portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.</td>
<td>• Join professional associations like the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineers (CSME) or the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO).</td>
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**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

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<td>• Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.</td>
<td>• Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”. For more information check out Career Cruising.</td>
<td>• Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.</td>
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<td>• Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.</td>
<td>• Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.</td>
<td>• Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.</td>
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<td>• Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.</td>
<td>• Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.</td>
<td>• If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.</td>
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**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Mechanical and Materials 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 and analysis
- 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 professional
- Awareness, and 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 Mechanical 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-profits.

- Academia – Professors
- Research Science – Simulation Engineer
- Government
- Industry – Design Engineer
- Consulting

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

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.*