

# **Welcome to Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Program Orientation**



***Dr. Shiva Kumar  
Associate Chair  
Graduate***

# Welcome to ECE!

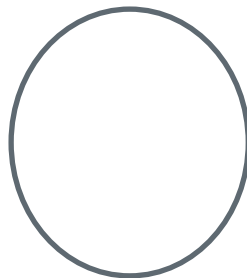
## Agenda

- Introductions
- Message from the Chair
- About ECE
- Degree Options
- Course Offerings
- Graduate Exams
- Student Requirements
- Health and Safety
- Grad Office Policy
- Teaching Assistantship
- Lab Safety
- CUPE 3906
- Co-op, Career & Experience
- Get Involved
- Before You Ask

# Introduction - ECE Main Contacts



Clara Lau  
Administrative Graduate Assistant



TBD  
Assistant Academic  
Department Manager



Dr. Shiva Kumar  
Associate Chair, Graduate  
Professor



Dr. Shahram Shirani  
Department Acting Chair  
Professor



Shelby Gaudrault  
Academic Department Manager



Brittany Donovan  
Administrative Assistant



Tracey Coop  
Undergraduate Administrative Assistant

[More Faculty and Staff](#)



Dr. Shahram Shirani,  
Department Acting Chair

# A Message from Our Acting Chair

Welcome to the Department of  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
(ECE)!

Our department is one of the fastest  
growing in McMaster with 44 faculty  
members from diverse areas of  
electrical and computer engineering.  
Our talented professors and students  
are changing the world through their  
research.

Our faculty and staff members are  
committed to delivering the best  
learning experience to our students.

We are proud to welcome a pool of  
new talented graduate students.



# ECE by the Numbers

44

Faculty

- 2 Canada Research Chair holders
- 6 IEEE fellows
- 3 funded chairs
- 3 Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada
- 2 Distinguished University Professor
- 4 Emeritus



14

Administrative  
and Tech Staff



# ECE by the Numbers

9

Areas of  
Specialization



Biomedical Technologies



Communication Technologies, Systems & Networks



Electrified & Autonomous Transportation



Electromagnetics & Photonics



Integrated, Embedded and Interconnected Systems



Microelectronics & VLSI



Optimization, Learning & Control



Power Electronics & Electric Machines



Signal, Image & Video Processing



McMaster University Automotive Research Centre



Centre for Research in Micro- and Nano-systems

2

Centers and  
Institutes

# ECE by the Numbers

312

Graduate  
Students

## Graduate Students:

- 91 Meng
- 66 MASc
- 155 PhD

1078

Undergraduate  
Students

## Undergraduate Students:

- 265 Level 2
- 275 Level 3
- 299 Level 4
- 55 Level 5
- 184 Co-op





Dr. Shiva Kumar  
Associate Chair,  
Graduate

# Degree Options & Requirement

MEng Project-based

MEng Course-based

MASc

PhD

# Degree Options & Requirements

## MEng – Project based

### Course Requirement

- ☐ Completion within 12-16 months
- ☐ 6 “half” (3 unit) courses or 18 units
  - 4 must be 700-level within ECE
  - Maximum of 2 ECE 600-level \*
- ☐ Non-ECE courses require permission form\* (see below)
- ☐ Completion of ECE 701 (must find a supervisor, not taken in first term)
- ☐ Completion of ECE 790/792 (non-credit, Pass/Fail)
- ☐ Consult with associate grad chair

\*department consent required



#### 600-Level Course Permission Form

Complete this form if taking 600-level courses to count towards your degree completion



#### Request for In-Program Adjustment Form

Complete this form if taking courses outside of ECE to count towards your degree completion

### Degree Requirements

- ☐ Completion of SGS 101 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of SGS 201 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of Career Planning Report (CARP) - due 1 year from start of term
- ☐ Health & Safety

# Degree Options & Requirements

## MEng – Course based

### Course Requirement

- ☐ Completion within 12-16 months
- ☐ 7 “half” (3 unit) courses or 21 units
  - 4 must be 700-level within ECE
  - Maximum of 2 ECE 600-level \*
- ☐ Non-ECE courses require permission form\* (see below)
- ☐ Consult with associate grad chair

\*department consent required

### Degree Requirements

- ☐ Completion of SGS 101 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of SGS 201 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of Career Planning Report (CARP) - due 1 year from start of term
- ☐ Health & Safety



#### 600-Level Course Permission Form

Complete this form if taking 600-level courses to count towards your degree completion



#### Request for In-Program Adjustment Form

Complete this form if taking courses outside of ECE to count towards your degree completion

# Degree Options & Requirements

## MASc

### Course Requirement

- ☐ Completion within 24 months
- ☐ 4 “half” (3 unit) courses or equivalent
- ☐ 2 must be 700-level within ECE
- ☐ Maximum of one ECE 600-level\*
- ☐ ECE 790 or ECE 792
- ☐ Courses outside ECE\*
- ☐ Consult with supervisor

\*department consent required

### Degree Requirements

- ☐ Completion of SGS 101 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of SGS 201 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of Career Planning Report (CARP) - due 1 year from start of term
- ☐ Health & Safety
- ☐ Supervisory Meeting Progress Report – due 1 year from start of term, or as directed
- ☐ MASc thesis submission and oral defence

\* Refer to ECE handbook for dates

Option to transfer to PhD – must discuss with supervisor and apply through to SGS



#### 600-Level Course Permission Form

Complete this form if taking 600-level courses to count towards your degree completion



#### Request for In-Program Adjustment Form

Complete this form if taking courses outside of ECE to count towards your degree completion

# Degree Options & Requirements

## PhD

### Course Requirement

- ☐ Completion within 48 months
- ☐ 3“half” (3 unit) 700-level courses or equivalent from within ECE
- ☐ ECE 790 or ECE 792
- ☐ Courses outside ECE\*
- ☐ Consult with supervisor

\*department consent required

### Degree Requirements

- ☐ Completion of SGS 101 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of SGS 201 – due May 31, 2025
- ☐ Completion of Career Planning Report (CARP) - due 1 year from start of term
- ☐ Health & Safety
- ☐ Supervisory Committee Meeting – due 1 year from start of term, and every year afterwards\*
- ☐ Comprehensive Exam – due by 24 months
- ☐ PhD thesis submission and oral defence

\* Refer to ECE handbook for dates



#### 600-Level Course Permission Form

Complete this form if taking 600-level courses to count towards your degree completion



#### Request for In-Program Adjustment Form

Complete this form if taking courses outside of ECE to count towards your degree completion



# Degree Options & Requirements

## Transfer from MASc to PhD

Student can apply to transfer from MASc without defending a Master's thesis with supervisor permission and re-apply for PhD. Direct entry PhD must also meet the following requirements:

### Course Requirement

- ☐ 6 “half” (3 unit) 700-level courses or equivalent
- ☐ 4 must be within ECE
- ☐ Max 2 700-level can be taken outside the department\*
- ☐ Maximum of one ECE 600-level\*
- ☐ ECE 790 or ECE 792
- ☐ Consult with supervisor

\*department consent required



#### 600-Level Course Permission Form

Complete this form if taking 600-level courses to count towards your degree completion



#### Request for In-Program Adjustment Form

Complete this form if taking courses outside of ECE to count towards your degree completion

### Degree Requirements

- ☐ Completion of Career Planning Report (CARP) - due 1 year from start of term
- ☐ Supervisory Committee Meeting – 1 per academic year\*
- ☐ Comprehensive exam – due within 24 months of start of program
- ☐ PhD thesis submission and oral defence

\* Refer to ECE handbook for dates and information

# Course Offerings: ECE Courses

- Graduate level courses are numbered using 700 series (e.g. 701, 702, ...)
- 600 level courses are combined with 400-level undergraduate courses.
  - Courses at the 600-level usually have an additional assignment
  - Limited seating is available
  - Reminder – instructor permission is required for 600-level courses
- Course offering are available on:
  - [ECE website](#)
    - Courses Tab
    - Resources/Graduate Tab
  - Mosaic
  - [Academic Calendar](#)
- Unless otherwise indicated, courses are held in person
- Most courses use Avenue to Learn
- Consult with your supervisor.



# Course Offerings: Other

- 700-level courses outside ECE may require permission from instructor
- Must complete permission form, for the courses to count towards degree completion
- Courses outside of McMaster may count towards degree completion, only if similar courses are not offered by the department or the University.

Additional questions consult with your supervisor.

General inquiries consult with grad admin.

 **Final date to add course: May 9**  
**Final date to drop a single-term course without a W/F grade on transcript - July 11**



[600-Level Course Permission Form](#)

Complete this form if taking 600-level courses to count towards your degree completion



[Request for In-Program Adjustment Form](#)

Complete this form if taking courses outside of ECE to count towards your degree completion

# ECE 790/792 (except MEng course based)

## Foundational Communication Skills for Graduate Research in ECE

All students except Meng course-based must take either ECE 790 or ECE 792

### ❖ ECE 790

- develop skills in communicating their research to a broad audience via a series of workshops and coaching sessions, culminating in a graduate student research presentation day

### ❖ ECE 792

- an enriched version of ECE 790 providing coaching on technical presentations, such as those typically given at conferences or in group meetings, and on technical writing

Consult with your supervisor about which course to take.

REMINDER! Non-credit, pass/fail grading.



# F Grade

The minimum passing grade in a graduate course is a B-

- Failure in a course is reviewed by the School of Graduate Studies and requests a departmental recommendation regarding the student
- In the absence of a department recommendation, the student will be required to withdraw
- Those allowed to remain, must either repeat or replace the failed course
- A second F-grade will not normally be allowed to continue in the program
- F-grades remain on the transcript
- If you run into difficulties, talk to graduate advisor or your project supervisor before the DROP date

Ref: [Academic Calendar Section 2.6.11](#)



**Final date to add course: May 9**

**Final date to drop a single-term course without a W/F grade on transcript - July 11**

# Supervisory Committee Reports

- Each student must declare their supervisor within 5 months from start of term.
- Each PhD student must declare their supervisory committee member within 8 months from start of term.
- Watch for communication from the grad admin.

- Supervisory Meeting Progress Report – due 1 year from start of term, or as directed
  - Paper/digital form
  - Complete form and send completed form to Grad Admin
  - Grad Admin will update to SGS for entry into Mosaic

• If planning to transfer, a report within 6 months will be required.

## MASc

1<sup>st</sup> report  
due 1 year  
from start of  
term

- Must complete once a year
- Online reporting process
- Initiated by grad admin
- Supervisory committee members must be updated and accurate
- Upon completion and approval by the department, SGS will update for degree requirement

## PhD

1<sup>st</sup> report  
due by Nov  
30, 2025



Supervision guidelines for programs



# Comprehensive Exam – PhD only

- ☐ Must be taken with 24 months from start of term
- ☐ Must have had a satisfactory supervisory committee meeting

## Objective:

1. to demonstrate **knowledge** and **skills** necessary to pursue research at the PhD level, respond to questions related to them, solve problems when faced with an unfamiliar situation related to them and know how to apply them to practical problems.
2. understand a specific problem involving the integration of ideas with imagination and innovation, research on the state-of-the-art related to it, envision new ways to solve it, conduct preliminary theoretical analysis and/or experiments, write a formal report on the findings, present the findings in an effective manner and defend them in front of a committee of experts.

## Structure:

Supervisor + comprehensive exam committee members + comprehensive committee chair (ECE faculty member)

## Part A:

Oral examination on any 2 topics chosen by the examination committee of which the student has taken

## Part B:

A report and presentation on a specific problem involving the integration of ideas related , but not the same as the student's thesis topic, specified by the examination committee.

# Comprehensive Exam - Unsuccessful

- Students who are unsuccessful will be notified by the chair.
- If the student fails one or more parts of the examination, he/she needs to re-do only the ones that he/she failed.
- Unsuccessful comprehensive exams will be communicated to the School of Graduate Studies. The grade will not be reported on transcript.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt date will be discussed by the committee and/or upon review by the School of Graduate Studies.
- A 2nd fail will be reported and be required to withdraw from the program.



Clara Lau  
Graduate Administrative  
Assistant

# Student Requirements - Reminder

Your degree is your responsibility!

Please make sure to review the following degree requirements:

- ☐ Carefully review the [ECE handbook](#) – ECE website/Resources/Graduate
- ☐ Enroll in one term (Spring/Summer)
- ☐ Complete SGS 101 & SGS 201- due May 31
- ☐ Complete Career Planning report – due 1 year from start of program
- ☐ Complete Health and Safety training
- ☐ Review your academic advisement report in Mosaic for updates on degree requirement/completion
- ☐ Keep track of your Degree Checklist



# Student Requirements - Reminder

Your degree is your responsibility!

- Keep track of your degree checklist

## Degree Requirements Checklist

Master of Engineering in Electrical & Computer Engineering -Project Based

[Academic Calendar Requirements](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SGS 101 & SGS 201	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career Planning Report	
	<input type="text" value="Completion Date"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Form Submitted to Grad Admin
<b>Course Requirements</b> <small>Total of 6 "half" (3 unit) courses or 18 units. Four (4) must be 700 Level from within the ECE department. Two (2) ECE level 600 courses are allowed with departmental approval. Courses outside of ECE is permitted with department consent (consult your supervisor). Request for in Program Adjustment form to be completed for all Non-ECE courses</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Four (4) <b>ECE 700</b> - Level Courses (3 units each) <b>COMPLETED</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two (2) "Other" 3 Unit courses or equivalent (Maximum of two (2) can be a 600 level courses)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ECE 701 COMPLETED	Supervisor Name: <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ECE 790 or 792 COMPLETED	
Request for In-Program Adjustment <b>Form</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Thesis Clear to Graduate <b>Form</b>	
	<input type="text" value="Completion Date"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Form Submitted to Grad Admin

MEng – project based

## Degree Requirements Checklist

Master of Engineering in Electrical & Computer Engineering -Course Based

[Academic Calendar Requirements](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SGS 101 & SGS 201	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career Planning Report	
	<input type="text" value="Completion Date"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Form Submitted to Grad Admin
<b>Course Requirements</b> <small>Total of 7 "half" (3 unit) courses or 21 units. 4 must be 700 Level from within the ECE department. Two (2) ECE level 600 courses are allowed with departmental approval. Courses outside of ECE is permitted with department consent (consult your supervisor). Request for in Program Adjustment form to be completed for all Non-ECE courses</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Four (4) <b>ECE 700</b> - Level Courses (3 units each) <b>COMPLETED</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Three (3) "Other" 3 Unit courses or equivalent (Maximum of two (2) can be a 600 level courses)	
Request for In-Program Adjustment <b>Form</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Thesis Clear to Graduate <b>Form</b>	
	<input type="text" value="Completion Date"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Form Submitted to Grad Admin

MEng – course based



# Student Requirements - Reminder

Your degree is your responsibility!

- Keep track of your degree checklist

## Degree Requirements Checklist

Master of Applied Science in Electrical & Computer Engineering

[Academic Calendar Requirements](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SGS 101 & SGS 201	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career Planning Report	
	Completion Date	Form Submitted to Grad Admin
Supervisory Committee Meetings		
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCM1	Completion Date
Course Requirements		
Total of 4 "half" (3 unit) courses or equivalent. 2 must be 700 Level from within the ECE department. One (1) ECE level 600 course is allowed with departmental approval. Courses outside of ECE is permitted with department consent (consult your supervisor). Request for in Program Adjustment form to be completed for all Non-ECE courses		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two (2) ECE 700 - Level Courses (3 units each) COMPLETED	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two (2) "Other" 3 Unit courses (only one(1) can be a 600 level course, if desired)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ECE 790 or 792 COMPLETED	
Request for In-Program Adjustment <a href="#">Form</a>		
Thesis Defense		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completion Date	Can only be Scheduled once all degree requirements above have been fulfilled and requires approval to defend by majority of supervisory committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thesis Submission to MacSphere	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Thesis Submission <a href="#">Sheet</a>	Must submit to Graduate Admin (ece_grad@mcmaster.ca)

MASc

## Degree Requirements Checklist

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical & Computer Engineering

[Academic Calendar Requirements](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SGS 101 & SGS 201	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career Planning Report	
	Completion Date	Form Submitted to Grad Admin
Supervisory Committee Meetings		
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCM1	Completion Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCM2	Completion Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCM3	Completion Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCM4	Completion Date
Course Requirements		
Total of 3 "half" (3 unit) 700-level courses or equivalent from within the ECE department. One (1) course outside of ECE is permitted with department consent (consult your supervisor). Request for in Program Adjustment form to be completed for all Non-ECE courses		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Three (3) 700 - Level Courses (3 units each) COMPLETED	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ECE 790 or 792 COMPLETED	
Request for In-Program Adjustment <a href="#">Form</a>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completion Date	Must attempt <i>no later than 24 months</i> after start date <i>AND</i> must have completed at least one supervisory committee meeting with a "Satisfactory" outcome
Thesis Defense		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completion Date	Can only be Scheduled once all degree requirements above have been fulfilled and requires approval to defend by majority of supervisory committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thesis Submission to MacSphere	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Thesis Submission <a href="#">Sheet</a>	Must submit to Graduate Admin (ece_grad@mcmaster.ca)

PhD





# SGS - Student Requirements

By now the following should be complete:

- ☐ SGS 101 – due May 31
- ☐ SGS 201 – due May 31
- ☐ Enrolled in all two terms
- ☐ Have your McMaster email and MS Teams
- ☐ Have your student card – One Card
- ☐ Updated your personal information and banking details
- ☐ Received graduate funding

The image displays a grid of eight steps for student requirements, organized into two rows of four. Each step is contained within a light gray box with a white background and a red border. The steps are as follows:

- Step 1: Register**  
On-time registration opens June 25 and runs until August 1. To avoid late fees, please register before the on-time registration deadline.  
[How to enrol](#)
- Step 2: About your Mac ID**  
Your Mac ID is essentially your username for accessing services and systems at McMaster.  
[Learn more about Mac ID](#)
- Step 3: Your McMaster email address**  
Once you have your Mac ID set up and have enrolled in your courses, your McMaster email will become active. A link to your McMaster email will be sent to your applicant email address. Please continue to monitor your applicant email address in the meantime.  
[Visit MacCard for details](#)
- Step 4: Upload your photo for your student card**  
Visit the MacCard website to:
  - review photo upload guidelines and a helpful video tutorial
  - learn about the different card pickup dates and locationsPlease upload your photo no later than August 1, to ensure your card is ready for pickup at the scheduled delivery sites.  
[Visit MacCard for details](#)
- Step 5: Update your personal information**  
It's important to update your personal and contact information – especially your address – in [Mosaic](#), so that you receive all important information. You can add a new address or revise an existing one. Your "Mailing Address" will be the address to which you receive any mail from the university.  
[Go to Mosaic now](#)
- Step 6: How to enrol in – and complete – SGS 101, 201**  
All new graduate students must complete SGS 101 and 201. Learn more about enrolling and completing the courses by the Fall deadline: September 30, 2024.  
[SGS 101 and 201](#)
- Step 7: Receiving your scholarship monies, research funds and TA pay**  
Make sure you update and/or set up your information to ensure you receive your scholarship and research funds when expected, as well as your teaching assistant (TA) pay on time (for those students who have a TA position).  
[Fees and payment](#)
- Step 8: Review all dates and deadlines**  
Dates and deadlines to help you:
  - avoid late fees and interest payments
  - receive your first grad pay on time
  - moreNOTE: The Graduate Calendar is the most accurate source for sessional dates and deadlines.  
[See dates and deadlines](#)

# Condition Clearing

Please check your offer letter!

- ❑ **Clearing Conditions of Admission:**  
Deadline to provide required documents

## IMPORTANT!

Official documents must be submitted directly from the **issuing institutions** to the ECE department office prior to the condition clearing deadline.

**Deadline:** July 11



More information about condition clearing of admission

# Student Requirements – Career Planning

Graduate students are required to attend 1 of 3 Career Action Report Planning workshops during their 1st year of studies.

- ☐ Register in Oscar
- ☐ Attend a workshop
- ☐ Complete the required report
- ☐ Submit the completed report to the grad admin within 1-year of start of program

# Health & Safety Training

Health and Safety is mandatory for all graduate students.  
It is the responsibility of the student to complete the required training.

You will be automatically enrolled in the mandatory SAFE Training module. It will be available in [Avenue to Learn](#)

- ☐ SAFE training
- ☐ Health and Safety Orientation
- ☐ Violence and Harassment Prevention
- ☐ WHMIS 2015

**Deadline: June 15**



[Human Resources Services - Health, Safety Training](#)



Brittany Donovan  
Administrative Assistant

# Desk Assignment and Graduate Student Office Policy

- Desks are assigned full-time, in-time graduate MASc. & Ph.D. students if available.
- We do our best to provide overtime students a desk, this is not always possible, and we may ask you to vacate or relocate should you exceed your term count.
  - Contact [ecadmin@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ecadmin@mcmaster.ca) for desk assignment questions.
- Graduate student offices are shared offices.
- The department tries to keep similar research/supervisor groups together.
- At times discussions can be louder than anticipated. Please be mindful of others working nearby, and if possible, take lengthy and group conversation outside.
- Meeting spaces can be book through The Hub or in ITB through the Grad Administrator.
- The Grad Lounge is also available JHE 328A.
- Grad offices are **not** maintained by McMaster custodial staff therefore, students are responsible for the cleanliness of their desk space and encouraged to work together to keep the office clean.
- To avoid pests, household appliances (refrigerators, microwaves, kettles etc.) and kitchenware (cups, mugs, utensils) should be kept clean and clear of food. Food should not be left in grad offices.
- Please dispose of waste or recycling in the proper bins located in the hallways or leave bags outside the office to be picked up by custodial staff later.
- ITB A113/A is reserved daily from 12:30 p.m.to 1:30 p.m. as a space for lunch breaks.





# Building Access, Keys and Scent Awareness

## Building Access and Keys

- Grad office keys and desk keys will be assigned upon arrival.
- Lab keys will be assigned by your supervisor. There is a \$20 key deposit required for each physical key, and a \$5 deposit for desk keys.
- Keys and access cards are issued with a deposit as a charge to your student account.
- The monies will be credited to your account once keys or cards are returned. For safety and security do not lend your keys or allow anyone else into your office after hours.
- External building keys are not permitted. Lost or stolen keys must be reported to Security Services, The Hub, and your Grad Administrator.



## Scent Awareness

Persons entering McMaster University buildings are encouraged to use unscented products wherever possible.

**Please minimize the use of, and exposure to, scented products in your office and when visiting the department office (ITB A111).**

Scented products more commonly used include:

- Personal hygiene products (e.g., hairsprays, deodorants, colognes, after-shaves, fragrances, perfumes, lotions)
- Industrial and household chemicals and cleaners;
- Air fresheners (e.g., deodorizers, potpourri, oils and candles)
- Various household products



# Mail Services

Mail Services processes all incoming mail from the Canada Post Corporation and delivers to each department.

Grad mailboxes are in ITB A113. Please check your mailbox frequently for mail.

All items must have the following information:

- First Name Last Name
- McMaster University
- Electrical and Computer and Engineering  
1280 Main Street West, ITB A111  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L7

Incoming courier packages will first arrive at Mail Services and then be delivered to the department mail room (ITB A113).

It is best to address all packages to the department office (ITB A111). The department is not responsible for lost or stolen packages.





TBD  
Assistant Academic Department  
Manager, Academic Program

# CUPE 3906 – For Teaching Assistantships

Welcome to



Contact: Rebecaa DeWael – Lead Steward - Unit 1  
✉ [leadsteward\\_tas@cupe3906.org](mailto:leadsteward_tas@cupe3906.org)

# Teaching Assistantship

Please check your offer to see if you have a teaching assistantship.

- TAs will be assigned as outlined in your offer letter.
- Most are assigned in Fall and Winter term.
- Your supervisor may decide to give you a RA in lieu. This means they will pay the amount of the TAsip and instead you will focus on research.
- You can decline or defer your TAsip. You can defer once, but once you decline you decline all benefits that come with your TAsip.
- All TAs must complete 3 paid hours of Health and Safety training. Your instructor will tell you which training to complete.



# Teaching Assistantship – Potential TA Duties

Please check your offer letter to see if you have a teaching assistantship.



## **Tutorial Instructure**

Presents problems, solutions, take ups assignments, etc.

May develop and post tutorial problem/solutions on course website or library.

Provides valuable experience in teaching and presentation skills



## **Lab Assistant**

Assist undergraduate students in the labs.

Security and Safety is a primary concern.

The lab should never be left unattended, and locked when the lab is complete.

Discuss with the instructor at the start of term



## **Marking /Grading**

Mark and grade mid-terms, lab write-ups exams.

It is very important you do not leave graded exams left out in the open.

Return all exams to the instructor for proper dispersal or destruction.



# Lab Safety

Students assigned a Teaching Assignment, will be required to complete lab safety training. The instructor of the course will advise which lab safety requirements you are to select.



- Some laboratories have equipment which can be dangerous if not used properly.
- The ECE Lab Safety quiz must be taken every term by all users of ECE Labs (undergraduate students and TAs).
- The Safety Quiz should be part of the course shell on Avenue.

## Required Readings:

- ☐ general lab safety and emergency information
- ☐ Lab Safety Manual for Computer Labs
- ☐ Lab Safety Manual for Electronics Labs
- ☐ Lab Safety Manual for Electromechanical Labs (Power Electronics, Machines, Drives and Control courses)



[Visit the ECE page/Resources/Lab Safety](#)





## **Graduate Co-op Program at McMaster Engineering**



# Graduate Co-op Program at McMaster Engineering

Experience the difference.

*Engineering Centre for Career Growth & Experience*

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**BRIGHTER WORLD**

McMaster Engineering

# Agenda

1. Your co-op team!
2. What is the graduate co-op program?
3. Graduate co-op facts and stats
4. What is ENGINEER 701?
5. How to register?



# The Centre for Career Growth and Experience

[gradcoop@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gradcoop@mcmaster.ca)



## **Pamela Lauren**

Career Educator,  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Engineering

[pamela@mcmaster.ca](mailto:pamela@mcmaster.ca)



## **Rachel MacMurphy**

Career Educator,  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Engineering

[macmuror@mcmaster.ca](mailto:macmuror@mcmaster.ca)

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**BRIGHTER WORLD**



ENGINEERING



# What is the Master's/ PhD Co-op Option?

- Paid Co-op work experience for Master's and PhD students
- Students can opt into the program with their graduate supervisor's permission
- 4 – 12 months of co-op experience

## Why Co-op?

- Helps students to develop their technical skills, transferrable skills & professional network in the workplace

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ENGINEERING



# How We Support Future You!

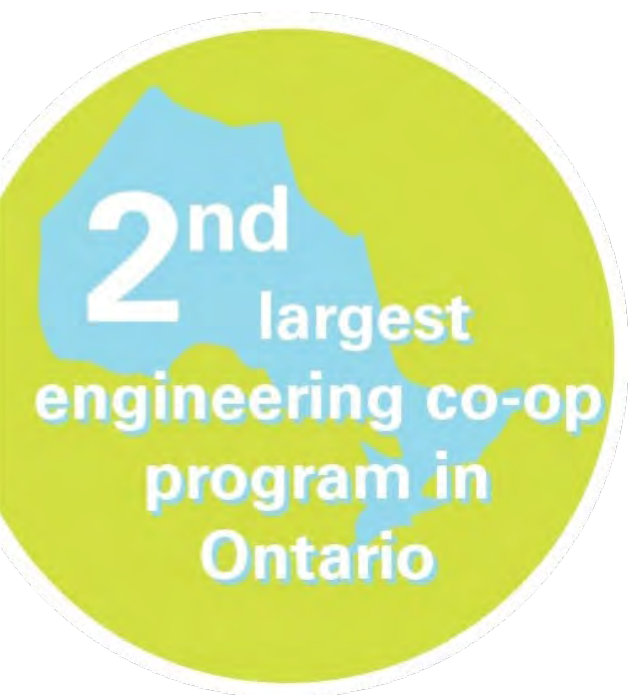
An integrated and educative approach

- 1:1 appointments and Co-op job search support
- 2023-2024 – Over 1000 individual appointments for graduate students were held (in-person or virtual)
- Emphasis on the lifelong process, skill development and professional growth
- Over 200 career events planned for 2024/2025
- Exclusive access to OSCARplus and the Engineering Co-op Job Board, with over 9000 postings per year



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All about **YOU!**  
**YOUR** Co-op!  
**YOUR** Choice!

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**BRIGHTER WORLD**

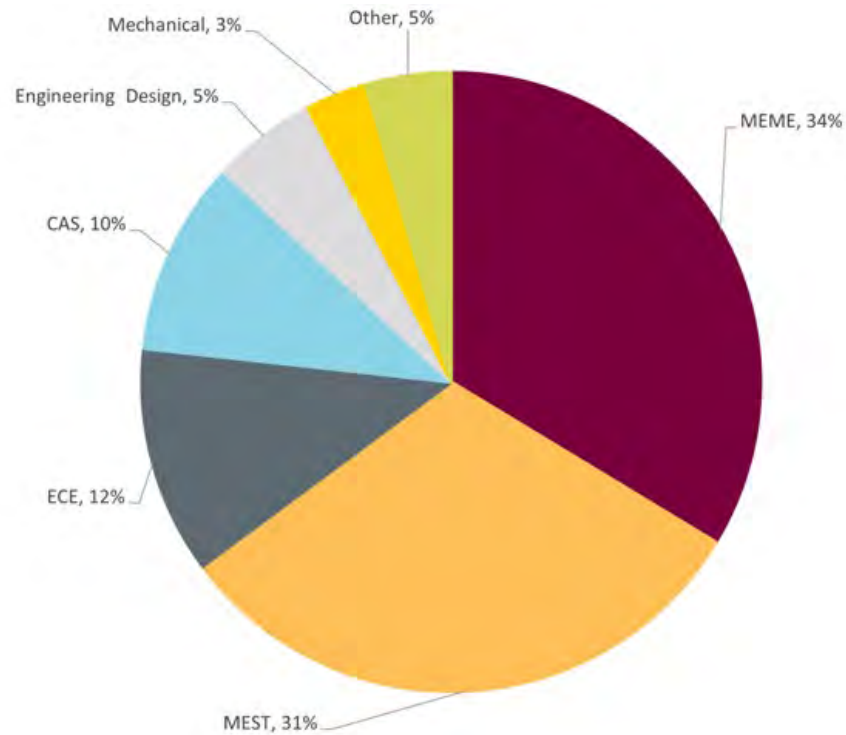
ENGINEERING







# Co-op Work Terms by Department (2023)





# Earning Potential

Many different combinations, lots of choice.

- On average, graduate students on a Co-op work term earn between \$25-\$27 CAD per hour
  - Various factors that can increase wage include:
    - Type of program,
    - Year level of student
    - Previous work experience
    - Existing skills
    - Industry
    - Geographic location
    - Supply/demand in the labour market
    - Employer budget



# Co-op Enrollment & Program Design

Flexible, supported, accessible.

- Available in **the majority of Graduate Engineering degree programs**
- **Step #1 – Students register for Engineer 701** (MEng & MAsC. 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> term of study or PhD after 4<sup>th</sup> term)
- **Step #2 – International Students Apply for Co-op Work Permit** (165-day delay)
- **Step #3 – Perform Job Search at the appropriate time** (4+ months ahead)
- **Maximum co-op** experience for graduate students is a total of **12** months
- **Maintain full time student status while on a registered co-op work term** and return to complete degree (must return for at least one term)

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# Graduate Co-op Preparation Course (Engineer 701)

Offered each term (Fall, Winter)

- 9 week synchronous online course (only offered in Fall and Winter)
- 1 hour lecture, followed by 30 minutes of open Q&A
- Students must opt in to the Co-op course by registering on MOSAIC, completing a short survey, and submitting a supervisor permission form (if required for your program)
- Resume and cover letter writing
- Building a LinkedIn profile
- Job search skills
- Networking and creating your brand
- Acing the interview, offers & negotiations
- Professionalism in the workplace
- Co-op policies & requirements



# When Should a Student Take ENGINEER 701?

Offered Fall & Winter Terms

PROGRAM	WHEN THE STUDENT CAN WORK	DURATION OF CO-OP	WHEN TO TAKE ENG 701
MEng	After 8 months of study	4-12 months	first 1-2 terms of study
MASc/ M.Sc	After 8 months of study	4-12 months	first 1-2 terms of study
PhD	After 18 months of study	4-12 months	after 18 months of study
MEng (Sept only)	After 8 months of study	4-12 months	in first term of study

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# Next Steps...

## Enrollment in Engineer 701 is now Open

<https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/co-op-career/co-op-program/#tab-content-graduate-students>

- ✓ Speak to your academic supervisor or department (if required)
- ✓ Enroll in ENGINEER 701 in MOSAIC
- ✓ Submit your registration survey (follow website instructions)
- ✓ Submit your supervisor permission form (if required)
- ✓ Questions – Reach out to [gradcoop@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gradcoop@mcmaster.ca)





# Industry Partnership

Over 1000 employers hire our students every year.



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**Thank you!**

**Questions? Email  
[gradcoop@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gradcoop@mcmaster.ca)**

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**ENGINEERING**



Get Involved



# EGS 2024- 2025

**Co-Presidents:**  
**Akansha Prasad**  
**Aryen Shakib**

**Graduate Officer:**  
**Brett Sicard**

December 2025

# Agenda

**Executive Team**

**How To Get Involved**

**Academic Events**

**Social Events**

**Awards**



# EGS Executive Team

2024-2025



**Akansha Prasad**  
Co-President  
PhD Biomedical Eng.



**Aryen Shakib**  
Co-President  
PhD Biomedical Eng.



**Arjun Raha**  
VP External  
PhD Biomedical Eng.



**Ayush Thummar**  
VP Internal  
MEng Systems and Tech.



**Brett Sicard**  
Graduate Officer  
PhD Mechanical Eng.



**Anooshe Mirhakimi**  
Events Officer  
PhD Mechanical Eng.



**Kaustubh Dalmia**  
Events Office  
MAsc Mechanical Eng.



**Carson Brewer**  
Administration & Awards Officer  
PhD Mechanical Eng.



**Vaidehi Deshmukh**  
Social Media Officer  
MEng Systems and Tech.







# Ways to Get Involved

## **Executive Member**

Elected student leaders  
responsible for  
executing EGS initiatives  
and activities

## **Council Member**

Elected department  
representative

## **General Member**

Any member of the  
engineering graduate  
community



# What's In It for You?

## Networking

Meet amazing peers across all departments of engineering

Face-time with key faculty and staff including VPs and Deans

## Personal Growth

Faculty-level governance involvement looks fantastic on CVs and applications

Hone tons of technical and soft skills

## Faculty and University-wide

First look/involvement in organizing new initiatives for graduate students from the Faculty

Can be involved as a student leader in various graduate councils at the faculty or university level

## Exec Team Perks

Team building training/retreats

Access to exclusive events like the Dean's Annual Recognition Dinner

# Academic Events



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## Why Attend?

Learn new skills to improve your academic ability

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## Past Events

- Introduction to Scite
- LaTeX for scientific publication
- Library and citation management

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## Upcoming Events

- McMaster nuclear reactor tour
- Tutorials and seminars

# Social Events



## Why Attend?

Meet new friends within the faculty of engineering

## Past Events

- Cootes paradise hike
- Gingerbread house competition
- Activate arcade

## Upcoming Events

- Movie night at the Westdale theater
- Pumpkin carving competition
- And other fun events!

# Awards



## **EDI Travel Award**

Equity, Diversity, and  
Inclusion (EDI)  
conference or  
workshop



## **Travel Award**

Conference travel  
support



## **Professional Development Award**

Support students  
who want to gain  
new skills



Form to apply for a  
council position

## Contact us!

[Email: egs@mcmaster.ca](mailto:egs@mcmaster.ca)

Instagram: @mcmasteregs

Website: <https://egs.mcmaster.ca>

# Introduction to ECE Grad Connect

Who we are!

- A student-oriented club
- Events we hold:
  - Coffee house
  - Board game nights
  - Halloween parties, etc.





# Current Members



President:  
Ali Abbasi



Vice President:  
Mohamed Elsayed



Vice President:  
Roxana Nikoukar



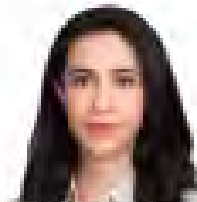
Event Organizer:  
Abu Illus Faleal



Administrative  
Assistant:  
Zahra Sadeghi



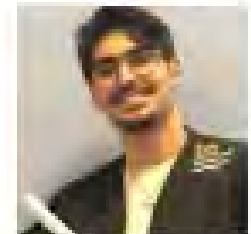
Administrative  
Assistant:  
Rishad Arfin



Treasurer:  
Yasaman Niazi



Event Organizer:  
Sadra Tavakolian



Communication Chair:  
Lucas Nahid-  
Mobarakeh

# Get Involved

Students are encouraged to get involved:

- ❖ **ECE Grad Connect**
  - Graduate student group meets bi-weekly for coffee and conversation
- ❖ **Engineering Graduate Society**
  - a student run organization dedicated to supporting engineering graduate
- ❖ **School of Graduate Studies Events**
  - Hosts a variety of events and workshops for new, current and international students
- ❖ **Graduate Student Association**
  - Supports a variety of graduate clubs and events



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@ecemcmaster



# Before You Ask

Familiarize yourself with these resources:

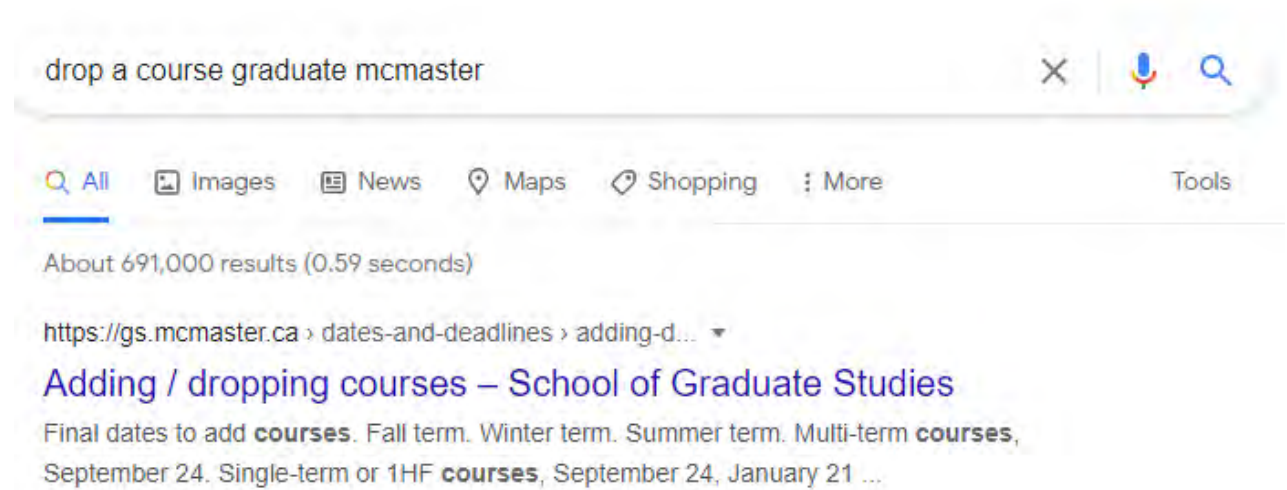
- [ECE Website](#)
- [Graduate Resources – ECE Handbook](#)
  - Use the graduate book that is assigned on the start of our admission
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [School of Graduate Studies - SGS website](#)



Everything is searchable!

Put key words in any search engine:

- graduate
- McMaster
- ECE







**Questions?**

**Email:**

**[ece\\_grad@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ece_grad@mcmaster.ca)**