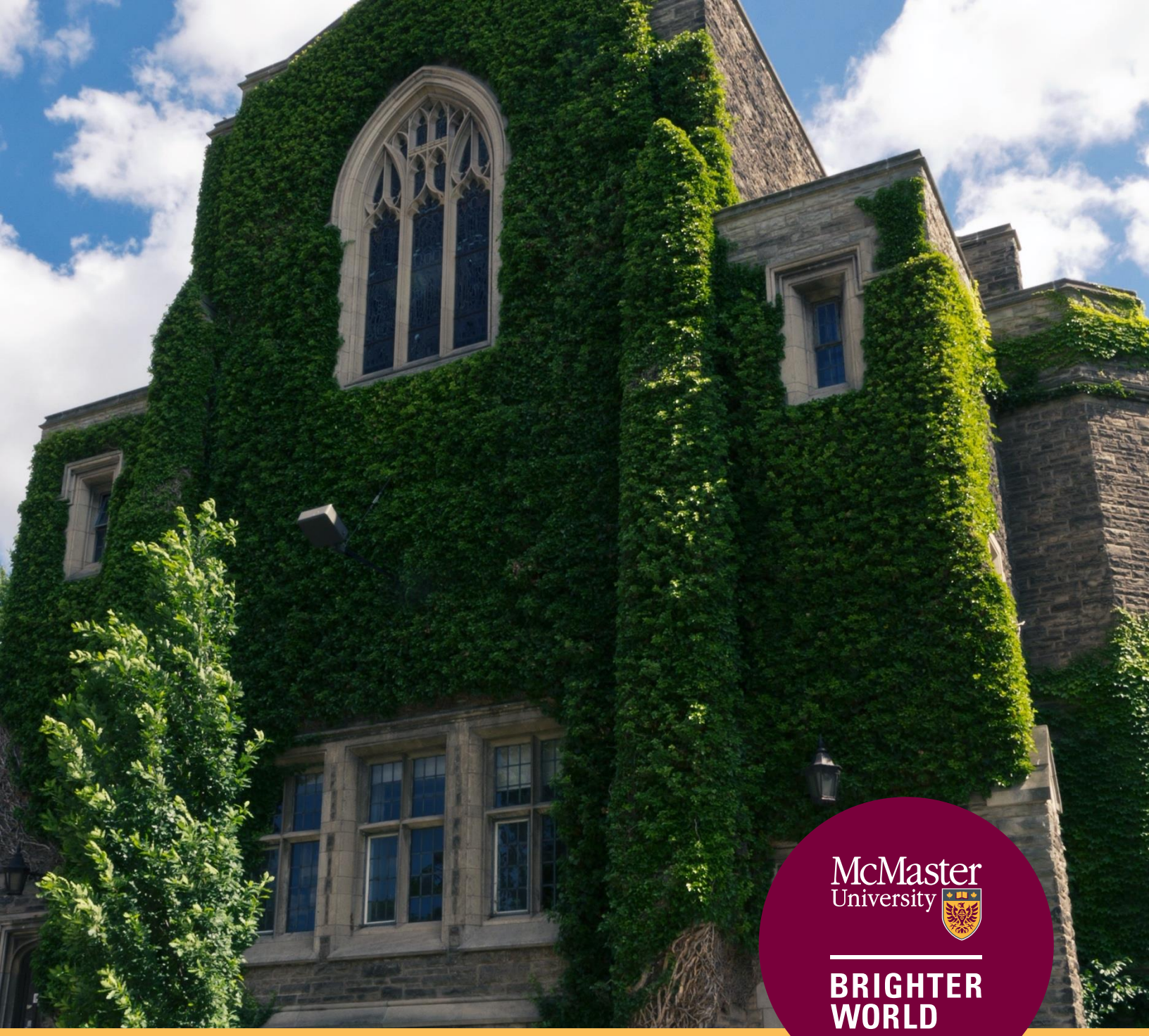


McMaster University

BRIGHTER WORLD

ACCELERATED M.A.SC. PROGRAM

Department of Chemical Engineering

JULY 2020

McMaster University

Get a M.A.Sc. in just 16-20 Months

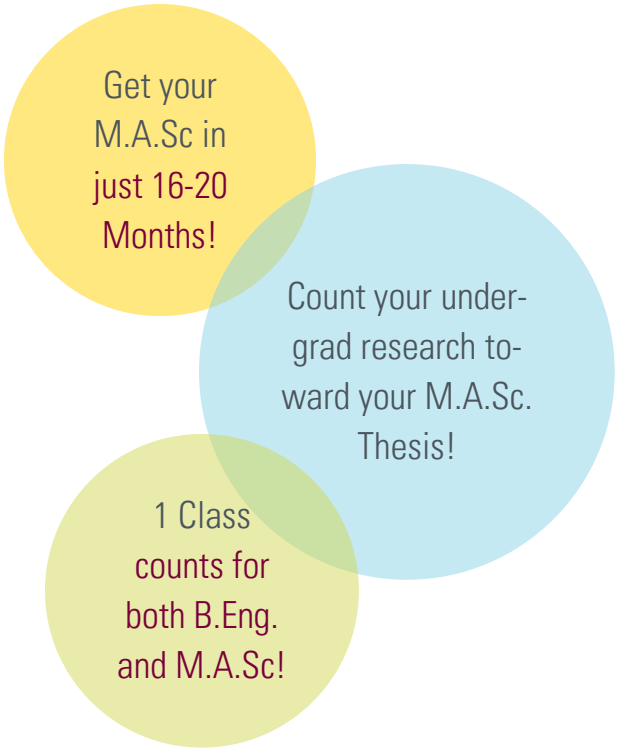
A program for chemical engineering undergraduates.

Now eligible Mac students in Chemical Engineering can have access to a M.A.Sc. degree in a reduced amount of time once entering graduate studies. This reduces a perceived barrier to a degree that is often considered the entry point to technical engineering jobs. Exclusive for McMaster students currently taking their undergraduate degree in the Department of Chemical Engineering, the change in program provides a faster path to obtaining the highly valued post-graduate degree. The requirements of the M.A.Sc degree are not reduced. Instead, the Accelerated M.A.Sc program capitalizes upon research work that undergraduate students perform in the department, either through summer undergraduate research with one of our faculty members, or through the 4Y04 independent study course.

In addition, undergraduate students can take one course at the 600 level, which can provide credit both for B.Eng. and M.A.Sc. degree requirements, reducing the M.A.Sc. course load requirement.

To take part in the program the student must be eligible based on their grades, have a supervisor for whom they will carry out studies for 4-8 months before getting their B.Eng., and have registered for the Accelerated Option in their penultimate year of their Bachelors degree. Interested students should inquire at the Departmental Office.

Students should apply in their penultimate year of their Chemical Engineering B.Eng. program.



Who

Undergraduate students enrolled in the Chemical Engineering department in the first or second term of their penultimate year can apply for the Accelerated M.A.Sc. Option through the Associate Chair (Graduate). The student must identify a supervisor from the faculty of Chemical Engineering with whom they will be working and the supervisor must agree to supervise this student for their summer research work with the intension of also supervising subsequent M.A.Sc.

Applying and Registering

The Associate Chair and Supervisor will review the academic performance of the student (i.e. grades, prior research work, publications, etc.), requiring a minimum cumulative average

of 9.5 and a sessional average in their last year of studies above 10, in order to apply for the Accelerated Option. The student will be notified if accepted under the Accelerated Option prior to their first summer work term under the Accelerated Option. Students are encouraged to apply for NSERC USRAs. Students may drop out of the Accelerated Option at any time prior to entering Graduate Studies without any effect to their undergraduate degree, and that the permission to follow the Accelerated Option as an undergraduate does not guarantee acceptance into Graduate Studies. Any summer work prior to being accepted into the Accelerated Option will not be counted towards their M.A.Sc. project work.

600 Level Course

A student following the Accelerated Option will be allowed to take one 600 course in their final year of undergraduate studies that is offered within our department. All 600 level courses in the department are co-taught as simultaneous undergraduate (400 level) and graduate (600 level) versions, with the 600 level version requiring additional work to complete.

The student will complete a form (available from the Department Office) that indicates the chosen course and obtain a signature from the instructor of the course. The instructor is responsible to keep record of the student's performance and compute both a 400-level grade (based on the 400-level content) and a 600-level grade (based on the 600-level content). The grade at the 400-level of work will be recorded in the student's undergraduate transcript. At a later date, once the student has enrolled in the M.A.Sc. program, the student will submit paperwork to the School of Graduate Studies to request that the 600-level grade be entered into the M.A.Sc. transcript, which can then be counted toward degree requirements. It is the responsibility of the instructor to keep the grades related to the additional work for the 600-level separate from the 400-level content. A student can not use a 400-level course taken prior to following the Accelerated Option towards this 600-level course requirement as they will not have completed the extra workload.

Research Project

A M.A.Sc. student following the Accelerated Option must complete all M.A.Sc. requirements (including a total of 24 months of work towards their M.A.Sc. thesis project). The Accelerated Option requires that a minimum of 4 months of work towards that project to have been completed prior to admissions into Graduate Studies. A maximum of 8 months of work completed prior to admissions into Graduate Studies may be credited toward the M.A.Sc program. Thus the M.A.Sc can be completed in 16-20 after receiving the B.Eng. degree.

Typically, undergraduate students complete at least one 4-month summer undergraduate research term with their supervisor in the summer before their final year as a part of the Accelerated Option. In addition, students may enrol in the 4Y04 Independent Study course in which the research project is continued. Students will receive 1 month credit toward their M.A.Sc. research for each term of 4Y04 completed.

Enrollment

The student must apply to Graduate Studies by the end of their final year of their undergraduate program in our department and are expected to begin either the May or September of the year that they graduate from the undergraduate program; May enrollments for students from our own undergraduate program is not uncommon. Students may not defer enrollment to a later time without the permission of the department. A student must follow the normal application procedures to Graduate Studies and must meet the requirements of the department and Graduate Studies pertaining to any applicant interested in joining the M.A.Sc. program. Failing to enter Graduate Studies will have no influence on the student's undergraduate transcript.

There is no obligation in this program. You can quit at anytime and your undergraduate transcript will not be affected.

Official Graduate Calendar Description*

A candidate is required to complete successfully at least three one-term courses, at least two of which should be at the 700-level. One non-technical course at the 600- or 700-level may be selected (upon written approval from the Supervisor) among the three required one-term courses. Students are required to present a thesis, which constitutes an original contribution to chemical engineering. The thesis must be defended in an oral examination. Completion of the M.A.Sc. thesis typically requires six terms of full-time study.

An Accelerated Option is available to students currently enrolled at McMaster as undergraduate engineering students in the Departments of Chemical Engineering whereby the M.A.Sc. degree may be completed in 16-20 months of full-time study. In exceptional circumstances, students from other Engineering departments in McMaster may apply for entry into the accelerated option by contacting the department's Associate Chair (Graduate). Application for entry into the Accelerated Option occurs in the penultimate year of undergraduate studies. Applicants must have maintained a minimum CGPA of 9.5 for their undergraduate course work with a sessional average of 10 at the time they are applying for the option. The Accelerated Option requires students to complete at least one term of their research project with a supervisor from the department prior to completion of their undergraduate degree. A one-term 600 level course is required under the Accelerated Option in the final undergraduate year for graduate credit provided it is listed within the department. Entry into the M.A.Sc, program under the Accelerated Option must occur less than one year upon completing one's undergraduate degree and must meet the same requirements for admissions as other candidates.

* Pending Senate Approval. See the School of Graduate Studies Calendar for current version.