

Orientation Session for New Graduate Students

Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics

Winter semester 2021



McGill

Outline

- Welcome by Chair - Prof. Mohamed Meguid
- Graduate Program Director Presentation
- Other Services/Associations
 - CEGSS President: Mr. Alejandro Pérez Villaseñor
 - Graduate Engineering Equity Committee (GEEC):
<https://equityeng.wixsite.com/geec>
 - The McGill Writing Centre: <https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/>
 - Other links

Welcome to McGill

- Special and important time in your life
- You have a key role at McGill – an essential element of a research intensive university
- McGill and Montreal offer you a variety of fantastic opportunities for education and personal development - Take advantage of them!

Presentation of staff

- 21 professors (+2 post-retirement)
- 4 administrative support staff
- 6 technical support staff (1 Academic Associate)

Enrolment Statistics (Winter 2021)

Area	Number of professors	Ph.D.	M.Eng./ MSc. Thesis	M.Eng. Non thesis	Total
Environmental	6	14	15	6	35
Hydraulic & water resources	3	5	3	0	8
Geomechanics & geotechnical	2	6	1	0	7
Structural & Construction materials	8	15	7	9	31
Transportation	2	16	7	0	23
TOTAL	21	56	33	14	104



People who can help you find information

Graduate Program Coordinator - GPC

Ms. Sun Chee Wong – Gradinfo.civil@mcgill.ca

- Make sure to use this email address – not her personal address
- Please check information first before making a query
<https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad>
- Pay attention to Gradinfo email messages

Doctor of Philosophy Ph.D. degree requirements

- **Thesis** A thesis for the doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge

- **Required Courses**

CIVE 701 Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination

CIVE 702 Ph.D. Research Proposal

- **Complementary Courses**

6-8 credits at the 500 or 600 level taken from the Department of Civil Engineering.

M.Sc. Thesis degree requirements

Thesis Courses 27 credits

CIVE 630 Thesis Research 1 (3 credits)

CIVE 631 Thesis Research 2 (3 credits)

CIVE 632 Thesis Research 3 (3 credits)

CIVE 633 Thesis Research 4 (6 credits)

CIVE 634 Thesis Research 5 (6 credits)

CIVE 635 Thesis Research 6 (6 credits)

Required Course

1 credit

CIVE 662 Master's (Thesis) Research Seminar (1 credit)

M.Sc. Thesis degree requirements (cont'd)

Complementary Courses (17 credits)

- A minimum of five courses at the 500 or 600 level, with at least 8 credits at the 600 level.
- A maximum of 1/3 of coursework credits may be taken outside McGill (approval required from the Department)
- Transfer to Non-thesis option possible (approval required from the Department)
- Minimum residency of 3 terms full-time
- Usual completion time is 20-24 months

M.Eng. Non-thesis degree requirements

- A minimum of 15 credits selected from a list of research oriented courses
- A maximum of 30 credits with emphasis on expertise (specialty area) for professional practice
- Research Seminar (3 credits)

CIVE 664 MEng (Non-thesis) Research Seminar (3 credits)

- List A: Research Courses

12-42 credits from one of the research streams: 1) Infrastructure, 2) Environmental/Hydraulics-Water Resources, and 3) Transportation.

- List B: Other Complementary Courses from the Department
0-30 credits

M.Eng. Non-thesis degree requirements (cont'd)

- A maximum of 1/3 of coursework credits may be taken outside McGill (approval required from the Department)

- **Project Courses 0 or 5-10 credits**

CIVE 691 Research Project 1 (1 credit)

CIVE 692 Research Project 2 (2 credits)

CIVE 693 Research Project 3 (3 credits)

CIVE 694 Research Project 4 (4 credits)

CIVE 695 Research Project 5 (5 credits)

CIVE 696 Research Project 6 (6 credits)

CIVE 697 Research Project 7 (7 credits)

M.Eng. Non-thesis degree requirements

- Project report examined in the department only
- Transfer to thesis option possible (approval required from the Department)
- Minimum residency of 3 terms full-time
- Usual completion time 20-24 months if full-time
- Non-Thesis Master's students should not expect to receive any funding from the Department or supervisor
- Graduate courses from other McGill Engineering Departments are also allowed as complementary courses

Other program

- Master of Engineering (MEng) Non - thesis Option in Environmental Engineering – Prof. Subhasis Ghoshal is the academic advisor for this program

People who may help with information and advice

- Graduate Program Director - GPD
Prof. Ghyslaine McClure
ghyslaine.mcclure@mcgill.ca
- Your research supervisor
- Your colleagues

Where to go for further assistance?

Your Graduate Program Officer (Sun Chee) is your first stop

The daily administration of graduate studies and advice

Service Point

Ground floor of the McLennan Library Building

<https://www.mcgill.ca/servicepoint/>

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - Dean's Office

- Associate Dean responsible for Engineering is **Prof. Russell Steele** (russell.steele@mcgill.ca)
- Academic and administrative responsibility for graduate and postdoc programs
- Mostly deals with GPD and GPC (not directly with students, some exceptions)

Our Shared Responsibilities

■ McGill's

Provide the **framework** for you to get through your program in a timely fashion

Provide mechanisms to **support** you

Provide you with **opportunities** to develop your professional skills

<http://www.mcgill.ca/skillsets/>

Provide you with a safe work environment

■ Yours

Your own **academic integrity**

Be informed of the rules and regulations pertaining to your degree program.
See the roadmap to your degree on
<http://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad>

Maintain your **Minerva registration status in good standing until your degree is granted.**

Use your **McGill email address in all correspondence** and cc Gradinfo.civil@mcgill.ca
Do not use Sun Chee's personal e-mail address.

Talk to your **supervisor** about expectations and parameters of:

Your work environment

Meeting frequency

Intellectual property

Travelling to conferences

Authorship

Funding (RA-TAships) – **normal funding commitments made on a yearly basis**

Academic Integrity

<https://mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest>

Mandatory on-line tutorial for new students

<https://mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/test>

Conflict resolution

- Supervisor
 - (co-supervisor)
- Graduate Program Director
 - (Graduate Program Coordinator)
- Department Chair
- Associate Deans, GPS
- Dean GPS

Other services

- Ombudsperson for Students
- University Harassment Assessors
- Services for Students
- Dean of Students

Stay informed and deal with problems early...

Don't let them fester!

Program Milestones

- Following your roadmap and regular progress tracking are key to timely and successful completion.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/roadmap-your-degree>

- Normal thesis submission timelines:
M.Sc. ideally 1.5-2yrs, maximum 3 yrs
Ph.D. Ideally 3-4 yrs, maximum 6 yrs

<https://www.mcgill.ca/students/courses/calendars/current>

Progress Tracking

- Progress tracking is very important for the thesis student and it is attached as a milestone to your **myProgress** tracking <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/myprogress>
- The dates to submit your Progress tracking forms (available at <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking>) are:
 - First one (research objectives and plan) will be the end of the first term
 - The yearly ones (progress and plan for upcoming year) have the same term deadline

Check sequence of important steps and timelines:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad/roadmap-your-degree>

Tried and True Advice: Avoid Isolation

Become involved

Seek help

Widen your horizons

Explore the city and the province

Meet people (not just on Zoom – follow
Public Health recommendations)

Getting started

- Orientation
- Meeting with your supervisor(s)
- Course selection for Winter 2021
- Opening a LAN computer account and other local computing services (bill.cook@mcgill.ca; jorge.sayat@mcgill.ca)

Other departmental committees

- Graduate Studies Affairs
- Graduate Admissions and Scholarships
- Student-Staff
- Safety
- Assignment of TAships
- Coordinator Environmental M.Eng.

Safety Training (Prof. Mary Kang)

- WHMIS
- Specialized Training
- Equipment / Process Training
- After Hours Work
- Visitors

WHMIS

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

Required for working in CE laboratories!!

Environmental Health and Safety

<http://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/>

Specialized Training

- First Aid
- Laser Safety
- Biosafety
- Hazardous Waste Management & Disposal
- Radiation Safety
- Supervisor / Lab Manager
- Necessary to fill out forms for special equipment/hazardous material handling training, after hours work, or having visitors working in the lab

Campus Emergencies

For serious emergencies call 911 immediately.

Then inform campus security services at:

514-398-3000
(Downtown)

514-398-7777
(Macdonald)

<https://www.mcgill.ca/civil/grad>

- Practical Guidelines and Departmental Procedures:
 - Requesting a leave of absence
 - Changing research supervisor
 - Preparing your M.Eng. Project report
 - Fast-tracking from your master's thesis degree to the Ph.D. degree (for exceptional students only)
 - Etc.

We hope that you will enjoy your graduate studies at McGill and we encourage you to participate in the social and academic life of the Department.

Good luck!

CEGSS 2020-21 President

- Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society
- Alejandro Pérez Villaseñor



GEEC

Graduate Engineering Equity Committee

<https://equityeng.wixsite.com/geec>
equity.geec@gmail.com



McGill

It takes all of us (to prevent sexual violence)

- <https://mcgill.ca/sv-education/program-overview>
- Completion of online training is **mandatory for all** at McGill

The McGill Writing Centre

McLennan-Redpath Library

Room #02

<http://www.mcgill.ca/mwc>

(514) 398-7109

Inquiries: mwc@mcgill.ca

New online course on scientific writing (for a fee) –
registration by mid February 2020:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/online-course>

Tutorial service (no fee): <https://mcgill.ca/mwc/tutorial-service>

Library Resources

Ms. Tara Mawhinney

Liaison Librarian for Civil Engineering
Schulich Library of Science and
Engineering

McGill University

514 398-4764

tara.mawhinney@mcgill.ca

<http://www.mcgill.ca/library>

Thank you!