Graduate Orientation Winter 2021
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Prof. Odile Liboiron-Ladouceur
Graduate Program Director
Welcome to McGill, at the heart of Montreal!

Montreal ranked 6th best city for international students!  
https://www.topuniversities.com/city-rankings/2019

McGill ranked 31st as world’s best university in 2020 on the QS World University Rankings  
https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2021

Graduate studies: likely the best years of your life!

Downtown Montreal view from Mont-Royal

Flowers represent the four main European ethnic group that settled in the 1800s, the pine acknowledges the First Nations of Canada
Montreal in pandemic times

• Montreal current population: 4.2M
  – 91,334 known cases of covid19 since the beginning (2021-01-01)
  – 4,248 deaths due to covid19
  – Around 400 new cases a day in Montreal

• Curfew from 8 pm to 5 am effective until Feb. 8
• All non-essential stores are closed
• Must wear mask indoor at all time

• Developing symptoms, one is required to get tested
Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

• In Numbers
  – 46 professors in 10 research areas
  – 1,200 undergraduate students
  – 362 graduate students - 175 PhDs/187 Masters

• Organization
  – Chair: Prof. Warren Gross
  – 4 Associate Chairs
  – Department office: MC633

• This semester, mainly working from home and encourage to do so.
Departmental Graduate Office

Graduate Program Director (GPD):
Prof. Odile Liboiron-Ladouceur

Graduate program administrator:
Caroline Brown

Student affairs coordinators:
Ashley Araneta and David Robles
Our DEGREE PROGRAMS – M.Sc/M.Eng

The two options: 1) Master of Science (M.Sc. Thesis)
   2) Master of Engineering (M. Eng Non-Thesis)

- Thesis: 18 course credits + 27 thesis research credits
  Less courses, more research, thesis submission

- Non-thesis: 27 course credits + 18 research project credits
  More courses, less research, project report and project presentation (with supervisor and one more professor)
Our DEGREE PROGRAMS - PhD

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):
- Research
- Three important milestones:

① Qualifying exam (701 - by the end of the 1st year)
② Research proposal (702 - by the end of the 2nd year)
③ Research seminar (703 - by the end of the 3rd year)

Note: Missing one of those milestones lead to failure.
Two failures lead to a withdrawal from the PhD program.
- You will be receiving an email to remind you of those deadlines
  » It is your responsibility to keep track of those milestones, and remind your supervisor of the deadlines
- You must register for each of the milestones when you plan to do them
  » Talk with your supervisor about possible dates
Your progress – through supervision

– Each graduate student must have a supervisor from ECE

– Supervisor-supervisee relationship is key to your success

– **M.Sc/M.Eng**: Choice of courses/project/thesis guided by supervisor

– **PhD**:  
  - Supervisory committee (three professors) - recommends courses, general feedback on research  
  - Day-to-day and main interactions: supervisor
Your progress – tracking it

– Form to be filled out at least once per year
– Tool to keep you on track:
  • sets objectives and tracks their completion
– You are protected:
  • You can discuss the contents of the form
  • You can add your comments
  • You can request the presence of other profs.

– Start filling one up so to discuss it with your supervisor.

Tracking of your progress: all in one place! 
MyProgress

• Please visit the webpage for a guide: https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/myprogress

• On-line system put in place for students enrolled in the graduate program
• Summary of milestones (passed, not passed), notes from supervisor, courses taken... a good way for you and your supervisor to be on the same page
• Updated by the graduate office
Your supervisor

- Keep the communication open with your supervisor
- Reach out to them
- Be proactive
- Talk to friends, colleagues, family about what you go through
- Unresolvable issues → come to us (send an email).

- You want to change supervisor → procedure to follow:
  ① Get permission from supervisor, *do not talk to other potential supervisors before you do*
  ② Make sure graduate office receives written permission

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not talk to other professors (potential supervisors) until you have spoken to us!
Letter of Understanding - LOU

- Mandatory for PhD students
- Complete Supervisor-Student Relationship Survey and discuss
- Must be completed within first term of registration
- Faculty of Engineering LOU Milestone Form to be completed and uploaded to myProgress

https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/myprogress
Wellbeing and Student Life

• **Dean of Students** (e.g., helping students in difficulty; student rights and responsibilities; academic integrity)

• **Student Services** including: **Student Wellness Hub**, **International Student Services** (e.g., immigration, study/ work permits, health insurance)

• **PGSS** links
Skills and Professional Development

• **SKILLSETS** Professional development workshops for graduate students
• **GraphosWriting** and communication programming for graduate students
• **CaPSCareer** planning service