WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

Welcome to the Department of Civil Engineering! I am very pleased that you have decided to join us. I hope that during your time here you will benefit from the use of our outstanding facilities and the expertise of the world class researchers here in the Department and across the University! The faculty in this Department are leaders in their respective fields, who are keen to ensure that you leave here as experts in your chosen specialist area. Additionally, our excellent support staff are also here to help ensure that your time at Queen’s is a positive experience. Regardless of whether you are undertaking a master’s or a PhD, I believe that you will have a productive and rewarding time.

I too would like to welcome you to the Department of Civil Engineering! And I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage you to take advantage of your time here. Go beyond the classroom and get involved in extracurricular activities within the Department, the University or the community. For example, previous grad students worked with a local charity to help build homes for families in need in Kingston. There are also a variety of intramural and recreational sports activities you can get involved in. But above all, we want you to succeed in your academic program so if you need help, please don’t be afraid to reach out and ask for it!

Dr. Ian Moore
Department Head and Professor in the Geotechnical Engineering research group

Dr. Neil Hoult
Associate Head and Professor in the Structural Engineering research group

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Welcome to the Department of Civil Engineering! In this handbook, you can find useful information that will help you during your years as a Master’s or PhD candidate. Supported by world-class research facilities, our graduate programs are designed to provide you with the foundation and experience you need for a successful career in Engineering regardless if you choose a research, government or industry related job.

We are proud to be recognized as one of the best Civil Engineering departments in Canada and that is a result of the high quality personnel and students that we attract every year.

In order to help you accomplish your goals, we have designed this handbook with important details about policies and procedures that will be part of your daily life. If you cannot find answers here, you are always welcome to find our staff in the main office, the labs or engage with us through email or our social media channels.

It’s a pleasure to welcome you to our Department and we hope you have a rewarding time with us!
DESK REQUESTS
Desk allocations for research students will occur upon your arrival. Desks are normally grouped in areas of specialization. Therefore, priority is given to students in a particular area. If you are allocated a desk outside your area of specialization, you should be prepared to move to your group space once a desk becomes available. You are also **NOT** permitted to change desks without consulting the Graduate Assistant. Graduate offices cannot be reorganized without prior approval of the Department Manager.

E-MAIL
Please make sure that you are always checking your Queen’s email address as that is where we will communicate with you.

MAIL
Student mail is delivered to the student mailboxes in the lounge. Any mail received for students who have completed their programs will be returned to sender, unless a forwarding address has been given to the Civil Office. Mail will be forwarded for 3 months only.

PHOTOCOPIER
The graduate student copier is located in Room 216. You can use the code "216" to scan documents to yourself at no cost. Since your supervisor will be charged for your printing, you will need to ask them to email Susan Palo with their approval. She will then set up a code for you.

HOUSEKEEPING
Since you will be sharing space with other graduate students, please keep in mind that it is everybody’s responsibility to keep the workstations clean. The custodial staff does not empty garbage bins inside the offices, so you are expected to dispose of your garbage in any of the bins located in the common areas.

SCENT SENSITIVITY
Since we all work in a shared space and some people have communicated their sensitivity/allergy to scents, we ask you to refrain from wearing cologne, perfume or other scented personal care products in the Department.

CONTRACTS
During your time with us, you will be involved in numerous financial transactions related to teaching assistant and research contracts. In order to receive your monthly financial payment, your supervisor must complete the necessary paperwork and submit it to the Graduate Assistant.

You are responsible for providing the Graduate Assistant with your personal information on the Biographical Information Sheet found in your welcome package. If you are an international student, you need to provide a copy of your study permit to the Graduate Assistant along with a copy of your SIN number (which you can obtain at the Services Canada Office, Frontenac Mall, Floor 1, 1300 Bath Road). Please bring your banking information as well, as we will submit a direct deposit form on your behalf.

Payments will be made to your account on the last working day of each month for your Teaching Assistantship and during the last week of the month for your Graduate Research Fellowship.
Teaching Assistantships (TAs) are great opportunities for you to gain experience in lab instruction and reports, tutorials, marking of assignments/exams and to provide you with extra financial support. As a TA you will be expected to work 70 hours per term in different roles.

How can you be a TA
A few months before the term starts, the Graduate Assistant will circulate an email with the TA positions available. You will be asked to provide a list with three courses (in order of preference) that you would like to TA. Then, in consultation with the Professors (who will assess what is best for the students and the Department), the Graduate Assistant will assign students to the courses.

You will be consulted in advance if your name is assigned to a course that is not on your list. If you do not have three choices that you think you would be suitable to assist with, please talk to the Graduate Assistant and never send choices of courses that you do not wish to do.

How do you get paid
After you electronically accept your contract, you will have an active status as a TA. Payments will be made to your account on the last working day of each month.

Mandatory Training and other Resources
You will be expected to take a 4.5-hour mandatory TA training session offered by the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. You can count the 4.5 hours of training towards the 70 hours of TA time. The Graduate Assistant will communicate with you when your session is scheduled.

If you feel that you need extra support to be successful as a TA, the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) offers a professional development day for new TAs in September. They also have a TA Advisory Committee that provides collaborative space for keen individuals from across the disciplines who are currently, or have recently, worked as TAs or head TAs.

During the fall and winter terms, the CTL offers several workshops on teaching and learning for TAs and many other resources are available too. You can find materials related to: Time Management, Communication, Feedback and Marking, Academic Integrity and more at https://www.queensu.ca/ctl/resources/teaching-toolkit

A detailed list of Awards and Scholarships is available at https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/current-students/funding-awards-scholarships-and-bursaries

All students (except those in professional Master’s programs) accepted for full-time admission into full-time graduate programs are considered for funding. In addition to department/program funding, there are internal fellowships and scholarships available annually. Applicants and continuing students are strongly encouraged to apply for all awards for which they are eligible to ensure adequate financial support.

Attracting and retaining graduate students who win external awards is an indicator of the academic excellence of our students and enriches the programs. The funding package for Master’s or Doctoral students is typically comprised of a combination of internal and external awards as well as Teaching and Graduate Research Fellowship.

Registered funding eligible students who are in good academic standing may be eligible for a wide range of internal and external scholarships, bursaries and awards including:

- Queen’s Graduate Awards (QGA)
- Robert Sutherland Awards
- Graduate Dean’s Doctoral Field Travel Grants
- R. Samuel McLaughlin Fellowships
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) awards
- Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)
- Ontario Trillium Scholarships (International students only)

Meet with the instructor before the term starts to understand your responsibilities. Understand your workload to know how many hours per week you should spend on each activity. It’s your responsibility to track the hours worked and not exceed the total time of your TA contract, so prepare yourself, manage your time and talk to your supervisor if necessary. Ask for help! Your instructor, other experienced TAs or the CTL are great resources.
SAFETY

We believe that people should go home in the same condition they came to work in, so safety and wellbeing are two of our main values in Civil Engineering. We also believe that safety is the responsibility of everyone in the Department, so you will be expected to comply with policies and procedures that regulate our work. We have an open-door policy and you can always discuss your concerns with our Department Manager. We also strongly advise you to check the information available at https://civil.queensu.ca/Safety/index.html.

In the next section, you will find a list that includes all the mandatory training that you will need to take in order to perform work in or outside the labs. If you want to be more involved and informed about safety, there are also a number of safety courses available to you through the Queen's Environmental Health and Safety Department website at www.safety.queensu.ca.

OFF CAMPUS ACTIVITY SAFETY POLICY - OCASP

The fundamental premise of this Off-Campus Activity Safety Policy (OCASP) is that from the initial stages of planning, off-campus activities must be evaluated from a safety perspective. The OCASP applies to ALL members of the Queen’s community. For each off-campus activity, you will need to communicate (at least 2 weeks in advance) with your supervisor AND Department Manager, who will then undertake a preliminary risk assessment. This process will result in a form that outlines relevant information and the approval that you must obtain prior to your external activity. More info here https://www.queensu.ca/risk/safety/off-campus-abroad.

KEYS TO THE LABS!

For safety reasons, in order to have keys to the labs you MUST complete all the mandatory training listed in this handbook. The proper procedure for key issues is to have your supervisor email Jenna Poore (jenna.poore@queensu.ca) advising her that you require certain keys to the labs (room number is very helpful). Jenna will check your safety training records for these particular labs and, if they are up-to-date, you will be issued keys to the labs. Please do not operate any equipment or machinery in the labs without instructions directly from the technicians. You are NOT to be trained by a graduate student.

Students are encouraged to consult their course instructors regarding appropriate use of materials if in doubt about how their use may relate to academic integrity. All Civil Engineering policies will abide with the policies of the School of Graduate Studies. https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/current-students/orientation

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All registered graduate students should be aware of the seriousness of academic integrity in a graduate setting and the possibility of expulsion from the program for any of the listed offenses. Many of our departmental courses include an independent research paper, which must be your own original work.

Submitting any written work (either in draft or final form) in whole or in part that is authored by someone else, or using direct quotations or large sections of paraphrased material in a project, research report, thesis, or other scholarly publication without appropriate acknowledgment is considered an offense under the Academic Integrity Policy. An expanded discussion, including definitions of Academic Integrity is found in the School of Graduate Studies calendar.

If a course instructor or supervisor identifies a breach of Academic integrity, the steps outlined below will be followed. There will be no exceptions to the policy. The Department of Civil Engineering Policy on Plagiarism applies to any submitted work in any registered course a student is taking while registered as a graduate student.

The following are the admissible sanctions that may be applied, in any number and/or combination as deemed necessary, for departures from academic integrity within a graduate course, or a required course taken by a graduate student:

1) Issuing an oral or written warning.
2) Completion of an educational program/workshop (if available).
3) Requiring submission of a revised or new piece of work.
4) Assigning a partial or total loss of marks on the piece of work.
5) Assigning partial or total loss of grades in the course.
6) Recommending withdrawal from the graduate program for a specified period of time.
7) Recommending withdrawal from the university for a specified minimum period of time.
8) Recommending withdrawal from the university for the maximum allowable period of time.
9) Recommending the rescinding of a degree.

Students are encouraged to consult their course instructors regarding appropriate use of materials if in doubt about how their use may relate to academic integrity. All Civil Engineering policies will abide with the policies of the School of Graduate Studies. https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/current-students/orientation
MANDATORY TRAINING

You are expected to complete ALL the following mandatory training in order to obtain access to the labs. Please send an email to the Departmental Assistant, Jenna Poore (jenna.poore@queensu.ca), with proof of completion for the courses that are indicated below. Screenshots indicating that you have completed the course will suffice.

WHMIS (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF COMPLETION)
If you have never taken WHMIS at Queen’s, please register for the two-hour course. If you have taken it previously, an annual refresher quiz is required. Self-registration and more information can be found at www.safety.queensu.ca/training/whmis.

CIVL-801 Health and Safety in CIVIL Engineering Research
This course gives you an introduction to safe working in Civil Engineering, Ellis Hall, and fieldwork. There are multiple modules and you are expected to complete all of them. Please send your NETID to jenna.poore@queensu.ca so she can enroll you (this process usually takes 24-48 hours). The courses will be found on onQ* once you are registered. (*)Go to www.queensu.ca, click on "Search and Sign in" and you will find a link to onQ).

APSC-801 Master of Engineering Foundations
The course provides students with essential administrative information, an introduction to information literacy within the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, as well as an overview of the various support services on campus. Additionally, the course contains several modules on professional, career and intercultural skills. This non-credit course is required to graduate from the MEng program and mandatory for MASc, PhD students and Postdoctoral fellows that need professional, career and intercultural skills. This non-credit course is required to graduate from APSC-801 Master of Engineering Foundations.

Biohazard Safety Training Level 2 (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF COMPLETION)
If you are working in the Civil Engineering labs in Mitchell Hall (regardless of the type of lab) you will need to complete Biohazard Safety Training Level 2. Level 2 is inclusive of Level 1, so only write the quiz for Level 2. This link outlines the process www.safety.queensu.ca/training/courses-and-quizzes-onq, including self-registration and required documents to be read. Biohazard safety includes an unlimited duration one-time quiz. More information can be found here: www.safety.queensu.ca/training/biosafety-training. Also, in addition to the initial screenshot of completion, please send Jenna Poore the official Biosafety Certificate once you receive it from EH&S. You will receive this certificate by email approximately 2 weeks after completing the online training.

Health and Safety Awareness (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF COMPLETION)
Under the Ontario Regulation 297/13, new employees must complete the Health and Safety Awareness training. This module can be found online at www.safety.queensu.ca/training/health-and-safety-awareness-training under the code EHS001. *Graduate students will only need this training when hired as TAs and paid time will be assigned for this course.

AODA (PLEASE SEND CONFIRMATION OF COMPLETION)
As part of its obligations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005), new employees are expected to complete the training within the first two weeks of starting at the University. All 3 modules: Access Forward, Accessible Customer Service, and Human Rights 101 must be completed. If you are a TA or Teaching Fellow you will also need to complete Accessible Instruction for Educators. This course can be taken online at www.queensu.ca/hreo/education.

*Graduate students will only need this training when hired as TAs and paid time will be assigned for this course.

Building and Safety Orientation/Tour (Including West Campus)
Jaime Escobar is responsible for the safety orientation and Ellis Hall tour. During this session, he will provide you with a safety orientation checklist. The safety checklist is required to be completed within the first two weeks of your arrival in the Department. Please contact Jaime escobar@queensu.ca you are ready for your orientation and tour. *If you are working either in Mitchell Hall or West Campus, you will also need a tour there. To book a tour in Mitchell Hall please contact Stan Prunster (stan.prunster@queensu.ca), for West Campus please contact Joshua Coghlan (j.coghlan@queensu.ca).

Materials Handling
This is in-depth training for different materials you may come into contact with. We are converting this course into an on-line module. In the meantime, you will need to watch a Zoom recorded session (you can find it here https://tinyurl.com/materialshandling) and complete a quiz here https://forms.office.com/r/eV1qWDBn9F.

Equipment Training
Ask your supervisor if you need specific equipment training. If so, please ask your supervisor to contact Jaime Escobar, who will send them a form to indicate which equipment you will need training for. Once your supervisor returns the form to us, you can contact any of our technicians who will advise about your training.
CIVIL GRAD CLUB EXECUTIVE

Executive
President: Lauren Halliwell
Civil Forum Coordinator: Natalie Arpin
Events Coordinators: Ali Haidar, Erica Treflik-Body
Treasurer: TBA
External Relations: Delaney Benoit

Discipline Reps
Environmental: Susie Dunn
Structural: Branna MacDougall
Geotechnical: TBA
Hydrotechnical: TBA

ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK

The Department has an anonymous feedback box in place for those who want to share comments or concerns and still remain unidentified. The message is delivered directly to the Department Head’s email account who has no access to any personal information about the sender.

As the Department is committed to maintaining an environment of respect and acceptance, this space was implemented to offer a private option of sharing sensitive information that can be addressed by the management team.

You can find the anonymous feedback box on our website under the Graduate Studies tab.
USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

School of Graduate Studies & Research (SGS)
Gordon Hall - Room 425
www.queensu.ca/sgs - Phone: 613-533-6100

Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
F200, Mackintosh-Corry Hall
www.queensu.ca/ctl - Phone: 613-533-6428

Queen’s University International Centre (QUIC)
Mitchell Hall 208, 2nd floor
www.quic.queensu.ca - Phone: 613-533-2604

Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS)
John Deutsch University Centre - Room 021
https://sgps.ca/ - Phone: 613-533-2924

PSAC 901
Graduate Student Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows
Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room B106
www.psac901.org/ - Phone: 613-533-6000 ext 77010

Student Wellness Services
Mitchell Hall, 1st floor
www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/

Positive Space Program
Human Rights Office, B506 Mac-Corry Hall
www.queensu.ca/positivespace/home

For more information on our Graduate Program, please contact:

Dr. Leon Boegman
Graduate Coordinator
Ellis Hall, Room 204
Telephone: 613-533-2128
leon.boegman@queensu.ca

Debbie Ritchie
Graduate Program Assistant
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debbie.ritchie@queensu.ca