Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

MEng, MASc & PhD Program Handbook
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WELCOME to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering. This handbook will provide you with important information as you begin your MEng, MASc or PhD graduate program.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP
Graduate Students and their Supervisors are bound by policies set by the University of Victoria, Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies policies are outlined in the academic calendar and in policy documents found on the Faculty of Graduate Studies policy webpage. In particular, students and Faculty Members should familiarize themselves with the Graduate Supervision Policy, which defines the expectations and responsibilities in the supervisory relationship for graduate students, members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, academic units, Graduate Advisors, supervisors, supervisory committee members and the Dean and Associate Deans of Graduate Studies.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Graduate Secretaries should be the first point of contact for all administrative inquiries. Your Graduate Secretary will process all record changes and paperwork in conjunction with our Graduate Admissions and Records Advisor and provides advice on calendar regulations, university policies and other information related to your program.

All forms related to your program, including registration forms, must be submitted to the applicable Graduate Secretary, who will ensure the form(s) are complete and forward for further review and processing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Secretary - MASc and PhD</th>
<th>Office: EOW 448</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashleigh Carlsen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecegsec@uvic.ca">ecegsec@uvic.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250-721-8675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Secretary - MEng and MTIS</th>
<th>Office: EOW 448</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leng Jax</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecegsec2@uvic.ca">ecegsec2@uvic.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250-721-8781</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Secretary - MADS</th>
<th>Office: EOW 448</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ember Millott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecegsec3@uvic.ca">ecegsec3@uvic.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250-853-3798</td>
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Graduate Advisor:
The Graduate Advisor is responsible for the Department’s Graduate Programs. If your Supervisor is unavailable, the Graduate Advisor is the next person to speak with regarding your program. The Graduate Advisor, Dr. Alexandra Branzan Albu, is located in EOW 307 and may be contacted by email at ecegradv@uvic.ca or by phone at 250-721-8681.

Department Chair:
The Department Chair, Dr. Michael McGuire, is located in EOW 451 and may be contacted by email at ecechair@uvic.ca or by phone at 250-721-8684. To make an appointment with the Department Chair email eceasst@uvic.ca.

Graduate Student Representative (GSR):
The Graduate Student Representative is a current graduate student elected by graduate students to represent the interests of the electrical and computer engineering graduate student population to the department. The Graduate Student Representative may be contacted by email at ecegradrep@uvic.ca.

Graduate Admissions and Records Office (GARO): Is responsible for the maintenance of academic records including program and course registration, program and course changes, supervisory committee structures, grades, transcripts, etc. GARO is located in Room A206 on the 2nd Floor of University Centre. You may reach our assigned records advisor, Maria Soriano at 250-472-5224 or grad7@uvic.ca.
REGISTRATION
MEng students must register in ECE 509 Seminar and ECE 598 MEng Project in every term of their program to maintain continuity of registration.

MASc students must register in ECE 509 Seminar and ECE 599 Thesis in every term of their program to maintain continuity of registration.

PhD students must register for ECE 609 Seminar and ECE 699 Dissertation in every term of their program to maintain continuity of registration. In addition, PhD students must register for the ECE 693 Candidacy Examination each term until the Candidacy Examination is passed. The Candidacy Examination must be passed no later than 3 years from first term in the PhD program. ECE 693 and ECE 699 are co-requisites and students must register for these courses at the same time or you will receive the co-req error.

Registration requirements are different if you are on a Co-op work term, check with your Graduate Secretary.

Web registration is the general method for registering in courses; courses that cannot be registered online are:

- Directed Studies (ProForma Form)
- Undergraduate courses (Graduate Registration Form)
- Auditing courses (Graduate Registration Form)
- Courses offered by other departments; Mechanical, Computer Science etc. (Graduate Registration Form)

The exceptions listed above require you to manually register. You will need to complete either a Graduate Registration Form or a ProForma form. Once the form is completed it should be submitted to your Graduate Secretary, who will ensure the form(s) are complete and forward for further review and processing.

Selection of courses for registration should be discussed with your Supervisor. Course information may be found at the links below.

E)

Search for Courses: https://www.uvic.ca/BAN1P/bwckctlg.p_disp_cat_term_date

ECE Graduate Courses: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/current/graduate/courses/index.php

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (minimum courses, undergraduate and directed studies)
Students typically adhere to the program requirements in the academic calendar in which they began their program (catalogue term). When searching for program course requirements, please use the Academic Calendar specific to your program.

The current term program requirements may be found at the following Academic Calendar link: https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/grad/index.php#/programs/r15jTmRzN?bc=true&bcCurrent=Electrical%20and%20Computer%20Engineering&bcItemType=programs.

Academic Calendar archives may be found at the following Academic Calendar link: https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/archives/index.php.
SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS
All MEng, MASc and PhD graduate students are required to register in the applicable seminar course (listed below) each academic term of their program. The objective of seminars is to expose graduate students to different areas of research and to provide a forum for presenting their research findings.

Throughout the duration of their program, MEng and MASc students are required to attend a minimum of 16 seminars and present a minimum of 1 seminar. Please refer to the ECE 509 syllabus for further information: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/assets/docs/current/graduate/ece509.pdf.

Throughout the duration of their program, PhD students are required to attend a minimum of 24 seminars and present a minimum of 2 seminars. Please refer to the ECE 609 syllabus for further information: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/assets/docs/current/graduate/ece609.pdf.

ACADEMIC SUPERVISION
Supervisor: Your Supervisor is responsible for advising you on the academic aspects of your program.

Supervisory committee: Formed through discussion with your Supervisor within the first two terms of your program.

Composition requirements for supervisory committees:

MEng & MASc:
- Member #1: The primary supervisor -- must be from the home academic unit
- Member #2: May be a co-supervisor or committee member from inside or outside the home academic unit

PhD:
- Member #1: The primary supervisor must be from the home academic unit
- Member #2: May be a co-supervisor or a committee member from inside or outside the home academic unit
- Member #3: A committee member from inside or outside the home academic unit


WORK TERMS (Co-op)
As a graduate student, you can take part in the optional co-op or work experience program. Students must have your grad supervisor's permission to participate in co-op work terms.

To receive Co-op work experience on your diploma, MEng and MASc students must complete one Co-op work term. To receive a Co-op designation on your diploma, MEng and MASc students must complete two Co-op work terms.

To receive Co-op work experience on your diploma, PhD students must complete one co-op work term and to receive Co-op designation on their diploma, PhD students must complete three co-op work terms.

Co-op contact and additional information may be found at the following link under the “Graduate Student” tab: https://www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer/co-op/info-by-program/engineering/index.php.

UVIC ONECARD (PHOTO ID CARDS)
The University Photo ID card is called a ONECard. It is the official identification card and Campus Debit Card. Learn more about the ONECard and how to get your ONECard.
Your ONECard is:
- Official UVic Identification
- ONECard Flex Account card
- Meal Plan Account card
- Required proof of identification for exams
- Required card for door access
- UVic Library card
- Identification card for UVic Health Services
- Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) for BC Transit*
- Vikes Recreation facilities pass*
- It is your Vikes Athletics regular season game card
- Access to 24/7 fund loading/account info. & freezing funds
  *students who pay this fee in their tuition

Learn more about the ONECard and how to get your ONECard at the following link: http://www.uvic.ca/onecard/get-card/index.php.

KEYS
If applicable, keys may be signed out for assigned office space, research labs and buildings. A $20 dollar deposit is required per key. Keys are signed out from the reception in the ECE Office in EOW 448.

DESK SPACE
ECE graduate student offices are located in the Engineering Lab Wing or the Engineering Office Wing. Desk space is limited, as a result space is reserved only for **MASc and PhD** students. **MEng** students may speak with their supervisor in regards to desk space in their supervisors’ research labs. Please contact Mr. Dan Mai, Administrative Officer at eceao@uvic.ca for all concerns regarding desk space.

Please ensure that you return keys for office space you no longer occupy.

You may explore the open study spaces or apply for a graduate study carrel in the McPherson Library http://www.uvic.ca/library/use/info/grads/index.php which are open to all graduate students on campus.

MAIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIL POLICY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mail generated by the University is sorted alphabetically and delivered to the Engineering Lab Wing student mailboxes (3rd floor). <strong>Please be sure to check the mailbox on a regular basis.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Department <strong>WILL NOT</strong> accept personal mail unrelated to your program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. When you complete your program, upon written request, mail related to your program may be forwarded to your home address for up to one month.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UVIC EMAIL ADDRESS
Important messages are generally passed on to graduate students via email. Please ensure you include your full name and student number (V00) when emailing office staff and faculty members.

Update your preferred email:
- Students should use their UVic email addresses to avoid disruptions in receiving/sending emails
- Students should change their preferred email to their UVic email on their MyPage
- Please notify your Graduate Secretary when you have updated this information
SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (SIN)
A Social Insurance Number (SIN) is required for students appointed as Teaching Assistants (TA). If appointed, you may request an Employment Contract from the ECE Reception at ecesec@uvic.ca in order to apply for a SIN number.

STUDY PERMIT (International students only)
Your Study Permit must be valid at all times. Please see the IRCC website for details https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html and/or contact the University of Victoria International Student Services office at issinfo@uvic.ca.

LETTERS
Graduate Students may require letter(s) to confirm Graduate Student Support and Teaching Assistant payments. To request letters from the Department, please complete and submit the form found at the following link; https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/assets/docs/current/graduate/LetterRequest.pdf to ECE Reception at ecesec@uvic.ca. Please allow 1 to 2 weeks for letters to be prepared.

If you require confirmation of your academic status at the University of Victoria, you may download a verification of enrolment letter via your MyPage under the online request forms section of the student services tab.

TUITION FEES
As a current student, you may view your tuition fees in your MyPage. You can see the balance owing under “term balance”.

Tuition Fee Deadlines:
- Fall term (September-December) fees are due September 30th
- Spring term (January-April) fees are due January 31st
- Summer term (May-August) fees are due May 31st

A service charge will be added if the account is not paid on or by the due date.

Tuition Fee Estimator: https://www.uvic.ca/vpfo/accounting/services/tuition/tuitionestimator/index.php

Where and How to Pay Tuition Fees:
The Tuition Office is located on the 1st floor of the University Centre Building, room UVC A115

Make a Payment within Canada: Make a Payment outside of Canada:
- Online banking (bill payment) - Western Union GlobalPay for Students
- Cheque, money order or bank draft - Wire Transfer
- Cheque (US funds only)

Please note: UVic does not accept payment by cash, e-transfer or credit card for tuition fees.

Further details are found at the following link; http://www.uvic.ca/vpfo/accounting/services/tuition/index.php.

CHEQUES
Students will be notified by email when cheques have arrived and are ready for pick-up from the ECE Main Office, EOW 448.

DIRECT DEPOSIT
Direct deposit is the encouraged method of payment for all monies from the University of Victoria. Students can set up direct deposit with a Canadian bank account via their MyPage under the self-services tab.
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS
MEng students will not be nominated for UVic fellowships and awards.

If funding is available, MASc students may be considered for UVic fellowships or awards, if eligible.

After beginning their program, PhD students are automatically considered for UVic fellowships, based on qualifying GPA and availability of funds.

*The Faculty of Graduate Studies withholds fellowship and award payments if a student has outstanding fees or is not currently registered.*

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT PAYMENTS (GSSP)
Students registered in research-based programs (MASc or PhD) may be offered a GSSP by a faculty member.

Graduate Student Support Payments are subject to the availability of each Faculty Members research funds and the student’s academic performance. Payments are typically released on the 18th day of each month.

EXTERNAL AND NATIONAL AWARDS
There are a number of national and provincial granting agencies that annually fund graduate students and their research. These are merit-based fellowships, which must be applied for individually. Most of the agencies have specific application guidelines and deadlines. A few examples of the awards are Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship, Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, NSERC Scholarships, etc. Please refer to the funding agencies guidelines for specific criteria.

For more information on external awards and fellowships, please refer to the Faculty of Graduate Studies external awards and fellowships page: [http://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/financialaid/externalawards/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/financialaid/externalawards/index.php).

BURSARIES
Bursaries are non-repayable awards offered based on financial need and reasonable academic standing. The Office of Student Awards and Financial Aid administer graduate bursaries. A few examples of bursaries available are University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society Child Care Bursary, Ronald Kitchener Bursary, Donald and Evelyn MacLean Fund, etc.

For more information on bursary applications and eligibility criteria please refer to the information available on the Faculty of Graduate Studies bursary page: [http://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/financialaid/bursaries/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/financialaid/bursaries/index.php).
HEALTH COVERAGE & INSURANCE

The Guard.me@UVic Plan:
The Guard.me@UVic plan provides emergency medical insurance coverage for international students who are new to UVic. This plan covers required medical services to address new and unexpected illness or injury. Most new international students are automatically enrolled in the Guard.me@UVic plan upon registration at UVic.

Further information may be found at the following link: https://www.uvic.ca/international/inbound-students/living-canada/health-insurance/index.php

Please contact International Student Services with any questions by email issinfo@uvic.ca or by phone at 250-721-6361.

Graduate Student’s Society (GSS) - Extended Health Care and Dental Insurance Plan:
The Graduate Students' Society (GSS) health and dental plan provides extended coverage for graduate students. Most students are automatically enrolled in the appropriate plan upon registration at UVic. All new students are encouraged to contact the GSS to ensure they have opted in or out of the Extended Health and Dental Plans.

For information on the GSS Extended Health and Dental Insurance Plan, please visit the GSS website: https://gss.uvic.ca/health-dental/basic-information/

Location: Room 102, Halpern Centre
Email: gsoc@uvic.ca

The BC Medical Services Plan:
The British Columbia (BC) Medical Services Plan (MSP) covers required medical services provided by physicians, specialists, diagnostic facilities, laboratory facilities, and hospitals. If you intend to stay in British Columbia (BC) for fewer than six months, you are not eligible for the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP). All other international students must submit an application for enrolment when they arrive in BC.

The application for enrolment is available online. You will receive in the mail a Non-Photo BC Services Card with a personal health number (PHN) which will allow you to access required medical services.

Visit the BC MSP website for information about benefits.
TEACHING ASSISTANT POSITIONS

IMPORTANT: If you are considering Teaching Assistant (TA) opportunities in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) your study permit must explicitly state as a condition or remark that you may accept employment on or off campus. If such explicit condition/remark is missing, please contact the Department Office to remedy the situation.

TA appointments are assigned on a term-by-term basis. TA appointment priority are governed by the Appointment Priority Policy for Specialist Instructional positions (Canadian Union of Public Employees 4163) as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Group</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students previously appointed to bargaining unit positions as incoming students, and who will be in their 2nd year of a Master’s program or the 2nd or 3rd year of a Ph.D. program</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Year 1 and Ph.D. Year 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Year 2, 3, 4 or 5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other graduate students (in other years, or not previously appointed, or from other departments)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduates</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others/non-students</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A list of TA positions is posted approximately 10 weeks prior to the beginning of each term. The application deadline is approximately 5 weeks prior to the beginning of each term. Once you receive the official offer letter from Graduate Admissions and Records, you can apply for TA positions by going to the ECE Department website at: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/current/graduate/ta-positions/index.php

Please note the following:

- All new graduate students or those who have not been appointed as TA before in the Faculty, are required to attend the following workshops within the first year of study:
  - Function and Responsibility of TA
  - Sexualized Violence Prevention

- All new graduate students or those who have not been appointed as TA before in the Faculty, and to whom English is a second language, are required to attend the additional workshop below within the first year of study:
  - Challenges of being an International TA

- Based on TA evaluation and at the discretion of the Awards Committee, a graduate student with a poor evaluation will be notified and may not be selected for TA appointment until he/she has attended all required workshops. Workshop schedules will be announced by email in the fall and spring term of each year.

- Be sure to apply only for positions for your entry term. Regretfully, if your recommendation for admission was late in coming, the TA application deadline may have passed. If so, please apply again the next term.

- Because there are usually more applicants than positions available, having applied for positions do not necessarily mean that you will be appointed as a TA.

- Students are welcome to apply for TA positions in other departments such as Computer Science, Mathematics, etc. If one is able to obtain a position from another department, your priority with ECE may be lower than outlined in the table above to allow as many students as possible to gain some financial support.

- Decisions on TA appointments will not be made until two to three weeks before the beginning of a term and may extend to the first week of a term.
USEFUL WEBSITES – On Campus

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Website: www.ece.uvic.ca

ELEC 509 Seminar Syllabus: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/assets/docs/current/graduate/ece509.pdf

ELEC 609 Seminar Syllabus: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/assets/docs/current/graduate/ece609.pdf

ECE 693 Candidacy Procedure: https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/assets/docs/current/graduate/ece693.pdf

Important Dates: https://www.uvic.ca/calendar//dates/index.php

Faculty of Graduate Studies Graduate Supervision Policy:
https://www.uvic.ca/graduatesstudies/assets/docs/docs/policies/Graduate%20Supervision%20Policy.pdf

ECE Courses offered by term, course descriptions:
https://www.uvic.ca/engineering/ece/current/graduate/courses/index.php

Tuition and Fees: https://www.uvic.ca/vpfo/accounting/services/ tuition/

Registration: http://www.uvic.ca/graduatesstudies/admissions/registration/index.php

Resources for Students (Library, campus housing, groups, clubs, forms, policies, etc.):
http://www.uvic.ca/graduatesstudies/resourcesfor/students/

Academic Calendar: https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/

International Student Services: https://www.uvic.ca/international/home/contact/iss/index.php

Maps, building and directions: https://www.uvic.ca/search/browse/maps.php

USEFUL WEBSITES – OFF CAMPUS

IRCC - Immigration and citizenship Canada:
https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html

FORMS

Graduate Registration Form
https://www.uvic.ca/graduatesstudies/assets/docs/docs/forms/coursechangeform.pdf

Pro Forma Proposal Form (Directed Studies)
https://www.uvic.ca/graduatesstudies/assets/docs/docs/forms/ ProFormaregform.pdf

Program Update Form
https://www.uvic.ca/graduatesstudies/assets/docs/docs/forms/Program_update_form.pdf