

ONE-YEAR RESEARCH MASTERS

MCMASTER CHEMICAL ENGINEERING UNDERGRADS

WHAT'S NEW

Department of Chemical Engineering

Now eligible Mac students in Chemical Engineering can have access to a M.A.Sc. degree in half the normal 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 path to

obtaining the highly valued post-graduate degree in only one extra year after completing a Bachelors. The change in not

reducing the requirements of the degree but rather capitalizing upon project work within the labs of this department being undertaken by many of our students in their summers while as undergrads. 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*

ELIGIBLE MCMASTER
STUDENTS APPLY IN THEIR
PENULTIMATE YEAR OF
UNDERGRAD IN CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING TO THIS
ACCELERATED OPTION FOR
EARNING AN M.A.SC IN
ONLY ONE YEAR AFTER
GRADUATING

Option in their penultimate year of their Bachelors degree. Interested students should inquire at the Departmental Office.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE Accelerated Option of Chemical Engineering undergrads

CALENDAR VERSION

Research Program (M.A.Sc.) A candidate is required to complete successfully at least three one-term courses, at least two of which should be at the 700-level. 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 five 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 12-16 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.

Who: Undergraduate students enrolled in our Chemical Engineering department at McMaster would be allowed in the first or second term of their penultimate year to apply for the Accelerated M.A.Sc. Option through the Associate Chair (Graduate). Students in the department will be made aware of the program at the start of their penultimate year. The student must identify a supervisor from our faculty of Chemical Engineering (hereafter referred only as supervisor) whom they will be working with and the supervisor must agree to fund this student for their summer research work as well as their subsequent graduate studies.

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 will be encouraged to apply for NSERC USRAs. Students will be advised that they 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 project work.

600-level course: A student following the Accelerated Option will be allowed to take one course in their final year of undergraduate studies at a 600-level that is offered within our department; no external courses whether in another department of Engineering or in another faculty will be acceptable for this course. The instructor of the course will be notified by the Associate Chair (Graduate) that this student intends to be evaluated at the 600-level. The instructor is responsible to keep record of the student's performance. This grade will be submitted to Graduate Studies once the student has been enrolled into the M.A.Sc. degree. The grade at the 400-level of work will be recorded in the student's undergraduate transcript. 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.

Project: Consistent with all other students taking the M.A.Sc degree program, a student following the Accelerated Option must complete 20 months of work towards their thesis project. The Accelerated Option will allow up to 8 months of work towards that project to have been completed prior to admissions into Graduate Studies. The 8 months of research will be accomplished starting after the penultimate year of undergraduate studies with a departmental supervisor for two summer terms or an equivalent. We foresee the three most likely scenarios to be: 1) a 4 month summer work term in the student's penultimate year and enrolling in the M.A.Sc program in May of their final year to complete the remaining 16 months of project work – while still graduating within one academic year (September to September) as a graduate student, or 2) completing two 4 month work terms as an undergraduate student and then completing their remaining 12 months of project work once they enroll in the M.A.Sc. degree program, or 3) completing a 4 month summer work term and completing the CHE 4Y04 independent research project while as an undergraduate student, then completing their 12 months of project work once enrolled in the M.A.Sc degree program. So variance in the outlined paths are anticipated on rare occasions but the limit of a maximum of 8 months of work being counted towards the M.A.Sc project prior to enrolling in Graduate Studies is firm.

Enrollment in the M.A.Sc. degree: 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 said 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.