Graduate Programs in Computer Science

The School of Computer Science provides a professional and friendly environment where you can gain knowledge, expertise and skills required to excel in the fast-paced and competitive high-tech sector. The school offers a number of challenging graduate programs, which can accommodate new graduates and experienced professionals. Our small class sizes provide more time with the professors.

The school also offers a wide range of research areas and a low ratio between faculty and graduate students enabling students to have close research interaction with their supervisors. Our wide range of research areas includes machine learning, computational geometry, computer security, big data analytics, databases and information systems, graphics, human-computer interaction (HCI), high-performance computing, and networks and distributed computing.

The Master of Computer Science (MCS) and PhD degrees are both joint programs offered by the School of Computer Science (SCS) at Carleton University and the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Ottawa under the auspices of the Ottawa-Carleton Institute for Computer Science (OCICS). This collaborative Institute allows graduate students to take computer science courses at both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa for course credit at their home institution.

The MCS program is two years in length. Typically, MCS students engage in a one-year, in-depth research project, in which they specialize in their area of interest. A co-op option is also available to MCS students.

The School of Computer Science also offers an MCS degree in Human-Computer Interaction and an MCS in Data Science.

The PhD program provides graduate students with an opportunity to conduct in-depth research in their area of specialization and become technical experts in that domain. Typically, students will engage in research for three to four years leading to a PhD thesis in their area of interest.

Degrees Offered
MCS, PhD

Career Options
A large number of high technology companies (e.g. Apple, Cisco, IBM, Mitel, Nokia, Shopify) and a large number of Government of Canada departments are located in the Ottawa-Gatineau area. The technology cluster provides students with an opportunity to conduct joint research with the private and public sector. Graduating students have a large range of employment opportunities from research to development in areas such as designing new software security products, creation of computer games, designing animation software, and data mining and business intelligence.

Fall Application Deadline
January 15 (MCS & PhD), to be eligible for funding

Admission Requirements
MCS: An honours bachelor’s degree in computer science or the equivalent (an honours degree in a program that includes at least 12 computer science half-credits, two of which must be at the 4000-level, and seven half-credits in mathematics and theoretical computer science.)

PHD: Admission to the PhD in Computer Science requires a Master of Computer Science with a thesis or equivalent including demonstrated significant research ability. In exceptional cases, students who are currently in the MCS program and who have completed all course requirements with a grade of no less than A in each course may be permitted to transfer into the PhD program.

carleton.ca/scs

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