There are three means of entry to PhD study:

- An applicant who holds a recognized master’s degree obtained with high academic standing may be admitted to PhD studies as a regular or provisional student.
- An applicant who has achieved excellent standing at the honours baccalaureate level and who wishes to proceed to doctoral study may enrol, in the first instance, in a master’s degree program. If the student achieves a superior academic record and shows a particular aptitude for research, the Board of Graduate Studies, on the recommendation of the department, may authorize transfer to the PhD program without requiring the student to complete the master’s degree. The application for transfer must be made between the end of the second semester and the end of the fourth semester.
- At the applicant’s request, some departments may choose to recommend to the Board of Graduate Studies direct admission to the PhD program after completion of an honours baccalaureate with high (first-class) standing and demonstration of research promise. Information on direct admission and procedures to be followed is available from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.