



# Materials Science & Engineering UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Dear Fall 2020 Graduating MSE Students,

You are the second graduating Toronto-MSE cohort to be affected by Covid-19 and I am sorry this means that we are not able to meet in person to celebrate your graduation just yet.

I want to thank each of you for your part in helping us to get through the transition to this new pandemic-shaped landscape. The promise of vaccines offers us hope for next year, but we have much distance still to travel before then and we all need to be careful along the way.

You are graduating into a world that is of course not just facing a pandemic, but also economic instability and our ever worsening environmental and sustainability crises. It is a lot to take in and given all the uncertainty around us, the one thing we do know is that change will keep happening. So learn to adapt more. The algorithm of your day is simple: wake up, go and explore, find something important, learn from it, sleep, and repeat. Keep your mind open, keep learning and most of all keep your spirits up.

Remember that the most important thing you have learned in your degree is how to think. We are still a field that operates in silos of speciality, but the most important ideas from MSE are those that apply across all systems: history leads to form, form leads to behaviour, and behaviour is how we assess value. As a blanket rule, every material system is more complicated than you might first think, but each system can still be understood according to the relationships embedded within our materials paradigm. The intrinsic value of your degree is that you will instinctively know how to move between those connections when others will not.

At some point we will be able to meet again in person and it will be my pleasure to shake your hand and tell you how proud I am that you graduated from our program. You will always be part of our Toronto-MSE family and we will want to keep connected with you over the years to come.

In the meantime, take care, keep safe, keep exploring and keep adapting in all ways. The world is going to need your best.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hibbard, PhD, PEng  
Professor & Chair Department of Materials Science & Engineering  
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering  
University of Toronto