



AGENDA

College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Graduate Faculty Council Meeting Thursday, January 23, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm ARTS 241

The format of graduate faculty council meetings emphasizes members attending in person.

- Zoom links will only be distributed upon request made to lori.lisitza@usask.ca if you are travelling or working remotely.
 - Voting will be done by a show of hands (in person) and via a digital show of hands for those online.
 - A reminder that if you are representing a program (typically graduate chairs) and cannot attend please send a delegate.
 - Meeting Material: [CGPS Faculty Council - College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](https://www.usask.ca/graduate-faculty-council/)
-

Chair: Associate Dean, Jaswant Singh
Call to Order
Land Acknowledgement

DECISION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Faculty Council approves the January 23, 2025, agenda as circulated.

2. Approval of the minutes

APPENDIX 1

Motion: Faculty Council approves the November 28, 2024, minutes as circulated.

NOTICE OF MOTION

3. Revisions to CGPS Policy Section 1: Admissions [Marc Usunier]

APPENDIX 2

NOTICE OF MOTION: Be it resolved that CGPS Faculty Council approves the proposed admissions policy revisions as presented in appendix 2.

4. Revisions to CGPS Policy Section 20.1: Structural Degree Requirements [Debby Burshtyn]

APPENDIX 3

NOTICE OF MOTION: CGPS Faculty Council approves the proposed revisions to Section 20 of the CGPS Program and Policy Manual (Degree Level Learning Outcomes) to delineate program requirements and address gaps for new types of credentials as presented in appendix 3.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies

GRAD.USASK.CA

116, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-5751
Email: grad.studies@usask.ca

VERBAL REPORTS

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 5. Dean's Update – D. Burshtyn (5 min) | APPENDIX 4 |
| 6. Society for Postdoctoral Scholars – M. Rodriguez (5 min) | |
| 7. Graduate Students' Association – D. Ohene-Amoako (5 min) | |
| 8. Update from the Chair of the Graduate Programs Committee – Dr. Mark Eramian (5 min) | |

FOR INFORMATION

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 9. Application Fee Increase – Briefing Doc for Information | APPENDIX 5 |
|--|------------|

OTHER

- 10. Questions or arising business from the floor
- 11. Adjournment



MINUTES

College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Thursday, November 28, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm

THORV 159

The format of graduate faculty council meetings emphasizes members attending in person.

- Zoom links will only be distributed upon request made to lori.lisitza@usask.ca if you are travelling or working remotely.
 - Voting will be done by a show of hands (in person) and via a digital show of hands for those online.
 - A reminder that if you are representing a program (typically graduate chairs) and cannot attend please send a delegate.
 - Meeting Material: [CGPS Faculty Council - College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](https://www.usask.ca/gradstudies/council/)
-

Call to Order

Land Acknowledgement

Present: Debby Burshtyn, Jaswant Singh, Britney Bergermann (del), Tatiana Nomokonova, Scot Stone, Venkatesh Meda, Tim Kelly, Kerry McPhedran, Ian McQuillan, Lori McKee, Laureen McIntyre, Jing Xiao, Lenn Lemisko, Stephan Milosavljevic, Robert Englebert, Leonzo Barreno, Murray Jelinski, Jesse Stewart, Monica Sarghie, Alexey Shevyakov, Wanda Martin, Sasha Koustov, Michael Szafron, Katherin Stewart, Tim Jardine, Maarten Voordouw, Susan Detmer, Geraldine Balzer, Paul Jones, Mark Eramian, Pierre-Francois Noppen, Shafiq Alam, Andrei Smolyakov, Maruti Uppalapati, Geoffrey Maina, Jennnifer Amarualik-Yaremko, Nate Ort, Dean Shames, Meaghan Boily, Arash Amanlou, Maria Rodriguez, Eriq Lukong, Bram Nobel, Liran Levin, Vicki Squires, Saija Kontulainen, Barbara von Tigerstrom, Craig Wilson, Lynn Weber, Amaranta Sokol Como

DECISION ITEMS

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Faculty Council approves the Nov 28, 2024, agenda as circulated.
Szafron/Blackburn ALL IN FAVOUR/CARRIED

2. Approval of the minutes

APPENDIX 1

Motion: Faculty Council approves the Oct 10, 2024, minutes as circulated.
Jones/Balzer ALL IN FAVOUR/CARRIED (1 abstention)

3. Revisions to CGPS Policy Section 10: Graduate Student Funding [Leah Johnson]

APPENDIX 2

Motion: CGPS Faculty Council accept the revisions to the Graduate Student Funding Policy 10 as presented in Appendix 2 effective immediately.
Balzer/Szafron ALL IN FAVOUR



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies

GRAD.USASK.CA

116, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9 Canada
Telephone: **306-966-5751**
Email: grad.studies@usask.ca

Leah Johnson, Director of Scholarships and Awards Services presented the changes as indicated in Appendix 2. To summarize the changes are primarily editorial to clean up the language; it is also proposed to revise the definition of a major scholarship from \$17,500 to \$20,000.

The Chair opened for discussion – hearing none. The motion passed unanimously.



VERBAL REPORTS

4. Dean's Update – D. Burshtyn (10 min)

The Chair shared several updates that included

- Recent attendance at the annual CAGS conference entitled “Graduate Education in an Age of Uncertainty: Challenges and Opportunities.” There were several interesting plenary talks included a Tri-Agency update indicating additional changes in 2025 including Vanier and Banting scholarships sunseting. The keynote delivered by Dr. Joseph Aou, President of Northeastern University was about a blueprint for colleges and universities to meet the challenges and opportunities associated with the transformative effects of artificial intelligence
- Exciting things coming for InterD students that will provide them campus space to mingle, work etc.
- Launched several new initiatives within our Indigenous initiatives portfolio including Holiday Hampers, Stitching Stories and others. [Details can be found online.](#)

5. Society for Postdoctoral Scholars – M. Rodriguez (5 min)

- The SPS has been doing a lot of work in the communications space including launching a new Teams channel where postdocs can interact with each other, updating their website, etc.
- Dr. Josephine Chileshe, a postdoctoral researcher at VIDO, University of Saskatchewan (USask), recently represented the university at the Canadian Postdoctoral Association (CAPS) Annual General Meeting in Toronto. As the Managing Director of the Society of Postdoctoral Scholars (SPS) at USask and a member-at-large for CAPS, Josephine participated in panel discussions exploring postdoctoral training, institutional support, and innovative strategies for enhancing the postdoc experience.
- CGPS provides SPS with some operational budget, SPS decided that a portion of that budget would be earmarked to provide a few travel awards; these have now been adjudicated and awarded. Recipients are listed on the [SPS's website.](#)

6. Graduate Students' Association – D. Ohene-Amoako (5 min)

- Jennifer Amarualik-Yaremko presented on behalf of the GSA. She indicated that the Executive Team has released their new logo and are working on several communication initiatives.
- The deadline for the GSA-CGPS Need-Based Bursary was Nov 27 – these bursaries will be adjudicated and awarded soon.
- Several events are planned or are underway including a warm clothes drive, a holiday hangout (Dec 27-29), and reminded folks to tell their students that the GSA has extended hours if they are looking for a quiet place to study or an opportunity to meet other graduate students.

7. Update from the Awards Chair – Dr. Geraldine Balzer (5 min)

- Dr. Balzer, Chair of the Scholarships and Awards committee gave a brief on some of the work that has been underway. Including adjudication of the Tri-Agency awards – this workload is significant, and this year additional sub-committees have been created populated with additional faculty who have had previous expertise in USRA and similar competitions. Some faculty volunteered to sit on more than one adjudication panel, and with their help, this year's process has been much easier to manage.



- Question arose regarding recruiting graduate students to help with adjudications – Balzer clarified that indeed students who past Tri-Agency recipients were are often included as well as are included in the various workshops that the awards team offers to help students develop their applications.
- Additionally new rubrics and tools have been developed to help adjudicators and this too has proven to help with the workload of the various adjudication panels.
- Balzer also noted that they are always looking for committee members and encouraged the council to consider volunteering.
- *A member indicated that all this work has not gone unnoticed.*

FOR DISCUSSION

8. Preliminary Consultation – Revisions to Policy 20: Degree-Level Expectations [Dean Burshtyn]

APPENDIX 3

Associate Dean, Jaswant Singh introduced the proposed policy changes to Section 20.1 Currently, this section is very sparse on the learning outcomes or expectations and after a working team was pulled together to include subject matter experts both internal and external to CGPS (GMCTL) we propose a complete rewrite to the current Section 20. Within Appendix 3 you will find the changes which in comparison to the current section 20 are totally different. Highlights include:

- Language changes to ensure accessibility and clarity specifically for students to understand the expectations
- An overview description of the program type (PGD, Certificate, Master’s course based etc.) including academic average and length of program
- The language is at pace with the evolution of graduate programming types and in step with preparing to transition to a career.

Dean Burshtyn introduced the proposed policy inclusion of Section 20.2. This new section of the policy is related to learning outcomes developed at the university level and levelled for graduate studies with a goal to align with national credential standards.

- Functionally this serves as a map where the degree level expectation is aligned to the competency area at both the Master’s and Doctoral levels.

A member noted that the specific credits and the expected baseline indicated may need to be better defined depending on the program. Or, conversely, a baseline that allows programs to build out differently depending on discipline would be helpful.

A member noted that this entire work will take graduate students to a new level and is much needed.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies

GRAD.USASK.CA

116, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-5751
Email: grad.studies@usask.ca

FOR INFORMATION

9. Graduate Program Guidelines – J. Singh (10 min)

APPENDIX 4

Dr. Jaswant Singh introduced the new guideline document and the importance of having a guideline that clearly lays out the program requirements and must be easily accessible to students. Dr. Singh led this work with the help of the CGPS team and others including graduate chairs, students, etc. After today's meeting, this template will be available from the CGPS PAWS channel – programs are encouraged to download and edit it as appropriate.

OTHER

10. Questions or arising business from the floor

A couple of members inquired about the next steps with PALS. It has still been silent from the federal government on the next steps. We do have a Dec 11th meeting in graduate chairs calendars as a follow-up – as we do have to have some additional information to share. And, in the meantime if there are any developments we will be in direct contact with you. In the meantime, all were encouraged to keep an eye on the CGPS PAWS channel for FAQ information.

11. Adjournment/Jones



Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Admission Policies and Processes Recommendations	
Motions: <i>Be it resolved that CGPS Faculty Council approves the proposed to admission policy revisions in the CGPS Program and Procedures Manual.</i> <i>[Rubin/Brook]</i>	
Proposed by:	Debby Burshtyn, Chair of Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Presented by:	Debby Burshtyn
Action: <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Motion <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	<i>CGPS Faculty Council</i>
Recommended By	<i>Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, December 18, 2024</i>
Purpose of the Proposal	<p>Following several shifts and changes in the graduate education landscape over the past few years, three areas of policy have been noted that require review and updating. The three areas of focus of this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing additional options for units regarding the holistic review of applications (policy 1.1) Developing entrance requirements for certificate programs (new policy) Developing a laddering process for students who begin in certificates to move into Master’s programs, where applicable (new policy) Updating Master’s, and PhD admission requirements (policies 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4)
Strategic and Policy Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual CGPS Strategic Plan: Goal 2: Support strategic enrolment management & recruitment, i) Promote EDI in admissions practices, ii) Increase Indigenous Recruitment and Retention
Summary	<p>Holistic Admissions</p> <p>The policy revisions that follow have been conceptualized with the intent of increasing the flexibility admission committees have when reviewing admission files and recommending applicants for admission to CGPS. Although units will be strongly encouraged to conduct holistic admission/full file reviews, they will not be required to. If these policy changes are approved, a review process will be put into place that will track the success of the use of holistic admissions principles across campus and a report will be generated for CGPS Faculty Council in the fall of 2026 (allowing for one full admission cycle and subsequent first year of study to be considered).</p>

	<p>Graduate Certificates</p> <p>Developing a set of minimum admission requirements specific to graduate level certificates will ensure these requirements are listed clearly in both the CGPS Policy Manual and the University Catalogue. The proposed requirements generally mirror those of Master’s entrance requirements.</p> <p>Graduate Certificate Laddering Policy</p> <p>As no certificate laddering policy existed before, this policy both confirms that laddering from a certificate to Master’s program is possible (at the discretion of the academic unit) and outlines how credit from previously-completed certificate courses could be applied towards the Master’s degree. The policy also confirms the GPS 960 requirement for anyone who ladders into a Master’s program as well as tuition and fee assessment.</p> <p>PGD, Master’s, and PhD Admission Requirements</p> <p>These proposed policy revisions include removing the ‘honours’ label in relation to 4-year bachelor’s degrees and clarifying that the entrance GPA for PGD, Master’s, and PhD applicants is calculate based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application.</p>
<p>Consultation and Approval Pathway</p>	<p>Graduate Academic Affairs Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 16, 2024 - for discussion • November 20, 2024 – Notice of Motion • December 18, 2024 – For approval <p>Graduate Programs Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2025 – For consultation <p>CGPS Faculty Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 23, 2025 – Notice of Motion • March 27, 2025 – For approval <p>Academic Programs Committee of Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD 2025 – For information
<p>Implementation</p>	<p>May 1, 2025</p>
<p>Attachments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission Policy Edits Draft 2 – Final • Landscape survey



Proposed revised language	Clean Proposed language
<p>1.2 Graduate Level Certificate Entrance Requirements</p> <p>Each certificate program will have entrance requirements consistent with or exceeding the minimum entrance requirements for a graduate level certificate set out in this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A four-year degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study; •A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least a 70% (U of S grade system equivalent). The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recently completed graduate-level degree or 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. 	<p>1.2 Graduate Level Certificate Entrance Requirements</p> <p>Each certificate program will have entrance requirements consistent with or exceeding the minimum entrance requirements for a graduate level certificate set out in this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A four-year degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study; •A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least a 70% (U of S grade system equivalent). The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recently completed graduate-level degree or 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application.
Proposed revised language	Clean Proposed language
<p>1.23 Postgraduate diploma entrance requirements</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a Postgraduate Diploma are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from an recognized academic institution recognized by USask college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study; •A cumulative weighted average of at least a 65% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of full-time study (i.e. 60 credit units). The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. 	<p>1.3 Postgraduate diploma entrance requirements</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a postgraduate diploma are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A four-year degree, or equivalent, from an academic institution recognized by USask in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study; • A cumulative weighted average of at least a 65% (U of S grade system equivalent) in the last two years of full-time study (i.e. 60 credit units). The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application.

<p>Proposed revised language</p>	<p>Clean Proposed language</p>
<p>1.3.4 Master’s entrance requirements</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a Master’s Degree are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from an recognized academic institution recognized by USask college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study, or a three-year first cycle undergraduate degree, in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study, from an institution that meets the criteria set forth in the Bologna Declaration, will be acceptable as the equivalent of an undergraduate honours degree; •A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least 70%. The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. in the last two years of full-time study (i.e. 60 credit unit equivalent); •Demonstrated ability capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1. 	<p>1.4 Master’s entrance requirements</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a master’s degree are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A four-year degree, or equivalent, from an academic institution recognized by USask in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study, or a three-year first cycle undergraduate degree, in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study, from an institution that meets the criteria set forth in the Bologna Declaration, will be acceptable as the equivalent of an undergraduate degree; •A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least 70%. The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. •Demonstrated capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1.
<p>Proposed revised language</p>	<p>Clean Proposed language</p>
<p>1.4.1 Laddering of graduate certificates into course- or project-based master’s degrees</p> <p>Students who have completed specific graduate-level certificates may, at the discretion of the academic unit, be able to use the courses completed as part of the certificate towards advanced standing in a master’s degree.</p> <p>The academic unit will specify the certificate(s) that may ladder into a particular master’s degree. Completion of a certificate does not guarantee admission to a master’s program. Grades obtained in courses completed as part of the certificate may be used for both the basis of admission and laddered into the master’s degree.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Laddering of graduate certificates into course- or project-based master’s degrees</p> <p>Students who have completed specific graduate-level certificates may, at the discretion of the academic unit, be able to use the courses completed as part of the certificate towards advanced standing in a master’s degree.</p> <p>The academic unit will specify the certificate(s) that may ladder into a particular master’s degree. Completion of a certificate does not guarantee admission to a master’s program. Grades obtained in courses completed as part of the certificate may be used for both the basis of admission and laddered into the master’s degree.</p>

<p>Once admitted to the master's program, the graduate courses taken in the certificate(s) may be recognized as advanced standing toward the master's degree. To be incorporated into a master's degree the student must indicate their request to ladder into the master's program at the time of application. Except where otherwise specified by a program, courses must be taken within the five years prior to admission to the master's program. Up to 9 credit units of course work from certificates completed at other institutions may also be eligible for laddering provided they are approved by the academic unit and that at least 60% of the Master's program requirements are completed at the University of Saskatchewan.</p> <p>Where presenting graded courses, the student must have obtained individual grades in each course that are sufficient for credit in the master's program and meet other quality assurance considerations of the master's program outlined in the University Catalogue at the time of admission.</p> <p>To receive the master's degree, the student must complete the GPS 960: Introduction to Ethics and Integrity as well as all remaining master's program requirements. A student who ladders into a Master's program must complete at least 3 credit units as a Master's student to complete the Master's degree.</p> <p>The student will pay tuition and associated fees for the time registered in the master's program.</p>	<p>Once admitted to the master's program, the graduate courses taken in the certificate(s) may be recognized as advanced standing toward the master's degree. To be incorporated into a master's degree the student must indicate their request to ladder into the master's program at the time of application. Except where otherwise specified by a program, courses must be taken within the five years prior to admission to the master's program. Up to 9 credit units of course work from certificates completed at other institutions may also be eligible for laddering provided they are approved by the academic unit and that at least 60% of the master's program requirements are completed at the University of Saskatchewan.</p> <p>Where presenting graded courses, the student must have obtained individual grades in each course that are sufficient for credit in the master's program and meet other quality assurance considerations of the master's program outlined in the University Catalogue at the time of admission.</p> <p>To receive the master's degree, the student must complete the GPS 960: Introduction to Ethics and Integrity as well as all remaining master's program requirements. A student who ladders into a master's program must complete at least 3 credit units as a master's student to complete the master's degree.</p> <p>The student will pay tuition and associated fees for the time registered in the master's program.</p>
<p>Proposed revised language</p> <p>1.45 PhD Doctoral entrance requirements</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a Ph.D. Degree are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Mmaster's degree, or equivalent, from an recognized academic institution recognized by USask college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study; • A cumulative weighted average of at least 70%. The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. in the Master's degree; 	<p>Clean Proposed language</p> <p>1.5 Doctoral entrance requirements</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a Ph.D. degree are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A master's degree, or equivalent, from an academic institution recognized by USask in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study; • A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least 70%. The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. • Demonstrated capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated ability capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and independent research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1. <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a Professional Doctorate are:</p> <p>A master's degree, or equivalent, from an academic institution recognized by USask in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least 70%. The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. • Demonstrated capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1. 	<p>independent research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1.</p> <p>The minimum entrance requirements for a professional doctorate are:</p> <p>A master's degree, or equivalent, from an academic institution recognized by USask in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cumulative weighted entrance average of at least 70%. The cumulative weighted average will be calculated based on the most recent 60 graded credit units (i.e. the last two years of full-time graded course work) at the time of application. • Demonstrated capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1.
<p>Proposed revised language</p>	<p>Clean Proposed language</p>
<p>1.56 Direct entry to Doctoral PhD degree without a Master's degree</p> <p>With the recommendation of the unit, direct entry Ph.D. Doctoral admission is available to exceptionally strong students, who show great promise in terms of academic accomplishments and potential for research. The minimum requirements for admission to a Ph.D. Doctoral program without completing a Master's degree are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study. • A cumulative weighted average of at least 80% in the last two years of undergraduate study (i.e. 60 credit units of course work). • Demonstrated ability capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and independent research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various 	<p>1.6. Entry to a doctoral degree without a master's degree</p> <p>With the recommendation of the unit, direct entry doctoral admission is available to exceptionally strong students, who show great promise in terms of academic accomplishments and potential for research. The minimum requirements for admission to a doctoral program without completing a master's degree are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A four-year honours degree, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university in an academic discipline relevant to the proposed field of study. • A cumulative weighted average of at least 80% in the last two years of undergraduate study (i.e. 60 credit units of course work). • Demonstrated capacity for independent thought, advanced study, and independent research. These capacities can be demonstrated through various

<p>characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1.</p> <p>For the completion of their degree, students who have been admitted to a Ph.D. Doctoral program without completing a Master's degree must may be required to complete coursework and assessments in addition to the regular doctoral program requirements. These requirements will be clearly described in the program listing in the University Catalogue. Typically these are completed within the first year of the program.</p> <p>Complete at least 9 credit units of course work at the graduate level in the first year of their program, with no final grade in any course below 70%.</p> <p>The minimum number of credit units required for the degree must be equal to the minimum that would be required for a student in the same program who was promoted to a Ph.D. from a Master's program.</p> <p>Within the first year of the program, successfully complete a Ph.D. Qualifying Examination that is at least as rigorous as the defence for a Master's thesis in their program area.</p> <p>Pass a comprehensive examination, after completing the required course work, and prior to focusing on their research and doctoral thesis.</p> <p>Write and successfully defend a thesis based on original investigation.</p>	<p>characteristics, including those listed in section 2.1.</p> <p>For the completion of their degree, students who have been admitted to a doctoral program without completing a master's degree may be required to complete coursework and assessments in addition to the regular doctoral program requirements. These requirements will be clearly described in the program listing in the University Catalogue. Typically these are completed with in the first year of the program.</p>
<p>Proposed revised language</p>	<p>Clean Proposed language</p>
<p>1.13 Application deadlines</p> <p>The CGPS does not impose any deadlines on applications. The CGPS maintains application deadlines for international applicants. The CGPS will not process recommendations for the admission of international applicants that are received 30 business days or less prior to the start of the admission term. Many academic units do impose internal earlier application deadlines. Additionally, some funding competitions require program applications to be complete by certain deadlines in order to meet competition eligibility criteria.</p>	<p>1.13 Application deadlines</p> <p>The CGPS maintains application deadlines for international applicants. The CGPS will not process recommendations for the admission of international applicants that are received 30 business days or less prior to the start of the admission term. Many academic units impose earlier application deadlines. Additionally, some funding competitions require program applications to be complete by certain deadlines in order to meet competition eligibility criteria.</p>
<p>Proposed revised language</p>	<p>Clean Proposed language</p>

2.1 Academic Unit Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the academic unit to compile and review the full applicant ~~complete~~ file. Units are encouraged to follow a holistic review process to determine the suitability/capability of the applicant, and ~~, to review the application, to judge the suitability/capability of the applicant, and~~ to recommend the acceptance of those applicants they wish to have admitted. Units should establish systematic, comprehensive, and contextualized application reviews to ensure full consideration of all eligible applicants. It is the responsibility of each unit with authority over admission ~~recommendations decisions~~ to ensure that the criteria for admission, application procedure and the process for evaluation of applicants are consistent with University policy and the requirements stated clearly in the University of Saskatchewan Catalogue. When the criteria for admission includes multiple elements, the weights assigned to these elements shall be specified. If a unit uses media other than the Catalogue to advertise programs, such as brochures or web pages, ~~the unit is responsible for ensuring the information provided is up to date and consistent with the approved admission criteria listed either the media shall contain this information or the material shall refer the student to the admissions information~~ in the University of Saskatchewan Catalogue.

Academic units will recommend ~~students for~~ admission ~~only for students~~ whom they believe possess the necessary qualities and characteristics that are known to contribute to successful degree completion. This may vary across programs and can be demonstrated in multiple ways. Programs are encouraged to consider which applicant characteristics will contribute to successful degree completion. Characteristics that could be considered include:

Academic Background	Including degrees and specific prerequisite coursework that provides an appropriate knowledge base and competencies. Note that prior employment, professional experience, or professional licensure may be relevant background preparation.
Academic	Including overall class rank, converted GPA, converted major GPA, prior degree programs, historical academic

2.1 Academic Unit Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the academic unit to compile and review the full applicant file. Units are strongly encouraged to follow a holistic review process to determine the suitability/capability of the applicant, and to recommend the acceptance of those applicants they wish to have admitted. Units should establish systematic, comprehensive, and contextualized application reviews to ensure full consideration of all eligible applicants. It is the responsibility of each unit with authority over admission recommendations to ensure that the criteria for admission, application procedure and the process for evaluation of applicants are consistent with university policy and the requirements stated clearly in the University of Saskatchewan Catalogue. When the criteria for admission includes multiple elements, the weights assigned to these elements will be specified. If a unit uses media other than the Catalogue to advertise programs, such as brochures or web pages, the unit is responsible for ensuring the information provided is up to date and consistent with the approved admission criteria listed in the University of Saskatchewan Catalogue.

Academic units will recommend students for admission whom they believe possess the necessary qualities and characteristics that are known to contribute to successful degree completion. This may vary across programs and can be demonstrated in multiple ways. Programs are encouraged to consider which applicant characteristics will contribute to successful degree completion. Characteristics that could be considered include:

Academic Background	Including degrees and specific prerequisite coursework that provides an appropriate knowledge base and competencies. Note that prior employment, professional experience, or professional licensure may be relevant background preparation.
Academic Performance	Including overall class rank, converted GPA, converted major GPA, prior degree programs, historical academic progression, communication skills.

Performance	progression, communication skills.	Research Potential (for research-based programs)	Including academic research experience; related professional experience; extracurricular scholarly engagement; problem-solving, planning, and organizational skills.
Research Potential (for research-based programs)	Including academic research experience; related professional experience; extra-curricular scholarly engagement; problem-solving, planning, and organizational skills.	Relevant life experience	Including educational, learning, and cultural background; indicators of leadership ability/preparation; extracurricular and/or community involvement.
Relevant life experience	Including educational, learning, and cultural background; indicators of leadership ability/preparation; extracurricular and/or community involvement.	<p>In addition to the above listed characteristics, and based on details included in an applicant’s CV, letter of purpose or statement of intent, consideration of membership in underrepresented groups (as defined by the Tri-Agencies, including but not limited to women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minority/racialized groups and members of LGBTQ2+ communities) is also included as part of a full file review.</p> <p>Academic units should ensure the necessary resources (including supervisory personnel, facilities and financial support, and any additional support that may be required ,where appropriate) are in place to support all applicants whom they recommend for admission.</p> <p>Any submission of suspected fraudulent or plagiarized documents must be reported to the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.</p> <p>When an academic unit recommends an applicant for admission, based on a full file review, they are not required to meet the minimum entrance requirements listed in Sections 1.2-1.6. In these situations, units will provide a rationale to CGPS outlining why they believe the applicant will succeed in the program and how the academic unit plans to support that applicant as a student. CGPS will review this rationale and plan prior to the processing of the admission.</p> <p>Applicants rejected by the academic unit are notified by the unit through RMS Recruit.</p>	

<p>Applicants rejected by the academic unit are notified by the unit through RMS Recruit. University Council Policy on Admission to Degree Programs provides for an opportunity for applicants to appeal negative decisions as follows: "Grounds for an admission appeal shall be limited to (1) unit procedural errors, (2) evidence that the information used in the assessment of the decision was wrong or incomplete, or (3) evidence that the assessment was not made according to the published admission qualifications and selection criteria. A failure by the applicant to provide accurate and complete information in accordance with the established admission qualifications and selection criteria shall not be grounds for an appeal. Academic unit level appeals of admission decisions shall follow the procedures for appeals of standing in program. The academic unit head or designate shall appoint the hearing board members, and the secretary for the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee shall serve as hearing board secretary.</p> <p>Applicants accepted by the academic unit may should be informed that their application has been forwarded to the CGPS and that the student has been recommended for admission. Academic units must ensure, however, that prospective students understand this is not an official offer of admission.</p>	<p>Applicants accepted by the academic unit may be informed that their application has been forwarded to the CGPS and that the student has been recommended for admission. Academic units must ensure, however, that prospective students understand this is not an official offer of admission.</p>
<p>Proposed revised language</p>	<p>Clean Proposed language</p>
<p>2.4. Offers of Admission</p> <p>The CGPS is the final authority on approval of student admissions. Offers of admission shall be valid for a specified period of time as indicated in the offer of admission. The CGPS has delegated the authority for making final decisions on offers of admission to domestic students to the academic unit, where the applicant. Such admissions must meets minimum admission criteria.</p> <p>2.4.1. Conditional Admission with Conditions</p> <p>An offer of admission will include be conditions al when an applicant is recommended for admission under one or more of the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The undergraduate or graduate degree is not yet complete 	<p>2.4. Offers of Admission</p> <p>The CGPS is the final authority on approval of student admissions. Offers of admission shall be valid for a specified period of time as indicated in the offer of admission. The CGPS has delegated the authority for making final decisions on offers of admission to domestic students to the academic unit, where the applicant meets minimum admission criteria.</p> <p>2.4.1. Admission with Conditions</p> <p>An offer of admission will include conditions when an applicant is recommended for admission under one or more of the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The undergraduate or graduate degree is not yet complete

2. The applicant has not yet met minimum standards for proof of English language proficiency
3. Official required documents, such as transcripts are not yet available
4. Applicants are required to take a specific number of courses, and achieve a specific grade in a defined period of time

Initial registration in the first term of a program may be allowed prior to receipt of final, official copies of transcripts provided the CGPS has received unofficial copies. Official copies of transcripts must be received for continuation in the program. Registration in the program will not be allowed prior to receipt of proof of English language proficiency. [Approved CGPS Council 211116]

2.4.2. Probationary Status

~~Applicants whose academic qualifications are difficult to assess or whose qualifications are marginal for admission to a graduate program may be admitted to a program on a probationary status. Such applicants may be required to take a certain number of preparatory courses to improve their qualifications. Students completing preparatory courses that are not part of the graduate program will be assessed additional tuition. The student's status shall be reviewed after each term. If the probationary requirements have been satisfied, that shall be noted on the student's electronic file.~~

If a student is unable to meet the conditions of admission, ~~in certain exceptional situations~~, the academic unit may request to extend the ~~probationary period~~ deadline for meeting any unsatisfied conditions and/or introduce a new set of ~~requirements conditions~~, agreed to by the student and by CGPS. Students who do not achieve the ~~probationary requirements conditions of admission~~ may voluntarily withdraw, or they will be required to discontinue.

In all cases:

- The maximum length of ~~the probationary period~~ conditions shall not exceed 12 months;
- The ~~minimum~~ maximum average of all final grades achieved in the

6. The applicant has not yet met minimum standards for proof of English language proficiency
7. Official required documents, such as transcripts are not yet available
8. Applicants are required to take a specific number of courses, and achieve a specific grade in a defined period of time.

Initial registration in the first term of a program may be allowed prior to receipt of final, official copies of transcripts provided the CGPS has received unofficial copies. Official copies of transcripts must be received for continuation in the program. Registration in the program will not be allowed prior to receipt of proof of English language proficiency. [Approved CGPS Council 211116]

If a student is unable to meet the conditions of admission, the academic unit may request to extend the deadline for meeting any unsatisfied conditions and/or introduce a new set of conditions, agreed to by the student and by CGPS. Students who do not achieve the conditions of admission may voluntarily withdraw, or they will be required to discontinue.

In all cases:

- The maximum length of conditions shall not exceed 12 months; and
- The maximum average of all final grades achieved in the courses completed as part of the conditional admission shall be equal to those listed as the minimum requirements for the specific program, or 70% where not specified.

2.4.2. Admission Deferrals

Academic units are not required to grant deferrals, and may choose not to do so. An applicant may request, in writing to the academic unit, a deferral of admission for up to one year. This request and written approval from the unit shall be submitted to the CGPS for processing.

2.4.4. Negative Admission Decisions

The University Council Policy on Admission to Degree Programs provides for an

courses completed ~~during the probationary period~~ as part of the conditional admission shall be equal to those listed as the minimum requirements for the specific program, or 70% where not specified;

- ~~The minimum course requirements for probationary assessment shall be the lesser of 9 credit units or at least 50% of program requirements required for the degree.~~

2.4.32. Admission Deferrals

Academic units are not required to grant deferrals, and may choose not to do so. An applicant may request, in writing to the academic unit, a deferral of admission for up to one year. This request and written approval from the unit shall be submitted to the CGPS for ~~review and approval~~ processing.

2.4.4. Negative Admission Decisions ~~by the CGPS~~

~~Negative decisions will first be reported to the recommending academic unit. Following academic unit consultation with CGPS, where an applicant wishes to appeal a negative decision of the CGPS, the academic unit may file an appeal on the applicant's behalf.~~

The University Council Policy on Admission to Degree Programs provides for an opportunity for applicants to appeal negative decisions as follows:

“Grounds for an admission appeal shall be limited to (1) unit procedural errors, (2) evidence that the information used in the assessment of the decision was wrong or incomplete, or (3) evidence that the assessment was not made according to the published admission qualifications and selection criteria. A failure by the applicant to provide accurate and complete information in accordance with the established admission qualifications and selection criteria shall not be grounds for an appeal.” ~~This appeal shall follow the procedures for appeals of standing in program.~~

Applicants who have not been successful in gaining admission may appeal the decision to the Associate Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies within 10 business days from the date a negative application decision is

opportunity for applicants to appeal negative decisions as follows:

“Grounds for an admission appeal shall be limited to (1) unit procedural errors, (2) evidence that the information used in the assessment of the decision was wrong or incomplete, or (3) evidence that the assessment was not made according to the published admission qualifications and selection criteria. A failure by the applicant to provide accurate and complete information in accordance with the established admission qualifications and selection criteria shall not be grounds for an appeal.”

Applicants who have not been successful in gaining admission may appeal the decision to the Associate Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies within 10 business days from the date a negative application decision is released. The decision made on the appeal will be final.

If an admission appeal results in an offer of admission, the admission term may be delayed due to limitations of space in cohorted programs, supervisory capacity, or funding as appropriate.

<p>released. The decision made on the appeal will be final.</p> <p>If an admission appeal results in an offer of admission, the admission term may be delayed due to limitations of space in cohorted programs, supervisory capacity, or funding as appropriate.</p> <p>The decision of the committee shall be final.</p>	
--	--

Template instructions:

- On left side include the original text with markup; with each iteration change the markup text colour
- On the rights side copy the left side and accept all changes so its easy to ready the proposed 'new text' in its entirety.

Holistic Admission Policy Landscape Survey - U15 + UofR

Institution	Holistic Admission Policy/Process In Place?	Comments
UBC	X	
U Alberta	✓	Applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements but who have demonstrated significant life experience may be considered for admission. Admission on the basis of life experience requires the recommendation of the department offering the program and is subject to approval by the Dean of Grad Studies.
U Calgary	X	
U Regina	X	
U Manitoba	x	Note, UofM does offer a pre-master's program. The pre-master's program is designed to bring the student's standing to the approximate level of an Honours graduate, to provide the student with any necessary prerequisites for courses to be taken in the master's program. The pre-master's program is not intended to help a student boost their GPA. All students applying for the pre-master's program must have attained a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B or equivalent) in the last two full years (60 credit hours) of study.
U Waterloo	X	
U Ottawa	✓	For some master's programs, candidates for admission who do not hold the equivalent of a four-year bachelor's degree as required may be eligible for enrolment in a qualifying program. Where available, a qualifying program is designed to bring the knowledge of the relevant discipline up to the standard required for admission to a particular master's program. To be eligible for admission to the master's program, students must reach this standard by successfully completing the requirements of the qualifying program. (same for PhD)
U Montreal	✓	Recognition of prior learning: This process provides applicants who only partially meet a program's eligibility conditions with the opportunity to be admitted to this program if they demonstrate that they have the necessary skills to meet the program requirements.
U Laval	X	
Queen's	✓	In recognition that life circumstances may prohibit, present barriers, and/or discourage access to pursue advanced degrees, due consideration shall be given by the applicable graduate program personnel to the non-academic factors identified by the applicant, and the applicant's special circumstances and unique qualities. Traditional measures of an applicant's academic performance will be considered accordingly.

McGill	✓	Admission are holistic, meaning that many factors are taken into consideration in the admission decision, including academic credentials and grades. The minimum requirements are listed at mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply .
Western	✓	Equivalent qualifications may be considered based on the standards of the discipline or profession.
McMaster	✓	Prospective applicants who did not attain the required standing in their undergraduate degree, but who have five years of work experience that is relevant to the program they wish to undertake, may be admitted to a Masters program as mature students provided they are recommended by their program. Submission of a complete resume is required to determine eligibility as a mature student. Such recommendations must be approved by the Graduate Associate Dean of the Faculty in question and evidence of ability to do graduate work will still be required.
Toronto	X	
Dalhousie	✓	A small number of mid-career professional Master's degrees may admit candidates either with or without a Bachelor's degree, depending on the qualifications of the applicant. Admission to such programs, as with all graduate programs, is at the discretion of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

*Data collected August/September 2023



Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Degree-Level Expectations	
Motions: To approve revisions to the CGPS Program and Policy Manual, Section 20 – Degree Level Learning Outcomes to delineate program requirements and address gaps for new types of credentials	
Proposed by:	Debby Burshtyn
Presented by:	Debby Burshtyn
Action: <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Motion <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	<i>CGPS Faculty Council</i>
Recommended By	<i>College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</i>
Purpose of the Proposal	To update policy related to graduate degree level expectations with a goal to align with national credential standards that support mobility and transferability of credentials.
Strategic and Policy Alignment	<p>CGPS Strategic Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 3&4 Commit to improved and equitable systems, policies, processes and service standards. Goal 5 Motivate and Support Program Innovation. <p>Policy: Academic and Curricular Nomenclature</p>
Summary	Section 20 Degree Level Learning Outcomes currently mixes program requirements with competencies. The program structural requirements have been separated out, clarified and expanded to include align with provincial and national degree level standards the newer credentials of graduate certificates and doctorates.
Consultation and Approval Pathway	<p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Academic Affairs Committee Graduate Programs Committee – May 2024 CGPS Faculty Council – November 2024 Dean’s council – TBD <p>Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Academic Affairs Committee – January 15, 2025 CGPS Faculty Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice of Motion – January 23, 2025 Motion to approve – March 27, 2025
Implementation	May 1, 2025
Attachments	PPM Section 20 Revisions – Program Structural Requirements

20. DEGREE-LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES EXPECTATIONS

20.1 Credential Description

Degree type	Description of Degree	Min AGPA	Minimum Requirements
Postgraduate Diploma	Designed to provide well-rounded graduate-level knowledge in a field of study, with an aim to cultivate and encourage expertise and practice within a professional credential. In some fields, students may be given the opportunity to become acquainted with research techniques.	65% (on last 60 credits) of an undergraduate degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credit units of coursework, at least 18 of which are at the 800-level the in same field of study • Designed to be completed within a two-year period
Graduate Certificate	Graduate certificate programs provide graduate-level study without requiring individuals to commit to a master's program. Programs either deepen knowledge and skills in a specific discipline or field or provide exposure to an interdisciplinary area of focus.	TBD (70% - last 2 yrs of FT/60 credits) of an undergraduate (4 yr or equiv degree)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 – 12 credits of course work completed at the graduate level
<p>Master's</p> <p>Master's degrees maybe research- or professionally-oriented. Research-oriented Master's degrees aim to produce graduates who have a good understanding of the current issues in their chosen field of study, and who have the skills to engage in critical evaluation and research within that field. These graduates have skills that are transferable to positions of leadership and responsibility in society at large. Graduates of research-oriented Master's degrees are preparation for doctoral training. Professionally oriented master's prepare students work in various professions and are often the credential required for the entry-to-practice (e.g. CPA, physical therapist, nurse practitioner).</p>			
Master's course-based degree	<p>Designed to provide students with a good understanding of current issues and methods in a discipline with the goal of applying this understanding in practical or professional contexts.</p> <p>Course-based programs will provide students with a broader background in the field of study through coursework. Aside from the research activities embedded within the coursework, programs have few activities specifically dedicated to conducting research or reporting results.</p>	70% - last 2 yrs of FT/60 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 30 credit units of course work with at least 24 credit units completed at the graduate level. • At least one full year in length, and should be able to be completed within two years
Master's project-based degree	Designed to meet the needs of students who wish to obtain advanced knowledge in a specialized field with limited research experience.	70% - last 2 yrs of FT/60 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 24 credit units of course work, with a maximum of 30 credit units (inclusive of the research-project course). A minimum of 18 credit units of that work must be at the graduate level • Research project, typically worth between 0 and 6 credit units, depending on the program. The project maybe an application of research or research project.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one full year in length, and should be able to be completed within two years
Master's thesis-based degree	Introduces students to advanced levels of research and scholarship within a related field of study where students will learn about the value of and gain experience in conducting research. Student's will gain understanding of the current issues in their chosen field of study and will develop the skills to engage in critical evaluation and research within that field.	70% - last 2 yrs of FT/60 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 9 credit units of course work <i>at the graduate level</i> least one full year in length, and should be able to be completed within two years Thesis proposal (optional) Annual committee meetings Thesis defence
Doctorate - Professional	"A professionally-focused doctoral program at the graduate level designed for working professionals and oriented toward practice and leadership."* Doctorate programs focus on the application of research to professional or creative activities. Students in these programs are typically mid-career; programs are designed to help students address complex problems in practice within their industry or profession.	Masters degree 70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires substantial coursework and will vary by program. Expected completion in three years May require written and/or oral exams in relevant or essential aspects of the discipline; an internship or exhibition; and satisfactory defense applied research presented in the form of a dissertation or acceptable substitute at a level commensurate with professional work in the area of study.
Philosophical Doctorate (PhD)	Designed to cultivate a thorough understanding of the subject matter, autonomy, creativity, sound judgment skills, ethical maturity and academic integrity, exceptional written and oral communication skills, and analytic thinking skills. Students will develop the ability to initiate and evaluate work in their field and must make an original contribution of significance to the advancement of knowledge.	Masters degree 70% Or 80% in last 2 years of Bachelor's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum requirement for coursework. Required coursework will vary by program. Expected completion in four years Annual committee meetings Candidacy Assessment, including dissertation proposal Dissertation defense

*As defined in the [Academic and Curricular Nomenclature Policy – page 14](#).

Acknowledgements

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) and the College of Education have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines several opportunities for engagement, research, training, and collaboration between the SOTL Centre CGPS' InterD program. A key element of the agreement is touchdown space for InterD students. to This initiative aims to foster an interdisciplinary approach, creating a greater sense of community and belonging among the students.

Thank you to the faculty members who have taken on additional roles as sub-committee members for adjudication processes for Tri-Agency scholarship adjudication. Their efforts have significantly improved the workload distribution and efficiency of the Scholarships and Awards Committee.

Congratulations to Dr. Jaris Swidrovich recognized at the Fall convocation ceremony and awarded the Governor's Gold Medal in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement.

Congratulations to postdoctoral scholars Mohammad Ghoreishi, Jessica Barbosa and Jose Mihdun who were all awarded travel awards through a new initiative developed by the [SPS](#) with CGPS support.

CGPS launched a new \$5,000 graduate student bursary in honour of Heather Lukey and her 34-year carer to celebrate the impact she had on our graduate community.

Cocurricular Experience

Bringing the research landscape of [USask's Indigenous graduate students to](#) life through the stories and under the mentorship and guidance of master quilter Gabrielle Lee and artist and CGPS' Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator Aurora Wolfe, students are creating a hexagon circular patchwork quilt. Using unique colours for each academic discipline, the quilt will highlight the diversity and depth of USask's Indigenous scholarship.

Throughout the month of December, the holiday staples project was in full swing, with some sponsorship support provided by the Saskatoon Coop, nearly 40 food hampers filled with staples were provided to Indigenous graduate

In preparation for the annual [Three Minute Thesis competition](#), CGPS is offering a series for a series of interactive workshops to help students get ready for the competition and hone their presentation skills.

CGPS continues to support the development of graduate students' transferrable skills and preparation. The new [LevelUP dashboard](#) was launched providing graduate students and postdocs easy access to CGPS developed professional development including self-paced modules

and in-person workshops. [The Beyond the Professoriate](#) career exploration platform has been renewed for one additional year provided graduate students free access to tools and training on getting ready for the job market.

Program Management

In the past two years, the number of admission recommendations received by our Program Services Team has increased by 36%. Our staff continues to work through new federal government processes including IRCC verification, the STRAC policy and implementation of provincial attestation letters for grad.

Provincial attestation letters (PAL) for study permits for graduate students effective January 22, 2025. The province will be announcing the allocation widely on Jan 21. We know that graduate studies at USask have been allocated significantly more PALs than we were modelling and translates to a comfortable excess over offers of admission made last year. We also know there may be a need for adjustments along the way and we are prepared for that. Our commitment to graduate programs, colleges and schools is transparent communication as we work through this new process. Please visit the [CGPS PAWS channel](#) for regular updates.

We are putting renewed energy into recruitment activities for graduate programs in light of the drop in international applicants impacted by the number of IRCC changes.

Student Funding

The well-attended fall Tri-Agency application workshops translated into many well-prepared applications. The adjudication results for the Tri-Agency Doctoral and Master's scholarships will be announced in the coming months. For the most recent statistics, please visit the CGPS' Awards Stats page. Visit [CGPS' Awards Stats](#) page for the most recent statistics.

In November (2024) CGPS Faculty Council approved the definition of a major award from \$17,500 to \$20,000. Students cannot hold two major institutional scholarships at the same time.

The team has been working diligently providing several workshops designed for Indigenous graduate students to help them develop great [scholarship applications](#). Special guest Tahlia Bomberly from [Indspire](#) joined us to talk about the Building Brighter Futures initiative in which graduate students are welcome to apply – the next deadline is February 1.

Stay tuned for the launch of the Indigenous Graduate Student Recruitment Scholarship. New funding that programs can nominate students for as part of their recruitment and admissions strategy. Up to 10 awards valued at \$10,000 each will be available annually.



Graduate Studies Application Fee

Background

The graduate program application fee currently sits at \$120. The last increase to this fee was in Spring 2020 (with a delayed implementation date of Spring 2021 due to COVID). The share of application fee revenue received by CGPS is used to fund the staff positions involved in both the credential evaluation and admissions processes, and the maintenance and oversight of the application platform (RMS Recruit). The costs associated with these positions have increased over the last four years and we are recommending an increase to the application fee to help offset these.

Historically, international and domestic graduate program applicants have paid the same application fee. However, as a result of the increased work related to the processing of international applications (new IRCC verification requirements that must be fulfilled by CGPS, returning the credential evaluations process within CGPS, and the anticipated increased work associated with the PAL process), we are recommending increasing both the domestic and international application fee, but by different amounts.

Comparators and Competitors

A listing of current U15 graduate application fees is included in the table below.

Application Fee Survey Summary

Institution	Degree App Fee (Domestic)	Degree App Fee (Intl)
USask	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
UBC	\$ 116.25	\$ 168.25
U Alberta	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00
U Calgary	\$ 125.00	\$ 145.00
U Regina	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
U Manitoba	\$ 100.00	\$ 130.00
U Waterloo	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
U Ottawa	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
U Montreal	\$ 101.75	\$ 101.75

U Laval	\$ 97.00	\$ 97.00
Queen's	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
McGill	\$ 136.90	\$ 136.90
Western	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00
McMaster	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Toronto	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
Dalhousie	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00
*App fee data updated November 2024		

Going Forward

By moving to a domestic application fee of \$125 and an international fee of \$145 we would be well positioned amongst our western U15 comparators and competitors. We've also consulted with TLSE Recruitment on this proposed change, and they do not believe that increasing the application fees to these amounts would have any negative impact on our attractiveness to prospective students.

A proposal to increase the application fee effective September 1, 2025, as outlined above will go to the Fee Review Committee on January 31, 2025, for recommendation to and ultimate approval by the Provost.