AGENDA
College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Faculty Council Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2026 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM
W. P. Thompson (Biology) 106

Attendance & Participation

- Meetings are held in-person.
  Zoom access is available by request only—please contact cgps.gov@usask.ca if you require remote access due to illness or prearranged accommodation.
- Graduate Chairs, if you are unable to attend, please appoint a delegate to ensure quorum and program representation is maintained.
- Upon arrival, please check in with CGPS staff. Your attendance will be recorded.

Voting Procedures

- Voting will be conducted by a show of hands for in-person attendees. Online participants will vote using the chat function in Zoom.
- Some programs have multiple graduate chairs, but only one vote is permitted per program. Please determine your voting representative prior to the meeting.

Meeting Materials

- All meeting documents will be posted on the CGPS Faculty Council website.
- Members will receive a notification approximately one week prior to each meeting when materials are ready for review.

Land Acknowledgement

3:00 - 3:20 PM

1. Approval of the agenda
Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the January 22, 2026, agenda as circulated.

2. Special Guests
Interim Provost and VP Academic, Dr. Patti McDougall, and VP Research, Dr. Baljit Singh will bring brief updates and have a few moments to answer a few questions that were provided in advance.

DECISION ITEMS 3:20 – 3:35 PM

3. Approval of the minutes
Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the November 27, 2025, minutes as circulated.   APPENDIX 1

4. Approval of Nomination to the Inter-Disciplinary Studies Committee
Motion: It is recommended by the Nominations Committee that CGPS Graduate Faculty Council approve the appointment of Dr. Mirela David to the Inter-Disciplinary Studies Committee for a term of 2.5 years (January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029)

5. Approval of revisions the Supervision and Advisory Committee composition   APPENDIX 2

Motion: It is recommended by the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee that CGPS Graduate Faculty Council approve the revision to Section 3 of the CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual including the addition sections to clarity the role of additional and cognate members.

6. Approval of revisions to Graduate Student Funding   APPENDIX 3

Motion: That CGPS Graduate Faculty Council approves the revisions to Policy 10. Graduate Student Funding and acknowledges the changes to the CGPS 75th anniversary scholarship fund terms of reference

DISCUSSION 3:35 - 3:50 PM

7. Proposed changes to Policy 4.5. Project and Thesis Requirements (J. Singh)   APPENDIX 4

REPORTS & UPDATES 3:50 - 4:25 PM

8. Awards Committee update – Chair, Dr. George Katselis
9. Graduate Students' Association (P. Roy)
10. Society for Postdoctoral Scholars (M. Miah)
11. Dean's Written Report (D. Burshtyn)   APPENDIX 5
12. Announcements
13. Questions
14. Adjournment

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College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
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MINUTES
College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Faculty Council Meeting
Thursday, November 27, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM
ARTS 241

Attendance & Participation

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  accommodation.
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  and program representation is maintained."
- Upon arrival, please check in with CGPS staff.
  Your attendance will be recorded, and you'll
  receive a personalized name card – this is so we
  can put names to faces and keep the awkward
  "I-know-your-face-but-not-your-name"
  moments to a minimum. Please leave these
  behind, we will use them again next time.

Voting Procedures

- Voting will be conducted by a show of hands for
  in-person attendees. Online participants will
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- Some programs have multiple graduate chairs
  listed, but only one vote is permitted per
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Present: Nathan Cupid, Ryan Brook, Glenn Stuart, Scot Stone, Venkatesh Meda, Matthew Paige, David Elwood, Daniela Pita de Melo, Andreas Pollak, Laureen McIntyre, Jian Xiao, Ann Martin, Smita Garg, Haikia Zhang (del), Benjamin Hoy, Nancy Gyurcsik, Alexey Shevyakov, Chris Soteros, Peter Alward, Sasha Koustov, Michel Desjardins (del), Darla Mitchell (non-voting), Katherine Stewart, David Janz, Emily Jenkins, Monica Sarghie, Debby Burshtyn (chair), Marguerite Koole, Palash Roy, Mandela Alema, Laila Valila, Mike Scott, Dean Shamess, Cody Koloski, Tammana Jahan, Erique Lukong, Steven Rayan, Vicki Squires, Jaswant Singh, Karim Tharani, Amaranta Sokol (del), Carolyn Ptylyk (non-voting), Laura Harris (non-voting), Shafiq Alam, Cameron Forbes, Chris Willenborg, Ehab Diab, Lynn Lemisko, Lynn Weber, Samantha Carley, Stephan Milosavljevic, Tyler Wenzel, Yang Yang, Zhi Li.

Regrets: Lori McKee, David Zhang, Wanda Martin, Roy Dobson, Pierre-Francois Noppen, Louise Racine, David Blackburn

Land Acknowledgement

DECISION ITEMS 3:05-3:20

1. Approval of the agenda
Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the November 27, 2025, agenda as circulated.
Roy/Valila – CARRIED unanimously

2. Approval of the minutes
Motion: Graduate Faculty Council approves the October 30, 2025, minutes as circulated.   APPENDIX 1

Alema/Roy – CARRIED unanimously

3. GPS 210 Progress Report (J. Singh)
Motion: That CGPS Faculty Council approve the revisions to GPS 210 progress report.   APPENDIX 2
Forbes/Lemisko – CARRIED Unanimously
Dr. Singh presented the item for approval and provided an update on minor edits made since the notice of motion was presented to council last month. He broadly summarized the revised form and rationale for updating the form, including the section for students to provide comments on barriers, section to describe remediation, and the requirement for synchronous advisory committee meetings. No discussion or questions from the floor.

NOTICE OF MOTION 3:20-3:30

4. PPM 3 Supervision and Advisory Committee composition revisions (J. Singh)   APPENDIX 3
Notice of Motion: Update policy to clarify roles of advisory committee members and remove barriers for non-departmentalized colleges.

Dr. Singh presented the notice of motion, noting that minor revisions had been made since the October council. The rationale for revising policy is to provide clarity for students and faculty around the roles for cognate members and additional members and provide more context for non-departmentalized colleges. Any feedback can be sent directly to Dr. Singh (jaswant.singh@usask.ca). No questions from the floor.

DISCUSSION 3:30-3:45

5. Proposed increase to minimum funding for PhDs within the 75th program. (M. Usunier)

Marc Usunier presented the proposed increases to institutionally funded scholarship and student support funds that will be spread across the next three years. It was noted that the increase for 2026-27 is higher to make up for the lack of increase over the past few years and that funding has been distributed in-line with what has been allocated to CGPS. Highlights include:
- Increase in institutional funding to support graduate students (2026/2027 – 6.81%, 2027/2028 – 2.85%, 2028/2029 – 2.85%)
- Funding will be used to increase the CGSP 75th units of allocation to $25,000, increase Student Support Fund allocations, and increase the value of major CGPS-managed funding programs (ie: Dean's Doctoral Scholarships)

Reach out to Marc Usunier or Leah Johnson with questions/comments. This will be on the agenda at the January Graduate Chair Forum on January 26th.

Comments from the floor

A member asked about dividing the 75th into two packages - confirmed that this is still possible.

A member asked for more information about funding for course-based students who typically pay higher tuition. Dean Burshtyn indicated that most of the funding under discussion is tagged for PhD students; to create access for course-

based students, the IGLS and the SSF are not restricted to thesis-based students. Centrally, course-based programs will remain largely unfunded, but concerns around access and support are being heard.

CGPS will be seeking feedback on the SSF (if formulas are working correctly, how well the flexibility is working for academic units) either through a forum or survey. Note that as enrolments are shifting, we do have more course-based students.

STANDING REPORTS 4:00-4:20

6. Dean's Verbal Report (D. Burshtyn)
Dean Burshtyn shared information about PALS, the InterD Keynote lecture by Dr. Maureen Reed, highlights from the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS), the 3MT Prep Workshop series and LevelUP. Other highlights include:
- **Graduate Mentorship Workshop** (Nov. 27th) CGPS hosted a workshop designed to support and inspire graduate mentors, facilitated by Dr. Dawn Wallin and Dr. Julia Boughner.
- **Fall 2025 Governor General Gold Medallist** (highlighted at October meeting)**:** Dr. Geneveave Barbo (Nursing) awarded the Governor General's Gold Medal at Fall Convocation for her work developing immersive virtual reality modules for nursing students to practice supporting migrants dealing with mental health challenges.
- **Thank you to Lori Lisitza!** Lori left USask last week after 9 years of service. She leaves behind a tremendous legacy of improving aspect of how the college runs and a passion for supporting the student experience such as the Grad Hub and Indigenous initiatives.

7. Society for Postdoctoral Scholars (T. Jahan)
- The postdoc travel award application is posted on the SPS website – Deadline to apply is Nov 30th
- The SPS is advocating for institutional support for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) – USask does not currently provide support for application to SINP – Meetings set up to investigate possibilities.
- SPS Holiday party Dec 10

8. Graduate Students' Association (P. Roy)
- 3rd party organization support letters to faculty to apply for grants focused on collaborative research
- Childcare initiative: The GSA is investigating subsidized childcare provided by the SK government ($10 per day childcare) and whether the province would invest in an initiative at USask. Palash noted his thanks to the CGPS Dean, Provost, and Wellness Centre for their help. GSA is currently looking into space options.
- Expressed thanks to CGPS for contributing to the GSA needs-based bursary
- Working with residences to address concerns about security in dorm buildings and parking lots.
- High student engagement with GSA events: Anti-Racism Symposium (USSU/GSA), Halloween party, professional headshots; Gathering feedback from students on improving quality.
- Palash provided examples of support letters based on question from another members (immigration, student support letters, etc.).

9. Announcements
Dean Burshtyn highlighted several upcoming events and calls. Please see the CGPS newsletter and college calendar for lists of events, awards, application deadlines and calls for applications.

10. Questions

A member asked why the Cousins ribbon skirt workshop is only open to Indigenous students. Recommended contacting organizer Aurora Wolfe. Noted there are only 12 – 15 seats and potential concern about appropriation if open to non-Indigenous students. *Note added in proof: event is funded through the Oyateki fund, intended for Indigenous students.*

A member gave feedback on their experience with having University Examiners, noting they have not found it helpful due to large committees, fewer in-depth contributions, and UE having less direct experience with the research. Dean Burstyn noted the number of faculty members on committee was reduced when the UE was introduced and acknowledged the transition when UE was added to existing committees. Will bring the value of the UE back for discussion in the new year.

Comment from a member regarding the issues they've faced recruiting US students to master's program because of the tuition differential. While there is no pool of funding for master's students, units can pay tuition in addition to funding. Sources indicate the government plans to prioritize Canadian students who are abroad. Noted that Indigenous students from the Jay Treaty area do not pay the differential.

11. Adjournment - Brook 4:01 PM

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Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Supervision and Advisory Committee composition	
Motions: It is recommended by the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee that Council approve the revision to Section 3 of the CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual including the addition sections to clarity the role of additional and cognate members	
Proposed and presented by: Jaswant Singh	
Action: ☐For Discussion ☐ Notice of Motion ☒ For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	CGPS Faculty Council
Recommended By	Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Purpose of the Proposal	Update policy to clarify roles of advisory committee members and remove barriers for non-departmentalized colleges
Strategic and Policy Alignment	PPM Section 3 – Supervision and Advisory Committees
Summary	Discussion about the role of cognate members on PhD advisory committees has been discussed at GAAC extensively and at CGPS Faculty Council and has prompted revision to Section 3 of the CGPS PPM - Supervision and Advisory Committees. These revisions were made to provide clarity and guidance around the roles of cognate and additional members, and ensure that the policy, when implemented, is accessible regardless of the school, department or college.
Consultation and Approval Pathway	**Graduate Academic Affairs Committee** • Discussion and feedback: 2024-2025, Fall 2025 • Approval – November 19, 2025 **Faculty Council** • Discussion: October 30, 2025 • Notice of Motion – November 27, 2025 • Approval - January 22, 2026
Implementation	2025-26
Attachments	PPM Section 3 – Supervision and Advisory Committees revisions

3. SUPERVISION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

3.1. ROLE AND SELECTION OF SUPERVISOR

The supervisor must be a faculty member of CGPS and should be familiar with the rules and procedures of the academic unit, CGPS, and the university. Both student and supervisor are responsible for ensuring that all CGPS and academic unit policies, regulations, and requirements are observed and met.

Selection of a supervisor in thesis or dissertation-based programs is completed by mutual agreement among the student, supervisor, graduate chair, head, dean/executive director (non-departmentalized colleges/schools) or designate. This selection should take place as ~~quickly~~ early as possible and must occur within 12 months of the first registration.

The supervisor should be free of any conflicts of interest with the student. Should any conflicts of interest emerge they should be disclosed and managed accordingly (see **CGPS policy 14.2**).

3.2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THESIS AND DISSERTATION-BASED PROGRAMS

As soon as possible following a student's first registration in a thesis or dissertation-based program, an advisory committee should be named. Selection of the members is completed by mutual agreement between the student and supervisor. Responsibility for ~~naming~~ approving the members of a student's advisory committee lies with the graduate chair, head, dean/executive director (non-departmentalized colleges/schools) or designate; committee members roles are identified at advisory committee meetings. It is the responsibility of the advisory committee, including the supervisor, to assist students in course selection and definition of research area, to provide support and advice, to evaluate regularly the student's progress by meeting at least once yearly, to take appropriate and timely action in view of this progress, and to keep records of this evaluation and all actions taken. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that progress reports, meeting minutes, programs of study, and other advisory committee paperwork is completed and forwarded to the unit's graduate administrator. The members should be free of any conflicts of interest with the student. Should any conflicts of interest emerge they should be disclosed and managed accordingly (see **CGPS policy 14.2**).

3.2.1. CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The advisory committee is the central group of experts that educate, mentor, inspire, role-model, and adjudicate graduate students, over a period of years at the university and often beyond graduation within professional networks. In addition to research and (inter-) disciplinary expertise, graduate chairs, head, deans/executive directors (non-departmentalized colleges/schools) or designates must consider other factors when composing student advisory committees, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Student perspective - Knowing the academic, personal, and career goals of the student and ensuring the student has a voice in selecting their advisory committee.

2. Equity, diversity, and inclusion - Success and the overall experience of students with a range of personal attributes and qualities, diverse talents, perspectives, backgrounds, worldviews, ways of knowing, skills, and abilities, will be supported by a diverse advisory committee (e.g., race, gender identity, cultural background, lived experience, physical ability). [**see USask Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy**]

3. Conflict of interest – Situations where the private interests of a prospective member(s) conflict with, or could reasonably be perceived to conflict with, their obligations to provide impartial advice, support, and to exercise

independent judgment on an advisory committee, must be avoided. Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest to the graduate chair, head, dean/executive director (non-departmentalized colleges/schools) or designate must occur, and consideration of their implications should occur in the process of constituting advisory committees and at the first full advisory committee meeting with the student. (see **CGPS policy 14.2** and **USask Conflict of Interest Policy)**.

Academic units should ensure that the application of these factors is discussed and monitored in a meaningful way on a consistent basis.

3.2.2. ROLE OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Additional members on the advisory committee bring complementary expertise to the supervisor to support student's research, training and/or program of studies. Additional members may be from within or outside the academic unit, college or institution and must be a regular member of the faculty of CGPS, adjunct professor, professional affiliate or be granted one-time membership by the dean of CGPS or designate. The additional members should be free of any conflicts of interest with the student and the supervisor.

3.2.3. ROLE OF THE COGNATE MEMBER

The cognate member brings complementary expertise to the subject matter and/or methodology and provide a diverse perspective. The cognate member should have sufficient expertise in the research area, methodology, or research design to support the student's area of research interest.

A cognate member is a requirement on all PhD advisory committees and will have a sound understanding of USask and CGPS policies and procedures. The cognate must be a regular member of the faculty of the CGPS. In departmentalized colleges, the cognate must be from a different principal academic unit (department/school) than the student and supervisor(s). In non-departmentalized colleges or schools, preference will be given to cognates from outside the college/school, however, if no such person is available, the cognate member may be from the same college/school as the student and supervisor(s), provided their disciplinary expertise is distinct from that of the supervisor. In such cases, the Associate Dean Research or Executive Director of that college/school must be consulted. A cognate member cannot be a professional affiliate and cannot be adjunct faculty (except from VIDO). The cognate members should be free of any conflicts of interest with the student and the advisory committee members.

3.2.2.4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The **master's advisory committee** consists of at least two members	The **Ph.D. advisory committee** consists of at least three members
At least one of the supervisor(s) or additional member, ~~or cognate member~~ on the advisory committee must be a regular member of the faculty of CGPS who is an employee of the university.	
1. Supervisor A member of the faculty of the CGPS (adjunct professors included, but cannot be a professional affiliate). The supervisor typically chairs meetings of the advisory committee.	**1. Supervisor** A member of the faculty of the CGPS (adjunct professors included, but cannot be a professional affiliate). The Supervisor typically chairs meetings of the advisory committee.

Co-supervisor, if applicable	Co-supervisor, if applicable
Persons who are not members of the faculty of CGPS may be granted permission to be a co-supervisor by the dean, CGPS or designate. Co-supervisors share a vote in decision-making, and thus count as one member.	Persons who are not members of the faculty of CGPS may be granted permission to be a co-supervisor by the dean, CGPS or designate. Co-supervisors share a vote in decision-making, and thus count as one member.
2. Additional Member Must be a regular member of the faculty of CGPS, adjunct professors, professional affiliates or be granted one-time membership by the dean, CGPS or designate. The list of regular faculty, adjuncts, and professional affiliates can be accessed in PAWS.	**2. Additional Member** Must be a regular member of the faculty of CGPS, adjunct professors, professional affiliates or be granted one-time membership by the dean of CGPS or designate. The list of regular faculty, adjuncts, and professional affiliates can be accessed in PAWS.
	3. Cognate Member Must be a regular member of the faculty of ~~the~~ CGPS ~~(adjunct professors included, but cannot be a professional affiliate~~) from a different principal academic unit (department/college/school) than the student and supervisor, and cannot be an adjunct professor (apart from adjuncts from VIDO) or professional affiliate. In cases of non-departmentalized colleges and schools, the cognate member may be from the same college/school as the student and supervisor(s), provided their disciplinary expertise is distinct from that of the supervisor.

~~At least one of the supervisor(s), additional member, or cognate member on the advisory committee must be a regular member of the faculty of CGPS who is an employee of the university.~~

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The dean of the CGPS or designate is a non-voting *ex officio* member of the advisory committee.

Ex officio members are not required to attend advisory committee meetings but may be included in these meetings and deliberations at the invitation of the student, supervisor(s), any other member of the advisory committee, or in accordance with the policy and practice of the academic unit.

When one of the proposed members of the advisory committee is not a member of the CGPS graduate faculty, the proposed member's *CV* and a written rationale as to why the person should be approved to serve on the committee must be provided. Please note this is a one-time approval for that person to serve on a specific advisory committee.

Postgraduate diploma and graduate certificate students do not require an advisory committee. The use and composition of advisory committees for course- and project-based master's degrees is at the discretion of each academic unit.

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3. SUPERVISION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Approval of revisions to Graduate Student funding	
Motion: That Graduate Faculty Council approves the revisions to Policy 10. Graduate Student Funding and acknowledges the changes to the CGPS 75th anniversary scholarship fund terms of reference	
Proposed and presented by Leah Johnson	
Action: ☐For Discussion ☐ Notice of Motion ☒ For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	CGPS Faculty Council
Recommended By	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Purpose of the Proposal	To update CGPS policy 10. Graduate Student Funding to align with current practices and update funding amounts
Strategic and Policy Alignment	• CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual • Strategic Plan 2018-2025: Goal 7 – work toward multiyear planning
Summary	As a follow up to our conversation at the November CGPS Faculty Council meeting, CGPS has received an increase in institutional funding to support graduate students as follows: • 2026/2027 – 6.81% • 2027/2028 – 2.85% • 2028/2029 – 2.85% To ensure our policy accurately reflects the new award values this increased funding will support (for details see slides if needed), we need to update CGPS policies 10.1, 10.2, and 10.3 to reflect these new values. We are also taking this opportunity to include a few editorial changes to the policy that have come about as a result of our review following the first three years of the current funding model.
Consultation and Approval Pathway	CGPS Faculty Council: • November 2025 (discussion) • January 2026 (approval)
Implementation	May 1, 2026
Attachments	• Graduate Funding Policy revisions • CGPS 75th Recruitment Scholarship – updated terms of reference

10. GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING

10.1 CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED FUNDING

There are a variety of funding sources for graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. Many students are supported by a combination of awards, fellowships, or scholarships from university-wide competitions, department-specific opportunities, and national or external awards. In addition to Tri-Agency and donor funding, the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) administers approximately $8.21 million of institutional funds to support graduate students. The majority of this funding is allocated to units through the Student Support Fund (SSF) and CGPS 75th Anniversary Scholarship programs.

PURPOSE: To set regulations and guidelines in the awarding and administration of centrally provided graduate scholarships, awards, and bursaries. The policy is intended to support equitable adjudication of these Scholarships and Awards.

SCOPE: *The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) has delegated authority from the University Council Scholarship and Awards Committee for Graduate Scholarships and Awards.* This policy applies to institutional and endowed funds administered through CGPS and those institutional funds transferred to academic units that are used as scholarships for graduate students, including the CGPS 75th allocations. Each type of funding has specific terms of reference that must also adhere to these general regulations.

DEFINITIONS:

- Award: Funding provided based on past performance as a lump sum.

- Bursaries: Bursaries are funds distributed to students based on criteria that include an assessment of financial need.

- Centrally administered funds: Also referred to as Institutional funds, these funds are received by CGPS for the purpose of 1) transferring to academic units to be used for graduate student funding and scholarships, and 2) funding CGPS administered scholarships.

- CGPS-Adjudicated Scholarships: These are any scholarships that are centrally administered by CGPS and adjudicated by the Awards Committee or equivalent. This does not include unit-administered scholarships funded by CGPS 75th allocations.

- Full Scholarship: A scholarship valued sufficiently to allow students to engage in their studies without the need for additional employment.

- Full-time graduate student: Graduate students enrolled in 6 or more credit units in a term are considered full-time. If no courses are required or finished all courses, registering in the 992, 994, 995, or 996 meets the full-time status.

- Major Scholarship: A scholarship that is equal to or more than $20,000 $25,000 per annum.

- Scholarship: Funding awarded on a competitive basis that may be paid as a lump sum or through monthly payments.

10.2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Scholarships are awarded based on inclusive academic excellence as well as criteria set out in the terms of reference for individual scholarships. Application deadlines for scholarships and awards are set annually by the Director of Scholarships and Awards, CGPS. The application requirements are published, and the guidelines are available well in advance of application deadlines.

CGPS is committed to equitable and holistic adjudication of all applications and nominations and will continue to adopt best practices in compliance with the **University Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy**.

The Awards and Scholarship Committee has delegated authority to approve application requirements and processes for CGPS-adjudicated scholarships so long as they adhere to the standards set out in this policy.

Scholarships and other forms of graduate student financial support will be stewarded by CGPS and by units receiving scholarship allocations to maximize the impact on the recruitment and retention of graduate students.

The dollar value of scholarships will be reviewed periodically for competitiveness. In some cases, fewer scholarships of a higher amount may be awarded to preserve the value of the scholarships when additional resources cannot be secured.

Eligibility for CGPS-Adjudicated Scholarships	- Scholarships are restricted to full-time registered graduate students in a ~~thesis or dissertation~~ research-based program unless indicated otherwise in the terms of reference for the scholarship program. - Students must maintain continuous registration as a full-time student meeting all requirements for such status to receive scholarship payments. - Students who are faculty are not eligible for graduate scholarships. Students who are employees of a collective agreement of the university are eligible for scholarships and awards unless the terms of reference of a particular award state otherwise. - Applicants must meet the minimum standard of first-class standing as a grade point average (equivalent to 80% in the University of Saskatchewan grading system) based on the last 60 credits or equivalent to 2 years of full-time study. Details for calculating grade point averages for master's and Ph.D. students are in the procedures. - A student may not hold two major institutional scholarships at the same time, or a major institutional scholarship and a major external scholarship administered by CGPS. Top-up awards and honorary scholarships at a reduced value (less than ~~$20,000~~ $25,000) may be combined with major scholarships.

Eligibility for Bursaries	• Bursaries are restricted to full-time registered graduate students. There may be other criteria, depending on the terms of reference.
	• Students cannot concurrently hold a major scholarship and needs-based bursaries, even if other eligibility requirements are met.
	• The Director of Scholarships and Awards (CGPS) has the authority to award bursaries and may seek guidance from the Dean or the Chair of the Awards Committee as needed.
Academic Unit-Adjudicated CGPS-funded Scholarships	• The process for adjudicating scholarships should follow the **Graduate Committee Guidelines (CGPS Policy 18.7)** for best practices on equitable applications and adjudications.
Maintenance of Scholarships and Changes to Academic Standing	• If a student is required to discontinue due to poor academic performance and/or progress in research, scholarship payments will be stopped at the end of the deadline to appeal the required to discontinue decision issued by the Associate Dean. If the student appeals, payments will continue until the appeal is decided or the end of the scholarship term, whichever is first.
Renewal of scholarship	• To continue to receive scholarships students must remain in good standing in their program. Good standing includes maintaining the required average in coursework over an academic year of over 80% and a passing grade in each course. For project-based and thesis-based master's and Ph.D. programs, students must also maintain satisfactory progress in research as evaluated at least annually by the student's advisory committee. Exceptions to these criteria can be made upon approval of the Dean, CGPS or designate.
	• Higher cumulative GPA standing may be required for some scholarships and will be indicated in the terms of reference for the scholarship and communicated in the award letters to students.

Leaves and Deferrals	**Deferral:** Students receiving CGPS-administered scholarships will be able to request a deferral of the scholarship for up to one year prior to the start date, as approved on a case-by-case basis by CGPS' Director of Graduate Awards and Scholarships based on the following reasons: • Parental or medical leave, and/or family-related responsibilities (based on the criteria established by the Tri-Agencies) • Delay in receiving study permit • Awarded a major external award in the same year they hold a CGPS-administered scholarship **Leave:** Some CGPS-administered awards allow for a parental leave subsidy. Students holding one of these centrally administered awards will be automatically considered as part of the parental leave process.
Funds Allocated to Units Delivering Graduate Programs	• Central funds are allocated annually to the units by CGPS. Wherever possible, allocations will be committed for multiple years (for example a three-year rolling commitment and confirmed amounts will be communicated in early December to facilitate recruitment). • The formulas used for the allocation will be available and units may request to see the data used to calculate their allocations. • The procedures for distributing the funds are under the authority of the Director of Graduate Scholarships and Awards Services. Unit-specific policies for distributing the funds require approval from the Director of Graduate Scholarships and Awards Services.

10.3. CENTRAL FUNDING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

	Funding stream	Overview	Eligibility/Value	Term
	Student Support Fund (SSF)	Formula based allocation provided directly to units. Annually allocated by CGPS.	Highly flexible, can be used for TA, SA, RA, or stipend support | unit determines award values	As defined by administering unit.
	College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies 75th Anniversary	Formula based allocation provided directly to units. *Units must commit to providing all incoming PhD	Incoming Masters (thesis) or PhD students.	1 year minimum. Students may receive

CORE PROGRAMS	Recruitment Scholarship (a)	students minimum funding of at least $20K for 4 years.	Master's: ~~$10,000~~ $12,500 PhD: ~~$20,000~~ $25,000	multiple years.
	College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies 75th Anniversary Recruitment Scholarship (b)	Tri-agency Master's top-up made by CGPS.	$6,000	Concurrent with holding the ~~CGS-M~~ CGRS M.
	Saskatchewan Innovation & Opportunity Scholars ~~(a)~~	Tri-agency doctoral top-up made by CGPS.	$7,500	Per year, up to 4 yrs.
	~~Saskatchewan Innovation & Opportunity Scholars (b)~~	~~Vanier Scholars top-up made by CGPS.~~	~~$10,000~~	~~Per year, up to 3 yrs.~~
	~~Saskatchewan Innovation & Opportunity Scholars (c)~~	~~Not an open application. Full scholarship. Leverages the Tri-agency application pool.~~	~~$28,000~~	~~Per year, up to 2 yrs.~~
	Dean's Doctoral Scholars – Domestic	Recipients awarded through Tri-agency CGS-D adjudication process.	~~$24,000~~ $30,000	Per year up to 2 yrs.
	Dean's Doctoral Scholars – International	Recipients awarded through Tri-agency CGS-D adjudication process.	~~$24,000~~ $30,000	Per year up to 2 yrs.
	Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award Master's	Open to Master's students within the first 3 years of their program.	~~$20,000~~ $25,000	Per year up to 2 yrs.
	Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award Doctoral	Open to PhD students within the first 5 years of their program.	~~$25,000~~ $30,000	Per year up to 4 yrs.
	Indigenous Recruitment Awards	~~TBD~~ Units nominate incoming Master's and PhD students.	$10,000	1 yr.

STRATEGIC AND SPECIALTY FUNDS	Teacher-Doctoral Scholar	Open to doctoral students in the 2nd-to-5th year of their program. Unit must provide sessional employment funding to successful recipients.	$15,000 $20,000	1 yr.
	Internship Funding	TBD		
	CGPS Matching Funds for External Funding Training Programs	Match commitments made in conjunction with the Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) during application to agencies. Programs that qualify include NSERC-CREATE, SSHRC Partnership Talent and CIHR Training Pilots. Others may be considered.	Students enrolled in training program - $20,000 $25,000/year	Up to 5 yrs. of funding per project.

Goal of Funding Stream:
- o To recruit top masters and doctoral students at the time of admission with recognized branded scholarship
- o To provide funding allocations to units that align with recruitment cycle so that accompany offers of admission.

Eligibility of Unit:
Unit guarantees ALL full-time doctoral students with 4-year guarantee of funding at or above $25,000/year. There is no required minimum guaranteed funding for master's students (except for in departments with no PhD that opt in at the master's level)

Eligibility of Students:
- Entrance Award only; must be offered to students upon entering the program.
- If held as a master's student, can be awarded again as a PhD student in the same unit if elevating from master's program or starting the PhD program.
- Tri Agency requirement of first-class standing equivalent to 80% on the University of Saskatchewan grading scale

Awarded by:
Each College/School/Department or Program will have its own internal policy regarding the distribution of funding and the allocation of scholarships. These policies are approved by CGPS and enable unit-level committees to award the scholarships.

Application and Adjudication Processes:
Full Scholarships - Based on student's application to the program, evaluated by a unit level committee.

Award Value and Term of Funding:
PhD students - $25,000 per annum, units may offer multiple years. Funding must be committed to the student at the beginning of their program. Units may choose pay the full award out over two years (in $12,500 increments), provided the student receives a minimum of $25,000 or more overall.

Master's students - $12,500 per annum, units may offer multiple years. The funding must be committed to the student at the beginning of their program.

Options for awarding CGPS 75th Recruitment scholarships may include:
- $25,000 to a PhD student paid in full in year 1 (or subsequent) of their program. The scholarship must be committed to the student in their first year but can be paid out in a future year if necessary.
- $12,500 to a master's student paid in full in year 1 (or subsequent) of their program
- $25,000 to a PhD student paid to the student in year 2 or beyond of their program. For example, if the 75th is deferred for a year as other scholarship funds are in place that meet the minimum funding requirement for a PhD student such as a CGS-D or PGS-D.
- $12,500 to a Master's student paid to the student in year 2 or beyond of their program. For example, if the 75th is deferred for a year as other scholarship funds are in place to support the student such as a CGS-M.
- $25,000 to a PhD student paid as $12,500 in year 1 and $12,500 in year 2, provided additional funds in years 1-4 bring the total to paid to the student to $25,000/year. Additional qualifying funds include TA, RA, SA, other minor scholarships, or grant-funded stipends.
- If a PhD student who has been awarded a 75th subsequently receives Tri Agency funding in the first year, the committed 75th scholarship funds can be directed to another incoming student and/or the unit can commit to supporting the student in the later years when the Tri Agency scholarship ends.

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Governance Proposal Executive Summary

ITEM

Agenda Item Title: Proposed changes to Policy 4.5. Project and Thesis Requirements	
Motion: n/a	
Proposed and presented by Jaswant Singh	
Action: ☒For Discussion ☐ Notice of Motion ☐ For Approval	

DETAILS

Office of Administration	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Final Approval Body	CGPS Faculty Council
Recommended By	Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Purpose of the Proposal	To revise existing policy to align with current and emerging needs of students and provide clear guidance for thesis and dissertation requirements
Strategic and Policy Alignment	• CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual • Strategic Plan 2018-2025 - Goal 3 & 4: Commit to improved and equitable systems, policies, processes & service standards

Summary	The Intent of the proposed revisions is to address and clarify the following points about master's thesis and doctoral dissertation documents:
	• Minimum required elements for dissertation, thesis or thesis equivalent
	• Revisions incorporating competencies framework (master's & Ph.D.)
	• Transparency regarding use of generative artificial intelligence
	• Description of research creation thesis/dissertation in fine- and performing- arts
	• Addition of a new section (4.6. and subjections) in policy to include:
	    ◦ Styles, forms, content, formatting
	    ◦ Required elements of the thesis/dissertation
	    ◦ Language, copyright, permission to use and disclaimers
	    ◦ Use of Generative artificial intelligence
	    ◦ Preface section (required and optional components)
	Further areas for consultation and development include requirements for non-PhD doctoral study and language of the thesis/dissertation.

Consultation and Approval Pathway	Graduate Academic Affairs Committee • Sept 2025 – Jan 2026 - Consultation and revisions • March 2026 – Approval • April/May 2026 – revisions and approval (if needed)
	CGPS Graduate Faculty Council • January 2026 – Discussion • March 2026– Notice of Motion • May 2026 – Approval

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Implementation	September 1, 2026
Attachments	• Policy revisions – 4.5. and *new* 4.6. • Templates and Samples for student use

Proposed revised language 4.5.	Proposed clean version 4.5.
4.5. ~~PROJECT AND~~ THESIS **AND DISSERTATION** REQUIREMENTS	4.5. THESIS AND DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS
The master's thesis is an opportunity to explore a topic of particular interest and advance research or scholarship in the discipline or area of professional competence. The thesis must demonstrate a capacity to critically evaluate current research and show originality in the application of knowledge or communicate complex ideas coherently. **The Ph.D. dissertation** must produce original research or other advanced scholarship of a quality to satisfy peer review and to merit publication in disciplinary appropriate forms. Dissertations must provide adequate evidence of conceptualization, design, and implementation of research or scholarship for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding at the forefront of the chosen research field or across multiple disciplines and make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist field, sometimes requiring new methods and ethically designed research. The research-creation (practice-based research, arts-based research) thesis or dissertation combines creative and academic research practices and supports the generation of new knowledge, competence and innovation through art project/s, research design, methods and typically an explanatory document. The adequacy of the master's ~~project or~~ thesis or Ph.D. dissertation is decided by an examining committee consisting of the Supervisor, other members of the Advisory Committee and other persons as appropriate. The thesis, dissertation ~~project~~ or cohesive series of	**The master's thesis** is an opportunity to explore a topic of particular interest and advance research or scholarship in the discipline or area of professional competence. The thesis must demonstrate a capacity to critically evaluate current research and show originality in the application of knowledge or communicate complex ideas coherently. **The Ph.D. dissertation** must produce original research or other advanced scholarship of a quality to satisfy peer review and to merit publication in disciplinary appropriate forms. Dissertations must provide adequate evidence of conceptualization, design, and implementation of research or scholarship for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding at the forefront of the chosen research field or across multiple disciplines and make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist field, sometimes requiring new methods and ethically designed research. The research-creation (practice-based research, arts-based research) thesis or dissertation combines creative and academic research practices and supports the generation of new knowledge, competence and innovation through art project/s, research design, methods and typically an explanatory document. The adequacy of the master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation is decided by an examining committee consisting of the Supervisor, other members of the Advisory Committee and other persons as appropriate. The thesis, dissertation or cohesive series of manuscripts presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree must:

Left column (with edits):

manuscripts ~~publishable paper~~ presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree must:

1. Deal in an academically satisfactory way with a ~~definite~~ defined topic related to the major research or professional practice field

2. Demonstrate ability on the part of the candidate to do independent study and investigation

3. Be written in ~~good scholarly~~ disciplinary appropriate style and conform to the requirements of a style manual approved by the academic unit.

4. Comply ~~in presentation features~~ with specifications of ~~the~~ CGPS~~.~~ policies, ~~r~~Regulations and procedures regarding the preparation, submission, and examination of the ~~M~~master's thesis and Ph.D. ~~theses~~ dissertation. ~~are published in the Catalogue.~~

~~A Ph.D. thesis, based upon original investigation, must demonstrate mature scholarship and critical judgment on the part of the candidate, as well as familiarity with tools and methods of research in the candidate's chosen research field.~~

~~Theses may be produced in either the traditional style or the 'manuscript' style, which consists of a manuscript, or cohesive series of manuscripts, written in a style suitable for publication in appropriate venues~~

A thesis or dissertation must include a preface section including a title page, copyright information, abstract, permission to use, and declaration regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). Issues of copyright must be addressed should one or more of

Right column (clean version):

1. Deal in an academically satisfactory way with a defined topic related to the major research or professional practice field

2. Demonstrate ability on the part of the candidate to do independent study and investigation

3. Be written in disciplinary appropriate style and conform to the requirements of a style manual approved by the academic unit.

4. Comply with specifications of CGPS policies, regulations and procedures regarding the preparation, submission, and examination of the master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation.

A thesis or dissertation must include a preface section including a title page, copyright information, abstract, permission to use, and declaration regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). Issues of copyright must be addressed should one or more of

the manuscripts be accepted for publication or already in print. Refer to Section 17 for intellectual property and copyright details.

All Mmaster's thesis students and PhD students are required to submit their thesis or dissertation in electronic digital form. The digital form of document will be held in the USask library and Theses Canada repositories. The final thesis/dissertation document submitted to CGPS is intended to be open-source public document and may not restrict the reading and examination of the content.

Provision can be made for restricting access to a completed thesis/dissertation for one year, with the possibility of up to two, one-year extensions. Restrictions beyond two years will be considered by the Dean, CGPS on a case-by-case basis. Access may be restricted completely, or allowable for only on-campus use.

Requirements for non-PhD doctoral study are under consultation.

NEW SECTION

4.6. Styles, forms, content, formatting and required elements of the thesis/dissertation

A written thesis or dissertation may be produced in either the traditional style with distinct chapters such as objectives/research proposal, methodologies, results and discussion; or the 'manuscript' style, which consists of a manuscript, or cohesive series of manuscripts, written in a style suitable for publication in appropriate venues. A research-creation thesis or dissertation employes a variety of art forms (such as audio, music, performances, expositions or artifact-based display) and typically includes an explanatory document to demonstrate research design, methodology, results and discussion appropriate to the disciplines involved or to the interdisciplinary approach taken.

The preface section of the thesis/dissertation is mandatory and must be included in all forms of thesis/dissertation.

The format and style of a master's thesis and doctoral dissertation may differ by department, and by discipline. The student's academic unit will identify an acceptable format for the thesis and communicate it to students; the selected style must be maintained throughout the document.

Advisory committees will discuss and approve the focus of the thesis, thesis equivalent or dissertation at the proposal stage including the number of manuscript chapters (in case of manuscript style thesis or dissertation) or the scholarly work (in case of practice-based thesis equivalents). The focus may be modified by agreement of the committee as the research progresses; any revisions must be approved by the supervisor and advisory committee.

4.6.1. Language

The official language of Usask is English and all theses/dissertations are expected to be written in English. The thesis or dissertation can be written in other language in cases where the language of assessment is approved in the program requirements (e.g. MA in French or Cree). If the language of the thesis or dissertation is other than English, required sections of the preface (including the abstract) in English language must be included. The preface section in the original language can also be included.

4.6.2. Copyright and permission to use

The author holds the copyright to the thesis/dissertation and grants permission to the USask Library, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Academic Unit to provide access to the document.

The thesis/dissertation must indicate in the preface and/or on the first page of the chapter when copyrighted and/or co-authored material such as, but not limited to, figures and computer code have been included in the document either "with permission" or "under license". Any payment which might be required by the rights holder(s) is the responsibility of the student. Copies of the letters of permission or licenses must be available upon request and may be included within the thesis as appendices.

4.6.3. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Academic programs determine whether and how GenAI may be used by graduate students and provide information and guidelines to the students on the types of GenAI that are permitted or not permitted for use in master's and doctoral research or scholarly activity and thesis/dissertation writing.

Student author and co-authors (in the case of manuscript style thesis/dissertation) must confirm the originality of scholarly contributions and human accountability of work presented in the thesis/dissertation. Large language models do not satisfy the authorship criteria. The writer should not cite a source unless they have read the source and should exercise caution in the use of GenAI to avoid infringement of copyright or other intellectual property protections.

A GenAI declaration must be included in the preface section regardless of whether GenAI was used or not. Methodological details regarding the use and purpose of GenAI must be included in the appropriate sections of the thesis or dissertation. Search histories, prompts used, and other details may be provided in appendices, if appropriate. Students must ensure that any data provided to a GenAI tools does not contravene compliance with any of the **Data Management Policy of the University of Saskatchewan**, the **University of Saskatchewan Human Research Ethics Policy**, and any conditions of the ethics approvals.

4.6.4. Formatting

All pages in the document must be numbered. Preface section is numbered in lower-case roman numerals (example: i, ii, iii, iv, …). Page number is not printed on the title page. Pages for the chapters and appendices are numbered sequentially in natural numbers (example: 1, 2, 3, …).

Accepted rules of grammar must be followed, and forms of spelling and punctuation must be used with consistency.

When previously published or submitted manuscripts are included as chapters, they must match the formatting standard of the thesis or dissertation, including but not limited to numbering of tables and figures. Previously published manuscripts must be assigned page numbers that are sequential within the document and must not be inserted into the document as copies of journal pages (reprints). For jointly authored manuscript/s, chapter title page should have the thesis/dissertation writer and other co-authors contributions stated in detail (for example but not limited to: conceptualization, creation, data curation, formal/statistical analysis, funding acquisition, investigation, methodology, project administration, resources, supervision, visualization, writing – original draft, writing -review and editing).

Reference and citation styles differ between disciplines and departments, but a single and consistent style must be used throughout the document. References can either be listed as chapter-by-chapter or be presented in a single list at the end of the thesis or dissertation. If the chapter-by-chapter approach is adopted, each chapter, including chapters that are not manuscripts (such as the introduction and concluding chapters), require a list of references. If a single list appears at the end of the thesis, all references cited in the chapters must be included in the list.

4.6.5. Preface Section

The preface section of the thesis or dissertation is mandatory and must include a title page, abstract, permission to use and copyright information, a declaration about the use of GenAI, and a table of content/outline. The preface section may also include additional optional items such as disclaimers, acknowledgment page, dedication page, keywords, list of abbreviations, list of tables and figures.

Description of Required and Optional Elements in the Preface Section

Field	Required/ Optional	Description
Title	Required on title page	Title of the thesis/dissertation including subtitle. Use sentence-style and do not add a period at the end. Do not capitalize the first letter of each word. Separate the main title from the subtitle with space, colon, space (:)
Lay Title	Required on title page	A lay title written in simple language for the general public or non-experts is included in parentheses after the original title.
Creator / author	Required on title page	The creator is the author of the thesis/dissertation. Enter the name in inverse (example: Doe, Jane Sheila)
Degree	Required on title page	Name of the degree associated with the thesis/dissertation. Separate abbreviations more than a single letter by a space (example: Ph. D. and M.Sc.)
Degree discipline	Required on title page	Area of study or concentration
Academic unit	Required on title page	Name of the department or college / school in case of non-departmentalized units
College	Required on title page	College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Degree grantor	Required on title page	University of Saskatchewan
Year	Required on title page	Only the year is mandatory in YYYY format and may be combined with copyright information. If month and day are present, they should be in the format YYYY-MM-DD.
Copyright information	Required on title page	A brief statement on title page. Example : Copyright (or copyright symbol ©) author last name, first name, initials followed typically by the year of publication. Creative Commons attributes for copyright information are also permitted (for example CC-BY-NC- @090 ND or similar). Author should consider potential implications for published scientific papers or future publications.
Permission to use	Required as a separate page	A separate page must be included in the preface section to a) grant the USask Library the right to provide access to your document for inspection, b) allow Usask designated persons to grant access for copying the thesis/dissertation for scholarly purposes, c) state that any use of the thesis/dissertation for financial gain requires the author's written permission, d) indicate that the author and USask receive recognition in any scholarly use of the work, and e) indicate the statement serves as a reminder

		to readers that the author hold the copyright and may or may not permit the reproduction.
Declaration of use of copyrighted material	Conditionally required in preface	The thesis/dissertation must indicate when copyrighted and/or co-authored material such as, but not limited to, figures or survey inventories have been included in the document either "with permission" or "under license" in the preface or on the first page of the chapter.
Declaration of use of GenAI technologies	Required as a separate page	A separate page must be included in the preface section to address the use of generative artificial intelligence technologies. If GenAI was not used in preparation of the thesis or dissertation, the following statement must be included: • No generative artificial intelligence technology was used in the preparation of this thesis or dissertation. When GenAI technology is used for autonomous content generation and scientific exploration including but not limited to search, design, outline, draft, write code, analyze data, write, or generate images or other content types, a section listing the following must be included: • Name of the technology, type of use and scale/extent of use. If generative AI is used for multiple purposes, each use must be listed separately. • A statement confirming that issues related to bias, inaccuracy and imagination were considered and addressed and that the author of the thesis or dissertation is solely responsible for maintaining the accuracy and academic integrity of the document • That the supervisor(s), co-authors and advisory committee members have approved the use and are aware of limitations of the technology for the stated purpose/s • No generative artificial intelligence technology other than the listed above was used in the preparation of this thesis or dissertation. • A statement that data provided to the GenAI tools did not contravene compliance with any of the USask data management policies and ethics approvals were obtained for data use, if applicable. • A statement that methodological details of GenAI use are provided in appropriate sections in the document
Abstract	Required as a separate page	The abstract should identify clearly and succinctly the purpose of the research, the methods used, the results obtained and the significance of the results or findings. A maximum of 500 words is required for the abstract. A graphical abstract may be included (optional). If the language of the thesis/dissertation is other than English, an English language abstract must be included in addition to the original language of the abstract.
Disclaimers	Conditionally required as a separate page	The disclaimer statement is required when proprietary brand names are used in the thesis/dissertation. Disclaimers (whole or in part) such as the following may be included in the thesis/dissertation. Any modifications must

		be approved by the supervisor/s and the graduate chair of the academic unit.
		Disclaimer:
		The [name of company/corporation/brand name and website] were exclusively created to meet the thesis/dissertation and/or exhibition requirements for the degree of [title of degree] at the University of Saskatchewan. Reference in this thesis/dissertation to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favouring by the University of Saskatchewan. The views and opinions of the author expressed herein do not state or reflect those of the University of Saskatchewan, and will not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.
Table of Contents	Required as a separate page	The table of contents must list page references for all numbered elements of the thesis/dissertation and indicate chapters, sections, and important subdivisions of each chapter.
Acknowledgement page	Optional	Inclusion of acknowledgement is at the discretion of the author and may include guidance received from the supervisor/s and advisory committee members, financial assistance received for stipend and to carry out the project and any extraordinary assistance received. Acknowledgment should typically be less than 250 words. The acknowledgement page may be added following approval of the thesis/dissertation.
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List of Abbreviations	Optional	An alphabetical list of abbreviations used in the entire document may be included
List of Tables	Optional	Sequential list of table titles and page numbers from all chapters may be included
List of Figures	Optional	Sequential list of figures and page numbers from all chapters may be included

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Dedication

Table of Contents

(The table of contents must list page references for all numbered elements of the thesis/dissertation and indicate chapters, sections, and important subdivisions of each chapter.)

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Abbreviation   Full Form

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(Sequential list of table titles and page numbers from all chapters may be included)

Table #	Title of the table	Page #
[1.1]	[Table title]	[??]

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List of Figures

Dean's Message to Faculty

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
CGPS.USASK.CA

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

cgps.usask.ca

January 22, 2026

As 2026 begins, we enter a time of renewal for the university amidst the many external drivers for us to respond in meaningful ways. The crisis in Iran has a direct impact for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Iran is the largest group of international graduate students - 159 this term alone. The university is communicating directly with the Iranian students to provide supports and we are grateful for the GSA's efforts to work with campus partners to bring the community together.

Accolades:

On January 20th, CGPS hosted a reception to celebrate the exceptional achievements of USask's 2025 Tri-Agency Vanier, doctoral and master's recipients and the Dean's graduate scholarship recipients.

Enrolment and Program Management

For 2025/26, international enrolment is down while domestic is up translating to more than 3% overall decline and >15% international this term to date. We hope for a recovery of international enrolment in graduate degree programs as in conjunction with the release of the 2026 federal budget last November, the federal government removed the requirement that students in graduate degree programs obtain a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) for a study permit. **The PAL requirement remains for VRS, Certificate, and PGD students.** With the change, international applications are trending up relative to the severe reduction last year in the early part of the fall.

The university and PSAC reached a tentative agreement on November 17, 2025. Both the PSAC membership and the USask Board of Governors have ratified the Tentative Agreement, effective November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2028.

Cocurricular Experience

- **The inaugural Mentorship Cohort** wrapped up in November with a special closing reception. The impact of the experience continues to emerge with students attributing successfully competing for jobs due to what they learned with their mentor.
- **Cousins Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Workshop:** On Nov. 28th, Indigenous students created their own ribbon skirt/shirt with facilitator Marilyn Black.
- **LevelUP Intro to Canadian Workplace Culture** workshop is one of the PD workshops intended to replace the GPS 981 that has not attracted sufficient enrolments in the past several years. Held in December, it attracted a modest number of students.
- **3MT Prep Workshops:** The third and final 3MT Prep Workshop took place on January 13th. The virtual preliminary round of the competition opens on February 2nd.

Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards

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Dean's Message to Faculty

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CIRTA In late fall the federal government launched the IMPACT+ programs designed to attract internationally situated talent to Canada including faculty and trainees. In the Canadian Impact Research Training Award program (CIRTA), for Wave 1 due March 4th, USask was allocated 8 PhD and 5 Postdoctoral awards totaling $1,660,000 over three years. The nomination process is led by faculty holding Tri-Agency funds who then identify an eligible trainee. Despite tight timelines to solicit the nominations, the CGPS has consulted with key stakeholders on how best to manage this one-time infusion of support for trainees. While the information was released in installments, we have communicated what we could to faculty in how to identify potential incoming students and postdoctoral fellows. The full details of the nomination process were posted January 16, 2026, with a deadline of February 17, 2026.

Faculty Engagement

Valuing mentorship is important. CAGS is promoting a national community of practice on graduate supervision that any faculty member can join and participate in the series of webinars. To celebrate our own mentors locally, the Distinguished Graduate Mentorship Award is accepting nominations until February 27.

CGPS Faculty Town Hall: The annual Dean's address to CGPS Faculty members took place on Dec. 11, 2025.