

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES
NEWSLETTER

CGPS Operational Bulletin #42

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <cgps.comms@usask.ca>



CGPS Service Desk transitions to TeamDynamix (TDX), the new Enterprise Service Management (ESM) tool at USask on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. The look and functionality of our new client portal are different with several forms updated and functionality streamlined in the background. Connecting with **CGPS** (<https://cgps.usask.ca/>) via the service desk allows us to provide personalized and trackable services to USask's graduate constituents most efficiently.

Updates

Federal STRAC Policy Compliance Guide for Department Heads

The following guidelines were created for Department Heads on how to review the External Examiner, Arm's Length Examiner (if non-USask individual) and One Time member approvals.

1. Assess the topic of the thesis to be defended. Does it appear to fall under Canada's policy on Sensitive Technology Research Areas and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) as a Sensitive Technology Research Area (STRA)?

- If the answer is no, then no further action is required.
- If the answer is yes, then assess the current affiliations of the proposed External Examiner.

2. Review the following against Canada's Named Research Organizations (NRO) list:

- Education history – focus on where Master's and PH D were obtained;
- Employment history
- Academic Appointments / Honorary Chairs

The focus of the STRAC is on direct and current affiliations. For the purposes of assessing proposed External Examiners, we will not be looking at indirect or past affiliations.

If you find that a proposed External Examiner may have a direct and current affiliation to an **NRO** (<https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern/named-research-organizations>), please feel free to contact **USask's Research Security Hub** (<mailto:research.security@usask.ca>) for advice.

Federal STRAC Policy Compliance Guide for Graduate Administrators

When a memo to schedule a PhD defence, a memo to schedule a Master's defence (if Arm's Length Examiner is external to Usask), or one-time membership ticket is submitted, Graduate Administrators will add Department Heads as approvers. This allows Department Heads to access the details of the defence and any related documents that may assist with their review. A Department Head may choose to send a note or email to the Graduate Administrator as their form of approval. The note can be added to the ticket, and no further approval will be required.

International Admissions

Please remember that international students need time to apply for and receive their study permits, a process that typically takes several weeks or months. Therefore, we strongly advise against admitting international students to a program less than two months before the term begins.

Blackout Period

A reminder that the last three weeks of August 2024 are scheduled for the admissions blackout period where the focus for CGPS Program Services will focus on completing the requests remaining in the queue and prepare for the start of the semester. No admissions are processed during this time.

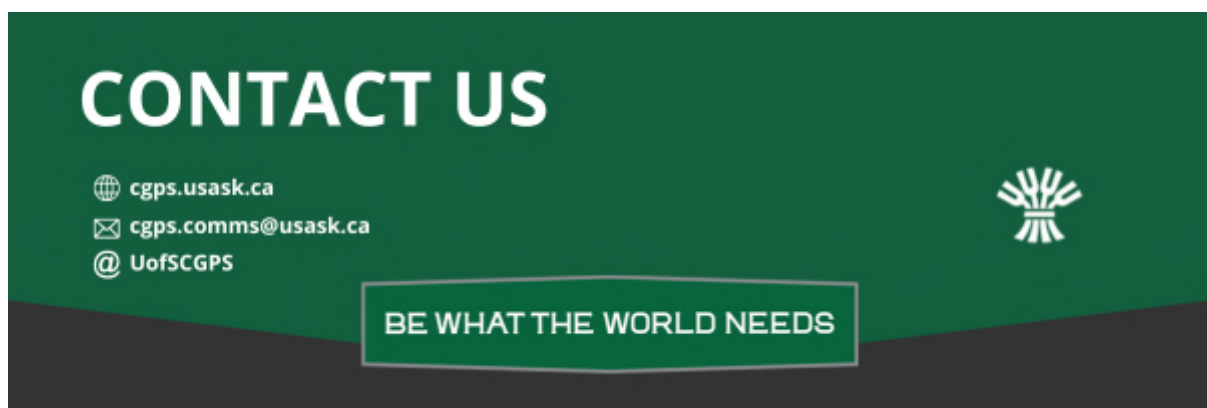
Tri-Agency Scholarship Update

Earlier this year, the Federal Government announced significant and exciting new investments in Canada's research ecosystem, including a planned increase to Tri-Agency scholarships as follows:


- The Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master's (CGS M) award value will increase from \$17,500 to \$27,000 per year.
- The NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships – Doctoral (PGS D) award value will increase from \$21,000 to \$40,000 per year.
- The Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral (CGS D) award value will increase from \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year.


The Tri-Agencies have advised that **effective September 1, 2024, all active award holders will receive the new rate**. These award increases will be automatically applied to new and ongoing awards by the College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies; rates **will not be retroactively applied**. Please contact **CGPS' Scholarships and Awards Services** (<mailto:gradstudies.awards@usask.ca>) with any questions.


This bulletin was delivered to Graduate Administrators, Graduate Chairs and Graduate Associate Deans.




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