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Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 4:35 PM
Subject: CGPS Newsletter: August Edition



August 2024

This newsletter will be delivered to you on a monthly basis with content curated for USask's graduate community. Scroll through to learn about upcoming events, opportunities, and more.



Deadlines

- Sept. 9: [Frederick Wheeler & WHT Spary Graduate Scholarship Application Deadline](#)
- Sept. 9: [Gem & Mineral Foundation of Canada Application Deadline](#)
- Sept. 9: [Gerry Rempel Graduate Scholarship Application Deadline](#)
- Sept. 9: [Robert Guy Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline](#)
- Sept. 9: [Robert Stoddart Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline](#)
- Sept. 16: [Governor General Gold Medal \(Fall\) Application Deadline](#) - DEADLINE EXTENDED!
- Sept. 23: [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements \(CGS\) Application Deadline](#)

Sept. 23: [Vanier - Canada Graduate Scholarship Application Deadline](#)

Oct. 7: [Tri-Agency Doctoral \(CGS-D\) Competition Application Deadline](#)

Events

Aug. 27: [Graduate Awards: Vanier Scholarship Workshop](#)

Aug. 29: [Graduate Awards: Tri-Agency Doctoral Scholarship Workshop](#)

Aug. 29 - 30: [Research Fest | Computer Science Graduate Council](#)

Sept. 3: [5th Engineering Graduate Research Council](#)

Sept. 10: [Welcome to the Grad HUB: Pancake Breakfast](#)

Sept. 10 - 12: [TA Success Days](#)

Sept. 12: [Tri-Agency Q&A Workshop](#)

Sept. 16 - 20: [Postdoc Appreciation Week](#)

Sept. 17: [Launching an Academic Career - Panel Discussion](#)

Sept. 18: [Job Search & Transition to Industry - Panel Discussion](#)

Sept. 19: [Postdoc Appreciation Reception](#)

Oct. 9: [Graduate Awards Tri-Agency Master's Scholarship Workshop](#)

View all upcoming dates and deadlines in the [CGPS Calendar](#).

GRAD COMMUNITY 

Introducing Aurora Wolf, CGPS' Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator

Aurora Wolf joined CGPS as the new Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator on August 15, 2024. Aurora, a proud member of the Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation with Scottish heritage, is an [award-winning multimedia artist](#), researcher, and musician.

Connect with Aurora via the [Cousin's Network on MS Teams](#).

Welcome to the GradHUB | Don't miss Term 1 onboarding events

New to USask? New to grad school? Don't miss out on upcoming Term 1 onboarding events! This fall, there are virtual and in-person offerings available for grad students to learn how to navigate their program and use the GradHUB. [Learn more and register.](#)

Opting out of the student health and dental plan? | Graduate Students' Association

Graduate students, starting in the Fall 2024 term if you do not require a student health and dental plan, you will be required to opt out. Visit the [student health and dental plan page](#) for information about how to opt-out. If you have questions, please contact the [GSA](#).

Graduate Professional Skills Certificate | Register for Fall 2024

The [Graduate Professional Skills Certificate](#) is an innovative, non-credit program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows focusing on strengths-based professional skills development. The certificate program is offered at **no cost to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars** from all colleges and schools.

The certificate requires you to complete two courses and demonstrate evidence of building your professional skills. The courses should be taken either at the same time or in this order:

1. *GPS 984: Thinking Critically* - This innovative, highly interactive, non-credit course provides a supportive and challenging setting for you to uncover and explore personal and professional beliefs and values as you candidly explore diverse issues with peers from various disciplines.
2. *GPS 974: Graduate Professional Skills Certificate* - This is an umbrella course for the certificate that supports you with setting goals in alignment with with a recognized set of professional skills. You must register for GPS 974 to join the certificate program and remain registered until you complete your portfolio and perform a final demonstration of your skills.

Required courses are offered both online and in-person. Please register in the course format that best accommodates your schedule and learning style. To register, use the [Registration channel in PAWS](#).

GPS 981: Academic Preparation for International Graduate Students | Register now!

Are you an international student new to USask? Registration is now open for [GPS 981: Academic Preparation for International Graduate Students](#).

GPS 981 is a non-credit course designed to prepare international graduate students for the Canadian academic environment. Students will learn techniques for improving listening and note-taking skills; managing their reading loads; sharpening critical thinking; and conducting and managing research. Students will also learn about the role of supervisors, professors, and graduate chairs, and will gain practical institution in academic integrity.

To learn more about this course offering, review the [Course Catalogue](#). Questions about GPS 981? Contact [Jill McMillan](#) from the University Library for more information about which course offering may be best for you.

TA Success Days: September 10 - 12

[TA Success Days](#) is a three-day in-person event organized by the [Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning](#). It offers a selection of short sessions focused on developing specific skills and knowledge aimed at those in a Teaching Assistant (TA) role.

Topics include: marking effectively, lesson planning, navigating challenging conversations, tips for facilitating labs, tutorials, and seminars, and setting career goals as a graduate student.

Attendance will be recognized on your co-curricular record when you attend three or more sessions.

[Learn more about TA Success Days.](#)

Fully Funded International Learning Lab for Trainees in 2025

The **Transdisciplinary International Learning Lab (TILL)** is a fully funded international and intercultural learning experience for senior undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, building professional, relational, and intercultural skills in sustainability research and practice. It is being hosted by the [Garden Route Biosphere Reserve](#) in **South Africa**. Learners are welcomed from all disciplines.

TILL 2025 consists of an **Online Foundational Course** (April 14 - April 28, 2025) and an **Onsite Learning Lab Program** (May 3 - June 20, 2025). Participants will receive a monthly stipend and travel/accommodation expenses will be covered. Trainee applications will be accepted from **September 1 to October 15, 2024**.

Learn more at our upcoming information session:

Date: **Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

Time: **9 - 10:30 AM UTC-6** (Saskatchewan)

Location: **Virtual event**. Email transects@usask.ca to register. Anyone interested in learning more about TILL 2025 is welcome.

Visit our [webpage](#) to learn more about TILL 2025 and how to apply.

2024 Orange Shirt Day T-Shirts | Order yours at Shop USask

To help raise awareness and acknowledge the truth behind the Canadian residential school system, orange shirts are once again available through Shop USask in advance of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation taking place on Sept. 30.

Orders for orange shirts designed by local Cree/Saulteaux artist James Desjarlais are now available. To order shirts and learn more about the artwork, group discounts, order deadlines, and where proceeds will be directed, visit <https://shop.usask.ca/orange-shirt-day>

Registration is now open for the People Around the World (PAW) 2024 International Congress

USask is proud to be hosting the 6th annual PAW 2024 International Congress, October 16 - 18. PAW 2024 International Congress aims to advance USask's internationalization efforts in global research, sustainable partnerships and collaborative projects with partners around the world. This year's congress will explore the theme of the Food-Water-Energy nexus, using data as a cross-cutting concept to help address socio-cultural challenges occurring locally and globally. Bringing together experts and innovators, this event aims to share insights and help shape the future of sustainable solutions. Learn more and register [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LevelUP your skills | Professional Development offered by CGPS

Seamlessly integrated with USask's Learning Management System, our LevelUP dashboard offers you a diverse selection of [professional development](#) (PD) options. Choose from a variety of self-directed or face-to-face offerings tailored to your needs. [Sign up!](#)

Mitacs Training | Give yourself a competitive edge

Hone your professional skills by participating in [Mitacs Training](#). Open to past and present graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, Mitacs Training courses are free of charge and facilitated by industry leaders.

Learn about management, communication, entrepreneurship, and more. [Mitacs Training](#) offers asynchronous and synchronous courses that work with your schedule to help you gain a competitive edge.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Awards Workshops | Mark your calendar

CGPS is hosting a series of workshops to support graduate students applying to Tri-Agency scholarships. Workshops will be recorded and available on the CGPS website, so students who are not able to attend will still have access to the information provided at the workshop.

The workshops will cover the application process for the [Vanier scholarship](#), [Tri-Agency Doctoral scholarships](#), and [Tri-Agency Master's scholarships](#).

Registration for virtual workshops is not required, but students who register will receive a calendar invite and have the opportunity to submit specific questions for the Graduate Awards team in advance of the sessions.

[Register for workshops](#). Questions? Contact gradstudies.awards@usask.ca.

Get a headstart on your Tri-Agency application | Awards Q&A Workshop on Sept. 12

You can get a headstart on your Tri-Agency application by attending the Graduate Awards panel workshop on **September 12th from 1:30PM to 3:00PM in GEOL 255**.

This workshop aims to offer a comprehensive overview of the various scholarship programs provided by the Tri-Agencies. Panelists will provide lots of information including eligibility criteria, the application process, and strategies for crafting strong applications. You will also gain insights from faculty members who have supervised students and evaluated applications, hear from graduate students who have had successful applications, and get perspectives from staff who support scholarship application processes.

This event is open to everyone. [Let the Graduate Awards team know you're coming](#).

Deadline Clarification | Apply for the Governor General's Gold Medal by September 16, 2024

CGPS is pleased to announce that the Governor General's Gold Medal competition will now be held twice per academic year, with one award presented at both the fall and spring convocation ceremonies. This change will allow us to better celebrate the achievements of our PhD graduates.

Contact leah.johnson@usask.ca for any questions about this change.

External Awards Opportunities | Research Profile and Impact

External awards at the provincial, national and international level provide opportunities to recognize USask faculty for their research, scholarly and artistic achievements.

The Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) has developed a [directory of external awards available for application](#). If you are considering someone for an award, contact the [Institutional Awards Officer](#) so that they may offer support and track institutional nominations.

POSTDOC SCHOLARS

National Postdoc Appreciation Week | September 16 - 20, 2024

As a postdoctoral fellow, you are an essential part of the USask graduate community.

To acknowledge your unique contributions to the university, the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) is hosting a series of events in recognition of **National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) from September 16 - 20, 2024.**

Throughout the week, you are invited to join CGPS in a wide range of events intended to appreciate and celebrate your contribution to research and discovery at USask.

To view the full schedule events, visit the [Society of Postdoctoral Scholars \(SPS\) USask](#) website.

Society of Postdoctoral Scholars (SPS) - Call for Executive Members-at-Large

The SPS executive board is excited to announce the opening for up to 7 members-at-large to represent the postdoctoral community within and outside the university. Appointed by the executive committee, members-at-large will be responsible for specific initiatives undertaken by the SPS and will have voting rights on business resolutions. We have immediate openings for two (2) members-at-large:

1. **Member-at-large for The Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS)**, to represent USask postdocs at the national association. Duties include participation in CAPS meetings, developing strategy for representing USask postdoc interests, and coordinating with the SPS executive.
2. **Member-at-large for interim Operations**, to conduct the administrative operations of the SPS executive.

The 'member-at-large' resolution was recently adopted by the SPS executive as part of its efforts to expand the reach of the society's programming to the postdoctoral community and opening up more opportunities for postdocs to engage in service and representation of the community.

Please email your questions and interest in serving as member-at-large to Maria Rodriguez (mar895@mail.usask.ca) or Saurabh Biswas (saurabh.biswas@usask.ca).

SPS Travel Grant program launching in September

The SPS executive is delighted to announce that the SPS will be launching a travel assistance grant to support postdoctoral scholars in their travel for professional development (conferences, workshops, etc.). Stay tuned for more information about the program during Postdoc Appreciation Week from September 16th - 20th.

Postdoctoral Scholars on MS Teams | Start a conversation

Postdoctoral scholars, there is a new way to collaborate with your colleagues across campus. Get access to the Postdoc Link (MS Teams) and start a conversation!

[Join the Postdoc Link now.](#)

Society of Postdoctoral Scholars | Visit our website

Visit the Society of Postdoctoral Scholars (SPS) webpage for information about the society, representatives and employment resources. [Click here to visit their website.](#)

IN THE NEWS 

PATH TO PARIS: USask alum Shaw ready to race in Paralympics

Dr. Keely Shaw (PhD) amassed multiple medals and picked up passport stamps from Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Italy and Scotland over the past 12 months as she racked up the frequent flyer miles in preparation for the Paris Paralympics.



Along the way, the the prolific Para-cyclist also found the time to successfully defend her PhD thesis in December, started a new postdoctoral research position in January, and earned the prestigious Governor General's Gold Medal in May in an unforgettable year of athletic and academic achievement for the award-winning University of Saskatchewan alumna. [Read the full story.](#)

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