

Guy, Kassidy

From: Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <university.announcements@usask.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 3:35 PM
Subject: CGPS Operational Bulletin #60



Upcoming Deadlines

Feb. 23: [CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award - Nomination Deadline](#)

Feb. 23: [Robert P. Knowles Scholarship - Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 27: [Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship - Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 27: [Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarship - Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 27: [Teacher-Scholar Doctoral Fellowship - Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 27: [Distinguished Graduate Mentorship Award - Nomination Deadline](#)

Feb. 27: [Clement Employee Service Award - Nomination Deadline](#)

Mar. 6: [USask 3MT Virtual Preliminaries - Submission Deadline](#)

Upcoming Events

Feb. 18: [Why Generic Resumes Won't Get You a Job Offer | Beyond the Professoriate](#)

Feb. 18 - 19: [Resume & CV Writing | LevelUP PD by CGPS](#)

Feb. 23: [Science & Engineering Grad Night | Student Recruitment](#)

Feb. 24: [Health Science Winter Grad Night | Student Recruitment](#)

Feb. 25: [Professional Programs Grad Night | Student Recruitment](#)

Feb. 26: [Social Sciences/Humanities/Fine Arts Grad Night | Student Recruitment](#)

Updates

Ramadan Accommodation Information

Access and Equity Services (AES) has developed a guide for instructors on academic accommodations during Ramadan and Eid this year. [View the guide here](#). Please distribute this guide to faculty.

New Faculty Graduate Student Support Program

The New Faculty Graduate Student Support Program (NFGSSP) has recently changed.

As of May 1, 2026, funding from CGPS to support faculty recruitment and early success of new graduate faculty will be sent directly to colleges/schools who will then decide how to allocate annual funding to their new faculty. All inquiries about the NFGSSP should be directed to the Dean's/Executive Director's office of your college/school.

Visiting Research Student (VRS) Reminders

As we near the busy season with VRS admissions, a couple reminders in terms of processing these applications.

- **Before applying**, a VRS must have:
 - an identified faculty member who has agreed to serve as the research supervisor
 - a set of research objectives, and anticipated learning outcomes approved by the faculty supervisor
 - a [Visiting Research Student agreement](#), filled out and signed by student, USask faculty supervisor, and Department Head (or equivalent).
- VRS coming to USask for 6 months or less do not require a PAL
- VRS coming to USask for more than 6 months will require a PAL. VRS coming to USask for more than 6 months are advised to apply for a study permit regardless of their country of origin
- All VRS are strongly encouraged to contact ISSAC as soon as they receive their letter of admission to discuss immigration pathways

- Newly admitted students are to visit the CGPS office to register as soon as they arrive on campus

All VRS questions can be directed to marsharee.lawrence@usask.ca.

Policy

Policy Update: Supervision and Advisory Committees

Revisions to the [supervision and advisory committee policy](#) were approved at the January 2026 CGPS Faculty Council meeting. The changes are effective for advisory committees formed May 1, 2026 or later and units are encouraged to begin using the revised policy as soon as possible.

Revisions include:

- Role of additional and cognate members added to policy
- Role of cognate members: Must be a regular CGPS member (**cannot** be an adjunct faculty); in departmentalized colleges, must be from a different academic unit. There are now clear pathways for schools and non-departmentalized colleges to appoint cognate members.

Policy Update: Graduate Student Funding

Units opting into the CGPS 75th will be required to provide a **minimum funding commitment of \$25,000 per year (or more) for four years to all new PhD students**. Units are encouraged to provide funding increases to continuing PhD students where possible as well, but this is not required.

Units that will be unable to increase the minimum funding guarantee to \$25,000 per year for four years for **continuing** PhD students effective May 1, 2026 are asked to [contact CGPS](#) as soon as possible. We are happy to discuss potential ways in which CGPS may be able to support units and students in reaching this goal.

Program of Study

Students in master's programs may take a senior level undergraduate course, to be credited towards their program or for audit. The course(s) must be approved as part of their program of study prior to registering for the undergraduate course. Students who register for an undergraduate course not approved towards their program of study will be charged tuition for the course.

Limits to the number of allowable undergraduate course credits are posted in the [CGPS Policy Manual](#). **PhD students are not eligible** to take undergraduate courses towards their program of study.

Second Attempt of Candidacy Assessment (or Comprehensive Exam)

A student who does not satisfy the requirements of their candidacy assessment is permitted a second attempt at the recommendation of the academic unit and with the permission of the Dean of CGPS or designate.

Academic units must seek CGPS approval by submitting the form to request a [2nd Attempt at Candidacy Assessment \(or Comprehensive Exam\)](#).

Awards open for nomination

Distinguished Graduate Mentorship Award | Submit your nomination now

The Distinguished Graduate Mentorship Award honours USask graduate faculty who have demonstrated exceptional mentorship. These outstanding mentors inspire creativity, encourage innovative research, and guide graduate students toward making a meaningful impact on the future. Their influence is vital to the success of graduate students, both in academic settings and beyond.

The call for nominations is open until **February 27, 2026**. For more information, visit the [CGPS website](#).

Clement Employee Service Award | Now accepting nominations

The Clement Employee Service Award was established in memory of Kelly Clement to recognize the outstanding contributions of USask staff members to USask's graduate student community.

Nominees will demonstrate their commitment to supporting graduate students by pursuing goals and objectives that align with at least one of the three aspirational areas of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: achieving inclusive academic excellence, creating knowledge and skills, and rejuvenating relationships.

The call for nominations is open until **February 27, 2026**. For more information, visit the [CGPS website](#).

Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards | Submit a nomination by February 17

The [Canada Impact + Research Training Awards](#) (CIRTA) are now open for nomination.

The [CIRTA awards](#) are designed to attract and recruit exceptional international researchers at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels. By offering high-quality training opportunities in priority research areas, this initiative strengthens Canada's global research leadership and innovation ecosystem.

[Learn how to submit a nomination](#). The deadline to submit nominations is **February 17, 2026**.

Questions can be directed to [Leah Johnson](#), Director of Graduate Scholarships & Awards Services, CGPS.

Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellowship | Apply by February 23rd

The deadline to apply for the third round of applications for [Living Skies Fellowship](#) funding is **February 23, 2026**.

Living Skies supports transdisciplinary research that moves beyond traditional academic boundaries to address complex societal challenges and encourages projects that bring together experts from multiple disciplines and actively involve stakeholders outside the university setting.

For full competition guidelines, visit the [CGPS website](#). Questions can be directed to leah.johnson@usask.ca.

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

