



Important graduate studies information for programs and units

Microsoft Teams for Grad Students

MS Teams, currently available to faculty and staff, is now available to graduate students through an opt-in process via their PAWS MyProfile. MS Teams is considered an all-in-one collaborative solution for teamwork; from scheduling meetings, starting spontaneous chats, and easy syncing with Outlook and OneDrive. [MS Teams, group collaboration, and messaging info.](#)

Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries

Applications due August 8 for the following:

- [John Spencer Middleton and Jack Spencer Gordon Middleton Graduate Bursaries](#)
- [ESL Bursary for International Students](#)

Applications due September 15 for the following:

- **Bursaries for Continuing International Master's Students** - Students apply directly through the Scholarships and Bursaries channel in PAWS.

Visiting Research Student (VRS) Processing Times

Processing times for VRS admissions can vary significantly due to the highly specific nature of each application and the multiple points of contact our office has with applicants, prospective supervisors, and department heads during the process. From start to finish, the typical VRS application process takes between 2 and 3 weeks, however timely responses from units/faculty can reduce this timeframe significantly. Any VRS admission-related questions can be directed to kayla.schwartz@usask.ca.

Leaves Processing Changes

In light of the recent changes to Luis Corredor Duarte's portfolio and his taking on support for postdoctoral fellows on a permanent basis (in addition to his work with Interdisciplinary Studies), over the next several weeks we will be transitioning the processing of student leaves to the Graduate Program Advisors. There will be no changes to how units submit [Graduate Student Leave of Absence](#) notifications for CGPS processing, these will simply be processed by CGPS program advisors going forward. In situations where [additional time](#) is needed, units will work directly with their respective CGPS Program Advisors as well.

Students who are in need of additional support from CGPS (ie: those who are experiencing particular program or program-related challenges that cannot be addressed within the unit) are encouraged to contact Associate Dean Ryan Walker (ryan.walker@usask.ca).

Admissions Tips and Tricks

When reviewing the application file of a student who has completed a previous USask degree, remember to run an advising transcript. The advising transcript will include all courses/programs taken/completed at USask. An advising transcript can often present a fuller picture of the applicant's prior USask academic history, some of which can be missed in the transcript the student uploads as a PREL depending on when it was printed.

Based on user feedback, two new Crystal Reports have been developed for Graduate Administrators related to Admissions processing that include notifications of CGPS updates and notifications of Credential Evaluation updates from RMS. The reports were created to provide a reporting system with live information on the status of applications both waiting for CGPS decision and Credential evaluation status after the initial exploration of direct email notifications were found unsatisfactory.

Fall 2023 Admissions Blackout Dates

Just a reminder that all international student admission recommendations for the Fall 2023 term must be received by CGPS prior to August 15. If a student is recommended after those

dates, we will work with the unit to determine a subsequent start term that is convenient for the program/supervisor and student.

Please note that even if we receive a recommendation to admit an international student before the blackout period unless the student is already in Canada, it is unlikely that they will have time to submit their study permit application and receive their permit prior to the start of term. You can check the Government of Canada study permit processing times [here](#). All study permit-related questions can be directed to [ISSAC](#).

Update on CGPS Supports for Ukrainian and Iranian Applicants

As some of you may have noticed, information outlining specific supports for Ukrainian and Iranian applicants was recently removed from our homepage. However, if you are contacted by applicants or students from either location (or any location that is experiencing particularly significant disruptions that are having a direct impact on the applicant/student, please reach out to our office to discuss options.

The CGPS Operational Bulletin is delivered monthly to Graduate Administrators, Graduate Chairs, and Associate Deans Grad.