



Upcoming Deadlines

Apr. 8: [Teacher-Scholar Doctoral Fellowship](#) (extended)

Apr. 8: [Herbert Percy Toop Memorial Prize in Scientific Writing \(Department nomination\)](#)

Apr. 8: [WAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Award \(Department nomination\)](#)

Apr. 8: [WAGS ProQuest Innovation in Technology Award \(Thesis or Dissertation\) \(Department nomination\)](#)

Announcements

Please join us in welcoming Leah Johnson, Director of Scholarships and Awards Services and Tara Sandrino, Graduate Program Services Officer (GPSO) to CGPS effective April 8th, 2024.

[Contact CGPS.](#)

Kelly Clement Service Award

CGPS recognized Alison Kraft on March 28th from the Jane and Ron Graham Centre for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) as the 2023 recipient of the Clement Employee Service Award. [Read the full article here.](#)

Admissions

VRS Updated Process

On January 22, the Government of Canada announced changes to the study permit application process where most international students must include [a provincial attestation letter \(PAL\)](#) from the province or territory where they plan to study with their study permit application, unless exempt. **The PAL process does not apply to students pursuing Master's and Doctoral degrees.**

In mid-March, we received clarification that VRS students with terms exceeding six months, or those who will receive employment income as part of their VRS appointment, fall within the cap and require a PAL. Effective immediately CGPS will be processing all VRS admissions as 6-month stays. Due to the limited number of PALs allocated to USask, CGPS has adjusted the VRS admission process to ensure we comply with the new IRCC parameters. If a faculty member wishes to host a VRS for over six months please contact shakiba.jalal@usask.ca.

Given these recent changes, CGPS is working on additional longer-term updates to the VRS admission process, including updating our online information for prospective VRS and improving internal workflows. Once the revised process is finalized, updates will be made to the VRS pages and communicated to all units and programs. Completion of this work is expected within the next two weeks or as soon as the new RMS application is created.

In the meantime, if there are any VRS applicants that your units are aware of who are still awaiting processing, please complete the attached agreement form and send it to kayla.schwartz@usask.ca with all the pertinent information. These applications will be processed ASAP.

Deferrals and RMS

When deferring an application, please ensure that the recommendations are received first. If deferring an application before the recommendations are received, this creates an issue where the recommendation will be missing on the new application. [Please see the canvas training page on how to manage the recommendations.](#)

References in RMS

RMS underwent an upgrade to version 6.8 this month; a new requirement has been implemented as mandatory for all references to receive an access code before they can provide the recommendation. The access code is valid for 15 minutes. When a referee goes to the link provided to fill in the request, they are presented with a field to enter the code. The link will generate an access code before allowing the reference to leave the recommendation. The access code will only allow the reference 15 minutes to use the code, if the reference does not use the access code within the 15 minutes it will expire. There is

no “request new code” option, at which point the reference will need to provide the recommendation manually to the department to upload.

Operational Info

CGPS Policy and Procedures Manual

Changes to various CGPS policies and procedures have recently been approved through the CGPS graduate faculty council. While predominately editorial, the changes have been made to bring a student-centred focus to policy, clarify processes, and make policies more accessible. Please refresh your bookmarks and visit the online PPM at [CGPS Policies & Procedures Manual](#). Questions can be directed to chelsea.smith@usask.ca

Doctoral Alumni Study

By connecting with our recent and not-so-recent PhD graduates, CGPS and the broader USask community were able to both reengage this important group of alumni and gain valuable insights on their career progression since completing their studies with us. [Read the report](#).

Interdisciplinary Studies Keynote | April 3, 2024

AI is broken. There are serious ethical concerns related to the design and development of AI that demand repair. How can the AI space be repaired so the environmental consequences don't fall on marginalized communities?

The USask research community is invited to join Dr. Aimee van Wynsberghe (Alexander von Humboldt Professor for Applied Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, University of Bonn), for InterD keynote lecture, **Repairing AI for Environmental Justice**. [Learn more about the event](#).

CONTACT US

 cgps.usask.ca

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies
SASKATCHEWAN

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

SENT AT LEAST MONTHLY TO GRADUATE CHAIRS, ADMINISTRATIONS, AND ASSOCIATE DEANS FOR OPERATIONAL GRADUATE INFORMATION

 **Attachments:**
[VRS_2024.pdf](#)