
From: Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <university.announcements@usask.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 3:55 PM
Subject: CGPS Operational Bulletin #41



Plan ahead

Start planning for fall scholarships & awards. The call for fall 2024 is made in August with several reminders throughout the term. Have your students get a head start by visiting [Graduate Student Funding - College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](https://www.usask.ca/grad/graduate-student-funding/).

Call for Applications

The **2024-2025 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships competition is now open**. Designed to support world-class postdoctoral researchers who aspire to develop their leadership potential and position themselves for success as the research leaders of tomorrow. **The Banting PDF competition is highly competitive and includes a rigorous review and selection process.**

Value & Duration:

- **\$70,000** per year (taxable)
- **2 years** (non-renewable)

Banting deadlines:

- **June 10, 2024, 4:30 pm (CST) – Deadline for submission of the USask Notification of Intent (NOI) package.**

Nominees will be notified by June 28th if they have been selected to proceed to the full application stage.

- **July 22, 2024, 4:30 pm (CST) – Full Draft Application -**

Nominees will be notified by August 1st if their application is suitable for submission to the national competition.

- **September 17, 2024, 8:00 pm (EDT) – Final submission to Banting.**

More information on the application process is found at [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships - College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)

Spring 2024 Convocation

Thank you for reviewing and confirming graduating student records, and for signing up to volunteer at the [convocation](#). We look forward to seeing you during the convocation week, June 3 – June 7.

- **June 3, 2 pm:** College of Education
- **June 4, 9 am:** College of Arts and Science, Office of the Provost, and School of Public Health
- **June 4, 2 pm:** College of Arts and Science, School of Environment and Sustainability, and Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- **June 5, 9 am:** Edwards School of Business, and College of Law
- **June 5, 2 pm:** College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and Western College of Veterinary Medicine
- **June 6, 9 am:** Colleges of Kinesiology, Medicine, and Pharmacy and Nutrition
- **June 6, 2 pm:** Colleges of Dentistry, and Nursing
- **June 7, 9 am:** College of Engineering

On June 4th, CGPS hosts its annual Celebration of Graduating Doctoral Students.

Invitations have been delivered directly to graduating PhD students and their supervisors. More about this event can be found [here](#).

Process and Policy Updates

Visiting Research Student (VRS)

In May 2024, VRS application, admission and registration procedures have changed.

Highlights include:

- A supervisor is identified and a VRS agreement is included as a supplemental item on the application
- For an international student seeking admission longer than 6 months, a provincial attestation letter (PAL) will be required for study permit purposes. CGPS processes VRS PAL endorsements and inquiries should be sent to Shakiba Jalal at shakiba.jalal@usask.ca
- Newly admitted students are to visit the CGPS office to register in the VRS placeholder course and ISSAC no longer supports this step

For more information visit [Visiting Research Student - College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)

Federal STRAC Policy Compliance

Improvements have been made to the [one-time approval](#) and [memo to schedule graduate defense](#) tickets. Changes include:

- On the one-time approval ticket, the Department Head was added as an additional approver. A STRAC due diligence statement and an “I Agree” radio button were also added.
- On the PhD Memo to Schedule Graduate Defense, the Department Head was added as an approver as well as a STRAC due diligence statement regarding the recommendation of the external examiner, along with an “I Agree” radio button.
- Removal of a question about which committee structure a PhD defense will follow, as we are now fully utilizing the new structure as of May 1.

Candidacy Assessment Reminder

Effective May 1, 2024, the requirement for a doctoral candidacy assessment to be completed within 24- months replaced the requirement for comprehensive exams.

Questions and updated candidacy assessment guidelines can be sent to [Chelsea Smith](#) or [Jaswant Singh](#). Visit [Candidacy Assessment Changes](#) for more information.

Migrating from Jira to Team Dynamix (TDX)

TeamDynamix (TDX), the new Enterprise Service Management (ESM) tool at USask, will replace Jira Service Management (JSM). The CGPS Support Desk, currently implemented on Jira, plans to fully transition to TDX in the summer of 2024. Jira will remain accessible for viewing closed tickets, while all active tickets will be migrated to TDX.

This transition provides an opportunity for CGPS to review and make slight modifications to all Support Desk forms. To gather suggestions and improvements, a survey will be sent to Graduate Administrators in June.

Membership Renewal Period

Every spring we contact units to ensure membership appointments to CGPS are updated. Appointments to the CGPS faculty are made in five-year terms (July through June) and are renewable by unit head recommendation. Please stay tuned as those notices are distributed to your respective units.

Effective immediately all new appointment recommendations must use the recently updated [GPS 501](#) form. As of July 1, 2024, ICT is implementing a fee for software services to offset [licensing costs for Adjunct Professors](#). The College/School/or Department will be responsible for covering the annual licensing costs associated with the service requested. If you need assistance with this new requirement, please contact your [IT Coordinator](#).

External Examiner Fund

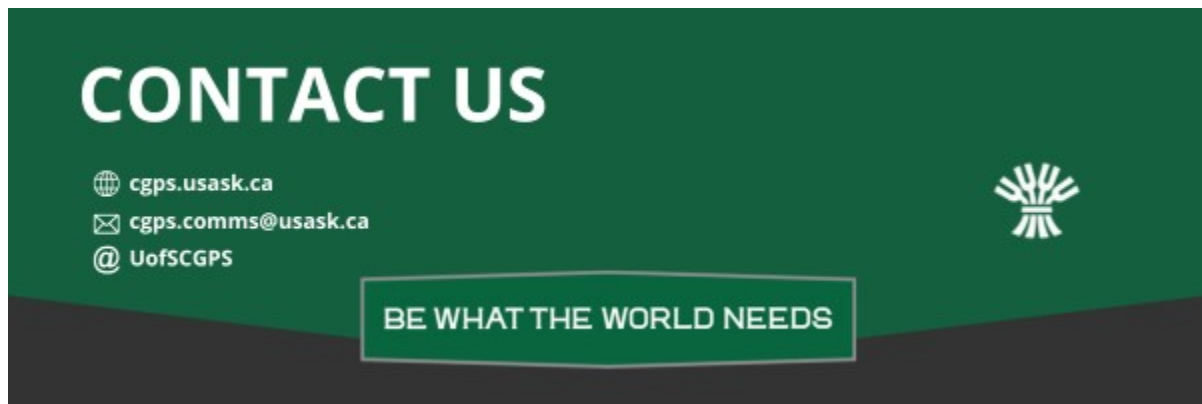
The CGPS External Examiner Fund supports the travel of approved External Examiners to USask to participate in PhD defences. These terms of reference can be found on the CGPS PAWS Channel under \$ Reimagine Graduate Funding Resources/Terms of Reference. A few highlights of the changes, effective immediately, include:

- As a result of significant increases in travel costs, we have increased the maximum amount provided by CGPS to support the travel of External Examiners who are traveling to USask to attend in-person PhD defence to \$2,500;
- External examiners must deliver a lecture, seminar, or keynote talk in the student's home department to be eligible for the CGPS funding; and
- To acknowledge the contributions of external examiners an honorarium of up to \$500 may also be provided if appropriate.

Departments remain able and are encouraged to top up funding provided to External Examiners as necessary.

If you have any questions about these changes or the External Examiner Fund in general, please reach out to the fund approver, [Leah Johnson](#), CGPS Director of Graduate Scholarship and Awards Services.

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



CONTACT US

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BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

The banner features a dark green background with a white globe icon, an envelope icon, and a social media icon. The UofSCGPS logo is positioned on the right side. The slogan 'BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS' is enclosed in a white-bordered box at the bottom center.