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## Important graduate studies information for programs and units

### Special Response Fund for Trainees (Ukraine)

The Government of Canada has [announced](#) special funding, in the form of supplements to existing research grants, that will provide relief and assistance to research trainees from Ukraine.

The Special Response Fund for Trainees (Ukraine) is administered by Canada's three federal research funding agencies – the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) – and provides support to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers directly impacted by the Russian regime's invasion of Ukraine.

Specifically, this temporary funding will help trainees currently in Canada who were expected to return to Ukraine in 2022 but cannot due to the current crisis, as well as trainees currently in Ukraine who wish to continue their planned studies and research in Canada.

Active and eligible grant-holders can apply for this special supplement by completing and submitting a short application [form](#). The fund will allow up to \$20,000 for the master's level, \$25,000 for the doctoral level and up to \$45,000 for the postdoctoral level and will be

in the form of supplements for salaries and stipends that may extend for up to one year. Applications will be accepted using a continuous intake up to December 22, 2022.

- **NSERC grant-holders:** For further information visit NSERC's webpage on the [Special Response Fund for Trainees \(Ukraine\)](#).
- **CIHR grant-holders:** For further information visit CIHR's webpage on the [Special Response Fund for Trainees \(Ukraine\) – Information for CIHR Grant Holders](#).
- **SSHRC grant-holders:** Please use the following link to access SSHRC's webpage for more information on the [Special Response Fund for Trainees \(Ukraine\)](#).

### **Updates to the ETD Upload Process**

To better conform with Library and Archives Canada requirements, students must now indicate the language in which their thesis/dissertation was written when uploading to the ETD site. Students will simply select a language from a dropdown menu in the Document Information section. Detailed ETD submission information can be found [here](#).

### **Registration for Dual Degree Students**

Beginning May 1, students who are pursuing a formal dual degree program will be able to register in a special placeholder class at USask during the portion(s) of their program in which they are studying and registered at the partner institution. This placeholder class will assess student fees and enable students to maintain full-time status but will not assess tuition – preventing students from being required to pay tuition to both institutions simultaneously. Only CGPS staff can register students in this placeholder, so please be sure to notify your CGPS Programs Advisor if/when one of your Dual Degree students confirms their registration at the partner institution.

### **Scholarship Competition - Spring/Summer Term Deadlines**

May 9, 2022

- [COGECO Graduate Communications Scholarship](#)
- [Frederick Wheeler & WHT Spary Graduate Scholarship](#)
- [George & Arlene Loewen Family Bursary](#)
- [Gerry Rempel Graduate Scholarship](#)
- [Harvey Graduate Scholarship](#)
- [Ivan & Margaret Toutloff Bursary](#)
- [John Larson Cancer Research Trust](#)
- [Muriel J. Clancy Bursary](#)
- [Robert Guy Memorial Scholarship](#)

- [Robert Stoddart Memorial Scholarship](#)

June 30, 2022

- [Graduate Research Fellowships \(GRFs\)](#)
- [Graduate Teaching Fellowships \(GTFs\)](#)

August 1, 2022

- [English as a Second Language \(ESL\) Bursary – Fall 2022](#)
- [John Spencer Middleton & Jack Spencer Gordon Middleton Graduate Bursary](#)

### **Updates from Access and Equity Services (AES)**

This spring, students registered with AES and instructors will have access to a new web-based system called Accommodate to help manage academic accommodations.

More than 2,800 students are registered with AES, and that number continues to grow. Unlike the current system, which is nearing the end of its life, Accommodate can support these growing numbers in a more streamlined way.

Using Accommodate, instructors will be able to:

- automatically receive Letters to Professors directly within the Accommodate system,
- upload exams and instructions for invigilators,
- view students enrolled in their classes and sort by accommodation status, and
- view notes student volunteers upload.

Using Accommodate, **students** registered with AES will be able to:

- easily share which accommodations they require with instructors through their Letters to Professors within the Accommodate system,
- request appointments via online booking with their AES advisor,
- submit and manage AES exam requests through Accommodate, and
- access approved AES programs and accommodations within the Accommodate system.

As a reminder, the University of Saskatchewan is guided by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and is required to provide accommodations to students who experience barriers to their education on the basis of prohibited grounds. For more information on the duty to accommodate and the roles and responsibilities of the university community, please review USask's [Duty to Accommodate policy](#).

## **Graduate Student Hiring and Pay Changes**

Thank you for your continued support as ConnectionPoint and campus partners continue to enhance the employment experience for Graduate Students. If you have any questions about the changes listed below you can submit a [General Request](#) eForm or a [Request Virtual One-on-One Support](#) eForm to arrange a Microsoft Teams meeting with a ConnectionPoint specialist.

### **1. Offer Letter Requirement – May 1, 2022 hires**

Supervisors and/or those processing the Graduate Student hire will be required to use the [PSAC Letter of Offer templates](#) located in Knowledge Base for both casual and term appointments. Alternatively, you may submit a [Create a Letter of Offer \(PSAC – Graduate Students\)](#) eForm and ConnectionPoint will prepare the letter of offer on your behalf. This change supports the university's commitment to providing consistent messaging to our Graduate Students that enhances their onboarding experience.

### **2. Casual (Hourly) vs Term Appointments**

For May 1, 2022 appointments, Graduate Students can be hired as either casual hourly paid (if the appointment has unscheduled or unpredictable hours) or as term employees (with standard hours per week or per term, averaged and paid over the duration of their employment agreement).

### **3. Term Appointments**

Starting April 6, 2022, departments will be able to submit Electronic Job Submissions (pay actions) and select "Term" as an option in About-US when hiring a PSAC Graduate Student with an effective date of May 1, 2022, or later.

Alternatively, starting April 1, 2022 departments can choose to submit [Hire a Person](#) and [Submit a Separation](#) eForms for PSAC Graduate Student hires with an effective date of May 1 or later. ConnectionPoint will then submit the EJS on your behalf.

Graduate Students with a term appointment will be paid like other salaried employees on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the last day of the month. They will not have total hours of work reflected on their pay stubs; instead, they will see their hourly rate of pay converted into a salary equivalent amount, which will be identified as their semi-monthly gross pay.

### **4. Casual (Hourly) Appointments**

Departments will continue to submit Electronic Job Submissions for Graduate Students hired into casual appointments. Graduate Students will be required to report their hours for

approval by their supervisor in accordance with [payroll processing timelines](#). This process remains the same.

### **Aurora Now Part of the Grad Hub**

In an innovative approach to preparing graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to adapt to a post-pandemic job market, the College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies has partnered with [Beyond the Professoriate](#) and is offering free access to the Aurora career-exploration platform. All USask Aurora users are invited to attend BtPs spring career conference free of charge! [Find out more here.](#)

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The CGPS Operational Bulletin is sent to Graduate Administrators and Graduate Chairs

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