

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES  
NEWSLETTER

**College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies | Bulletin Aug 16-21**

College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <lori.lisitza@usask.ca>



## Important graduate studies information for students, programs and units

### Updates to the USask COVID-19 Webpage

The COVID-19 webpage has been updated in preparation for the fall term. Be sure to check out the **Graduate Students** (<https://covid19.usask.ca/info/current/graduate-students.php>) section for the latest information relevant to graduate students and graduate programs.

### Awards and Scholarship Information

The deadlines for this year's Tri-Agency competitions are:

- **Vanier** (<https://vanier.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>) – Monday, September 27, 2021, at 7 pm CST Apply through **ResearchNet** (<https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/LoginServlet>).
- **Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral program** ([https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSD-BESCD\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSD-BESCD_eng.asp)) – Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7 pm CST
- CIHR – apply through **ResearchNet** (<https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/LoginServlet>).
- NSERC – apply through **NSERC Online Services** ([https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp)).

- SSHRC – apply through **SSHRC Web-based Forms** ([https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en\\_CA](https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en_CA)).
- **Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s program** ([https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp)) – Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 7 pm CST. Apply through **ResearchPortal** (<https://portal-portail.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/>).

Additional details will be distributed in the coming week.

Students, please be reminded that you must be registered in your graduate program no later than Monday, August 30, 2021, to ensure your payroll is processed by USask's August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

If a student has never before been paid by the USask, we will need a copy of their Direct Deposit form. For international students, we will also need a copy of their study permit and their Canadian residential address. This information can be sent via our Jira **e-form**

(<https://jira.usask.ca/servicedesk/customer/portal/7/create/237>). Questions

may be directed to **Grad Awards**

(<https://jira.usask.ca/servicedesk/customer/portal/7/create/227>).

### **Termination of the Graduate Student Tuition Instalment Plan (GSTIP)**

[Distributed July 14, 2021] After careful consideration, and in light of the lowering of late tuition payment penalties in 2020, and declining participation in the program, Student Finance and Awards (SFA) will be terminating the Graduate Student Tuition Instalment Plan (GSTIP) for fall and winter terms going forward. This follows a decision to terminate the spring/summer GSTIP plan earlier this year. The GSTIP required a large number of staff hours to operate and the financial benefit to participating students was small.

The GSTIP allowed graduate students to apply to pay their tuition in three equal installments over the course of the term rather than all at once. Students paid a \$40 administration fee to participate. The \$40 administration fee covered either one term (fall or winter) or both terms. As an example, a student with a fall term tuition assessed at \$3,000 (higher than the average assessed amount for 95% of students who enrolled in the program last year) could under the GSTIP pay \$1,000 in each of October, November, and December. Going forward, without the GSTIP in place, the same student can still decide to split their tuition and fees payments into three installments of \$1,000 in the fall term, and under the new, lower tuition payment penalties they would be charged a total of \$55.70 in late

fees and interest. The total cost difference in this case when compared to the GSTIP is \$15.70 for one term. If the student had applied to use the GSTIP over both fall and winter terms, the total cost difference would be \$71.40.

However, please note that if you do not pay your tuition and fees in full by the payment deadline each term, a hold will be placed on your account until the balance is paid in full. Further details on hold implications can be found **here** (<https://students.usask.ca/money/tuition-fees/pay.php#Latepayments>).

Should you have any questions about tuition assessments or payment options, please contact **student\_accounts@usask.ca** ([mailto:student\\_accounts@usask.ca](mailto:student_accounts@usask.ca)).

### **CanTEST is No Longer Offered**

Effective August 15th, 2021, the CanTEST standardized test of English proficiency is discontinued. As a result, the Language Centre is no longer offering the test or test preparation materials. Students who have already taken the CanTEST will still be able to use their scores to prove English language proficiency provided the testing date is within 24 months of the student's first term of registration in a graduate program.

### **New Graduate Bridging Opportunity**

Starting in the 2021 Fall Term, the USask Language Centre is offering **Graduate Bridging** (<https://grad.usask.ca/admissions/graduate-bridging.php>) as an opportunity for students who are conditionally admitted to a graduate program to meet the **English language proficiency requirement** (<https://grad.usask.ca/admissions/admission-requirements.php#Englishlanguageproficiencyrequirements>). News about this class will be shared with eligible students in the near future and will include the admission and registration process. Any questions about Graduate Bridging can be directed to **uslc.registration@usask.ca** (<mailto:uslc.registration@usask.ca>).

## **More information for students and postdoctoral fellows**

## Fall Welcome 2021

All new students starting in the 2021 Fall Term are invited to participate in the **Fall Welcome** (<https://students.usask.ca/events/welcome.php#Collegesessions>). activities. Don't miss out on what's going on in USask's graduate community by attending the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies events listed in the attached flyer, and remember to visit **the Grad Hub** (<https://cgps.usask.ca/onboarding/>), often for updates.

## TA Success Days - September 7-9, 2021

This event is a selection of workshops focused on developing specific skills and knowledge relevant for those in a Teaching Assistant (TA) role. Topics include marking effectively; lesson planning; and facilitating labs, problem-set tutorials, and seminars. Attendance will be recognized on the co-curricular record when you attend three or more sessions. TA Success Days workshops will be held remotely.

See the full schedule and register online through our webpage: **TA Success Days** (<https://teaching.usask.ca/events/graduate/ta-success-days.php>).

## 3MP | The 3 Minute Postdoc Competition

Postdocs, join the university-wide friendly competition where competitors will have 1 static slide and 3 minutes to explain the breadth and significance of their postdoctoral research to a non-specialist audience to showcase their research to the USask community. Get more info on **how to participate here** (<https://cgps.usask.ca/events/3-minute-postdoc-competition.php#About>).

### ATTACHMENTS:

 **welcome\_events.pdf**

([https://portalapps.usask.ca/announcements/attach/2402292/welcome\\_events.pdf](https://portalapps.usask.ca/announcements/attach/2402292/welcome_events.pdf))