

**From:** College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies <university.announcements@usask.ca>  
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## Important graduate studies information for programs and units

### CGPS Main Office

The CGPS Main Office is now open to walk-in traffic Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Graduate students and staff will continue to have the option to access all CGPS supports and services virtually, as they have been doing throughout the pandemic, should they prefer.

### External Examiner Travel

With the reopening of many travel corridors, some committees have indicated their plan to have External Examiners join them in person for defences this spring/summer. The CGPS will continue to make available up to \$2,000 in funding to support the travel of External Examiners for PhD defences. However, please remember that all visitors to campus must follow USask's [vaccination measures](#) and [masking requirements](#). These requirements will be in place until April 30, 2022, at which time new expectations will be announced.

### 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. [Find out more here.](#)

## Advisory Committee Changes

A set of changes to enhance advisory committee composition and thesis/dissertation defence processes for master's and Ph.D. programs was approved by CGPS Council in January 2022. Key changes and implementation dates are summarized [here](#).

## Graduate Student Hiring and Pay Changes

In response to numerous concerns raised by Graduate Students and departments, PSAC and the University have signed a new Memorandum of Agreement allowing the University to improve Graduate Student hiring processes. To that end, **effective May 1, 2022, the option of hiring Graduate Students into a term or hourly; and casual appointments will resume** allowing a more consistent onboarding process and desirable payroll practices for Graduate Student Employees. Targeted communications regarding the impact of this change are currently underway in a joint effort between Labour Relations, Public Service Alliance of Canada, College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, and ConnectionPoint.


Additionally, further review of potential causes of pay delays for Graduate Students identified several pinch points. One factor discovered was that Graduate Students were potentially not aware of how their pay was processed nor when it would be paid which includes their requirement to be registered in their graduate program before payroll cutoff dates to ensure pay actions can proceed. See the attached process flow document for an illustration of typical touchpoints within USask's Graduate Student payroll streams.

To support the hiring process several tools are being developed that include refreshed templates, KnowledgeBase articles, visual aids and a collaborative communication approach with the intent to improve the overall student experience and to provide support to departments. In the meantime, if you have any questions, these can be directed to [cgps.eo@usask.ca](mailto:cgps.eo@usask.ca) to triage on behalf of the collaborators.

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

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 **Attachments:**  
[studentpayment\\_processflow.pdf](#)