

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES  
NEWSLETTER

### CGPS Operational Bulletin - June Issue 17

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



## Important graduate studies information for programs and units

### International admission offers and requests for unconditional letters

We've been receiving an unusually high number of requests to reissue unconditional offer letters after an applicant satisfies all conditions listed in their offer letter. As a result of this increase, we've been working with our colleagues in ISSAC to track and better understand why we are receiving these requests. ISSAC has been meeting with each admitted student to get a better understanding of their request. Based on the individuals they have met with thus far, all requests are coming from admitted students who are working with agents that are following outdated guidelines - the 2018 paper study permit application process. However, paper applications are no longer accepted by IRCC and the process has changed. All study permit applicants must apply online. ISSAC continues to provide updated information to these applicants and assist them through the process.

Based on ISSAC's knowledge and experience, international students can apply for study permits with both conditional and unconditional offers, although conditional offers are far more common. Study permit application reviews involve more than just the offer letter. The onus is on the applicant to prove they meet the requirements set by the IRCC for a successful study

permit application, which also includes proof of funds and identity, criminal and medical checks, travel history, examples of social and economic ties to home country, etc.

Please continue to direct all study permit related questions to

**[international.students@usask.ca](mailto:international.students@usask.ca)**

**[\(mailto:international.students@usask.ca\)](mailto:international.students@usask.ca)**.

### **Updated Graduate Administrator Checklists for Master's and PhD Defences**

As part of Angela's work on updating the Graduate Program Administrator Handbook the advisors have updated the grad admin checklists for both Master's and PhD defences. The updated versions will be included in the updated handbook when it is released later this summer, but copies are attached here for those Graduate Administrators who would like to begin using them now. Please be sure to delete any previous version you may have or be using.

### **Registration in MSTA 001 Courses**

As a follow up to a discussion at the recent Graduate Administrator Forum we've reached out to Student Central to confirm the process when a student needs to be registered in an MSTA 001 prior to the add/drop deadline. In these cases, this request should be sent by the department/unit/program to Student Central via email. The 'Request a Class Override' Jira form should only be used when a student needs to register in an MSTA 001 course after the add/drop deadline.

### **RMS Recruit Q & A Session**

Whether you are new to Recruit or interested in asking a few specific questions based on your experience working with the system, plan to attend the Recruit Q&A Session hosted by SIS and CGPS on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Kayla Schwartz will be sending out a Teams invite in the next few days to all Graduate Program Administrators. This is your chance to ask SIS Analysts any Recruit-related questions. This session will be recorded for those who are unable to attend, and we are planning to schedule a second session sometime later in the summer.

### **2022-2023 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Competition**

**<https://cgps.usask.ca/postdocs/pdf-fellowship/banting-fellowship.php>**

Launched by the Vanier-Banting Secretariat, this program offers funding for individuals with PhD, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree completion between September 15, 2019 and September 30, 2023 (inclusive) and is open to both Canadian and international researchers. The Banting PDF competition is highly competitive and includes a rigorous internal review and selection process.

Important dates:

- June 15, 2022 – USask Notification of Intent (NOI) package deadline
- July 25, 2022 – Full Draft Application deadline (for applicants selected at the NOI stage)
- September 21, 2022 – Final submission to Banting (must be endorsed by USask)

**Find competition details here. (<https://cgps.usask.ca/postdocs/pdf-fellowship/banting-fellowship.php>).**

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

June 30, 2022

#### **Graduate Research Fellowships (GRFs)**

**(<https://students.usask.ca/money/awards/graduate-awards.php?award=301368GS03#myScholarships>).**

#### **Graduate Teaching Fellowships (GTFs)**

**(<https://students.usask.ca/money/awards/graduate-awards.php?award=ND5043G#myScholarships>).**

August 1, 2022

#### **English as a Second Language (ESL) Bursary – Fall 2022**

**(<https://students.usask.ca/money/awards/graduate-awards.php?award=ND5021G#myScholarships>).**

**John Spencer Middleton & Jack Spencer Gordon Middleton Graduate Bursary (<https://students.usask.ca/money/awards/graduate-awards.php?award=301357GB02#myScholarships>).**

### **EDI Project Information**

CGPS is undergoing a review of its policies and procedures through an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) lens. The college is currently consulting with graduate students, staff, and faculty in identifying barriers and pain points created in graduate student experiences through the student life cycle (e.g., from admission to convocation). As part of this

process, we have created a survey for students to describe their experiences with CGPS and USask. Please share the following link with graduate students within your unit: <https://ca.research.net/r/YCCZ5WC> (<https://ca.research.net/r/YCCZ5WC>).

You can also find more information on the EDI project (including a survey for graduate stakeholders) on the CGPS webpage: <https://cgps.usask.ca/administration/governance/edi-project.php> (<https://cgps.usask.ca/administration/governance/edi-project.php>).

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

 [PhDDefenceChecklistJune2022.pdf](https://portalapps.usask.ca/announcements/attach/2487825/PhDDefenceChecklistJune2022.pdf)

(<https://portalapps.usask.ca/announcements/attach/2487825/PhDDefenceChecklistJune2022.pdf>)

 [MastersDefenceChecklistJune2022.pdf](https://portalapps.usask.ca/announcements/attach/2487825/MastersDefenceChecklistJune2022.pdf)

(<https://portalapps.usask.ca/announcements/attach/2487825/MastersDefenceChecklistJune2022.pdf>)

This announcement will be sent to:




**Roles:**

CGSR\_GRAD\_CHAIR

CGSR\_STAFF

CGSR\_SECRETARY

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By: Lori Lisitza

**STATUS:**

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**SUCCESS**

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## Training & Support Resources

- **PAWS Targeted Announcer Training Manual**

## Contact Us

For technical support, contact **ICT Service Desk**

For help with an announcement, contact **paws.announce@usask.ca**

Last Published: Tue 07 Jun 2022 05:11:27 PM CST

Revision: 3.2.15.1654643487

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