Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Environment

Annual Report of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, May 2018

Current Enrollment:

The Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Environment continues to attract high quality applications and admits. The *Dean’s Doctoral Initiative* (DDI) has continued into the fourth year. 17 Research clusters were created that helps students to identify research areas and find potential supervisors. In 2017, 163 Masters and 29 doctoral (full-time equivalent) students joined our programs, thus bringing our total complement or student headcount to 590 graduate students in the Faculty (up from 560 in 2016). Of these 166 are pursuing their doctoral degree, and 126 are international students. The number of international students has doubled since 2014. Females contribute highly to our graduate programs with 360 or 61% of total enrolment. When weighing part-time students as 0.3 units, the total full-time equivalent (FTE) in Fall 2017 was 470 graduate students (Figure 1).

![Chart Title](image_url)

*Figure 1: Full-time Equivalent Graduate Student Enrolment in the Faculty of Environment on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 (government count date).*
Demand:

The trend in the demand for our graduate programs continues to grow and has almost quadrupled since 2001-02 with currently over 600 applications for both Masters and Doctoral programs (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Number of Applications, 2001 – 2017

Number of Applications, 2001 - 2017

Note: The above graph excludes applications for the Graduate Diploma in Social Innovation that operated for three years – an additional 42, 41 and 84 applications (this is now closed). It also excludes applications to the doctoral program in Global Governance.

Doctoral recruitment: Already in 2017, to attract high quality applicants, our Dean, Jean Andrey, had increased guaranteed funding of $100,000 for the DDI students across the four years. This amount continues to be offered in 2018. In addition, for 2018 admits, new funding for exceptional domestic doctoral students was introduced. An entrance award is offered to all domestic PhD applicants with a GPA of 85% and above. The University also committed extra funding to top up this offer that allowed potential supervisors of outstanding candidates to apply for the Exceptional Doctoral Students Scholarship (EDSS), worth $10,000 each. Out of the 23 applications, 15 EDSS were given out. Five received the Provost Doctoral Award for Women (PDEA).

Thus, it is no surprise that our number of high quality applications increased by 32%. As of 1st May, total doctoral applications for Fall 2018 are 134 (68 are domestic students), as compared to a total of 91 applications in the previous year. The highlights are as follows:

- Our PhD domestic applicant pool has gone up from 33% last year to 52% this year;
- We have made 52 offers, as compared to 28 at this time last year, of these 44 are domestic
- We have 40 offers accepted, compared to 5 at this time last year; of these 35 are domestic;

Masters recruitment: Increased funding was earmarked for 2018 admits, once again to attract strong applicants. Students with a GPA between 80-84% receive three Teaching Assistantships (worth $23,000 across the two years of study). In addition, students with a GPA of 85% and above receive an entrance scholarship of $5,000 (total package in this case amounts to $28,000). Masters applications for Fall 2018 are 523, as compared to 495 in 2017, and 434 in 2016. The highlights are as follows:
• Of the total 523 applications, 268 are domestic; the domestic pool has remained more or less constant, that is, ca. 50% of total;
• As of 1st May, we have made 198 offers, and of these 151 offers are domestic (76%), and this is ongoing;
• We have 108 offers accepted, compared to 43 at this time last year; of these 76 are domestic;

Program changes:

• In February 2018, the Quality Council approved the new doctoral program in *Sustainability Management* in the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (SEED). SEED has started to admit students starting Fall 2018.

• In April 2018, the Quality Council approved to commence the one-year Graduate Diploma (Type 3) in *Climate Risk Management* in GEM.

Changes in the Grad team:

• On 1st September 2017, Olaf Weber took over as Graduate Officer for SEED.
• On 1st September, Claudette DeMaere joined SEED as Grad Coordinator on secondment (from Plant Operations) as Janine Dietrich went on secondment to the Stratford campus.
• Between 1st July and 31st December, Simon Courtenay served as the Grad Officer for SERS, and from 1st January 2018, Derek Armitage was appointed as Grad officer when the former went on Sabbatical.
• A new position – *Grad Marketing and Recruitment Specialist* – was created in the Dean’s office, and on 15th January, Christina Pope was the first to occupy this position.

Other highlights:

❖ A highly successful open house recruitment event was organized on 1st November 2017 with about 100 attendees.

❖ The University of Waterloo organized a *Grad Visit Day* on 21st March, in which ENV actively participated. Top students who had received offers of admission were invited to the campus (with all costs paid) to meet potential supervisors and be introduced to campus life.

❖ Samantha Biglieri, a doctoral student in the School of Planning, presented at the campus-wide GRADtalks on 28th September by speaking on “Beyond 60: Health, Ageing and Well-being”.

❖ The 3MT heat for Environment: Eleven students participated in the ENV Heat, which was held on 2nd March. The winner was Percy Korsah, a Ph.D student in Geography, who presented his research on “Effect of linear disturbances on peatland function” (supervisor:
Prof. Maria Strack. He went on to represent the Faculty at the UW final on March 21st and received the Peoples Choice Award. The presentations were excellent this year.

**Scholarship Recipients:**

a) NSERC Doctoral recipient: Nicole Balliston (GEM)  
b) SSHRC Doctoral recipient: Nicholas Mercer (GEM)  
c) Tri-Agency recipients: Margot Flemming (GEM), Emily Prystupa (GEM), Ariane Dilay (SERS), Sara Ganowski (SERS), Robert Godfrey (SEED), and Brayden Wilson (PLAN)  
d) Ontario Trillium Scholarship (OTS): Stephanie Cruz Maysonet (SERS)  
e) Other scholarships received by Environment students include Balsillie Doctoral Scholarships, CIGI Junior Fellowships, Energy Council of Canada, RBC Water Scholarships, RS Dorney Memorial (UW), Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship, Bruce Mitchell Graduate Scholarship (Geography), George Mulamoottil Graduate Scholarship (Environment), David Johnston International Experience Awards, McConnell Foundation, Pragma

**Internationalization:**

- Dean’s Office contributed travel assistance to 93 grad students; 62 presented at international conferences in 10 countries: 3 in France; 1 in Spain; 3 in the Netherlands; 4 in the UK; 1 in Sweden; 1 in Norway; 1 in the Philippines; 1 in the Bahamas; 2 in Jamaica; 45 in the US.

Special thanks to the graduate team for the collaborative work and their efforts to contribute to the Faculty’s vision of delivering high quality education and enrich student experience.