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 fifth year. Our 17 Research clusters continue to help students identify research areas and find potential supervisors. In 2018, 135.4 Masters and 55.2 doctoral (full-time equivalent) students joined our programs, thus bringing our total complement or student headcount to 633 graduate students in the Faculty (up from 590 in 2018). Of these 205 are pursuing their doctoral degree, and 131 are international students. The number of international students has doubled since 2014. Females contribute highly to our graduate programs with 381 or 60% of total enrolment. When weighing part-time students as 0.3 units, the total full-time equivalent (FTE) in Fall 2018 was 510 graduate students (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Full-time Equivalent Graduate Student Enrolment in the Faculty of Environment on 1st November 2018 (government count date).
**Demand:**

The trend in the demand for our graduate programs continues to grow and has almost quadrupled since 2001-02. We received over 600 applications for both Masters and Doctoral programs for Fall 2018, and for Fall 2019 we are currently at 583 (Figure 2).

![Figure 2: Number of Applications, 2001 – 2019](image)

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:** In 2018, to continue to attract high quality applicants, our Dean, Jean Andrey, offered guaranteed funding of $100,000 for the DDI students across the four years. In addition, a new entrance award worth $10,000 for exceptional domestic doctoral students (admissions average ≥ 85%) was introduced, which continues for Fall 2019. 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. We gave out 14 such awards in 2018.

Total doctoral applications for Fall 2018 were 128 (68 domestic), up from 100 for Fall 2017 (39 domestic). As of April 23, total doctoral applications for Fall 2019 are 117 (41 are domestic). The highlights are as follows:

- Our PhD domestic applicant pool grew from 39% in 2017 to 59% in 2018 and has decreased to 35% in 2019;
- Our offers grew from 28 in 2017 to 44 in 2018 and have decreased to 27 in 2019 (based on April data for each year);
- Our accepted offers grew from 5 in 2017 to 31 (28 domestic) in 2018 and have decreased to 21 (12 domestic) in 2019 (based on April data for each year).
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).

For 2019, increased funding was offered for both domestic research masters students and non-thesis or professional masters programs. Domestic research masters students with high academic averages are eligible for funding packages worth approximately $15,200 to up to $27,800. Non-thesis or professional masters students with high academic averages are eligible for entrance awards worth $2,000 to up to $5,000.

Masters applications for Fall 2019 are 465, as compared to 507 in 2018, and 495 in 2017. The highlights are as follows:

• The domestic applicant pool has remained more or less constant, that is, ca. 50% of total. For Fall 2018, of the total 507 applications, 261 are domestic; For Fall 2019, of the total 465 applications, 216 are domestic.
• As of April 23, we have made 193 offers, and of these 130 offers are domestic (67%), and this is ongoing. In comparison, in Fall 2018 we had made 173 offers, 137 were domestic (79%) at this time.
• As of April 23, we have 130 (85 domestic, 65%) offers accepted, compared to 89 at this time last year (64 domestic, 72%)

Changes in the Grad team:

• GEM: Chris Fletcher replaced Brent Doberstein as Associate Chair Grad (AC-G) on July 1.

• SERS: Bob Gibson replaced Derek Armitage as AC-G on July 1, when Derek went on sabbatical; Bob was replaced by Steve Murphy for part of the fall term; Derek returned to the post of AC-G on January 1, when he returned from sabbatical.

• PLAN: Pierre Filion replaced Markus Moos as AC-G on July 1, 2018; Pierre was replaced by Joe Qian on November 1, 2018 and Joe’s tenure runs until June 30, 2021. Kelly Heald left Planning for the GSPA on September 17, and was replaced by Alison Frayne (on contract).

• SEED: has moved from one Graduate Officer and four Program Directors to two Associate Chairs of Graduate Studies, who are Tara Vinodrai and Steve Young. For eight months of 2018 Claudette DeMaere replaced Janine Dietrich as Graduate Coordinator for SUSM and MEDI, as a secondment. Dragana Kostic replaced Claudette Demaere at the end of Claudette’s secondment and will stay on until Janine Dietrich returns from maternity leave in December 2019. The SEED Graduate Coordinator position was split between two people; one (currently Dragana) looks after SUSM and MEDI; the other (Karen Robertston) looks after MDP.
Other highlights:

- A highly successful open house recruitment event was organized on 1st November 2018 with approximately 80 attendees.

- The University of Waterloo organized a Grad Visit Day on 29th March, in which ENV actively participated. Six top students were invited to the campus (with travel costs highly subsidized) to meet potential supervisors and be introduced to campus life.

- The Faculty of Environment represented five of the fifteen finalists in the University of Waterloo’s GRADFlix: Fraser King (GEM), Amanda Yan Yan Lim (SERS), Jaydeep Mistry (GEM), Stephanie Higgins (GEM) and Natalie Knowles (GEM). King (GEM) took 1st place and Lim placed 4th.

- Simone Philpot, a doctoral student in the Geography, presented at the campus-wide GRADtalks: Drinking Water event on June 7 by speaking on “…participatory modeling with values research to explore new forms of e-participation for water management and decision-making.” And Caitlin Scott, a doctoral student in Social and Ecological Sustainability, presented at the GRADtalks: Ethical Living in a Modern World event on November 29 by speaking about “…how big food companies shape the sustainability of our diets and how this research helps to illuminate the ethical implications of the food on our plates.”

- The 3MT heat for Environment: Fourteen students participated in the ENV Heat, which was held on March 5th. The first-prize winner was Meredith Marshall, a Ph.D student in Geography, who presented her research on “Agricultural Fertilizer Management Effects on Subsurface Phosphorus Loss and Speciation Over the Non-Growing Season in Southern Ontario” (supervisor: Prof. Merrin Macrae). The second-prize winner was Emily Prystupa, a Masters student in Geography, presenting her research on “Effect of Salt on Carbon Release in a Reclaimed Peatland” (supervisor: Prof. Maria Strack). And the third-prize winner was Waverley Birch, a Masters student in Planning, presenting her research on “Wetland Loss in a Human-Dominated Landscape” (supervisor: Prof. Michael Drescher). The 2019 event also included a fourth prize selected randomly from the remaining contestants; the recipient was Kristen de Kroon, a Masters student in Geography, who presented her research on “Spatial Building Stock Accounting” (supervisor: Su-Yin Tan). Meredith went on to represent the Faculty at the UW Final on March 20.

Scholarship Recipients:

- NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral - Nicole Balliston (GEM)
- SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral - Nicholas Mercer (GEM)
- Tri-Agency recipients: Mharie Scott-Henderson (GEM), Qi-Sheng Chen (GEM), Gabriel Dubé (GEM), Miranda Hunter (GEM), Stephen Connors (PLAN), Alison Curtis (PLAN), Kaitlin Webber (PLAN)
- Ontario Trillium Scholarship (OTS) - Stephanie Cruz Maysonet (SERS)
Internationalization:

- Dean’s Office contributed travel assistance to 76 grad students; 36 presented at international conferences in 14 countries: 1 in Austria; 1 in the Bahamas; 1 in Belgium; 1 in Egypt; 2 in Jamaica; 4 in Mexico; 1 in the Netherlands; 1 in Norway; 6 in Spain; 1 in Switzerland; 5 in Thailand; 5 in the UK; 7 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.