

Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Environment

2022-23 Annual Report of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

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Current Enrollment:

Graduate Studies programs in the Faculty of Environment continue to attract high quality applications and admissions. The Dean's Doctoral Initiative (DDI) has continued into the ninth year, serving both domestic and international students. Our research clusters continue to help students identify research areas and find potential supervisors. In 2022, 128.8 Masters and 23.2 doctoral (full-time equivalent) students joined our programs, thus bringing our total complement, or student headcount, to 701 graduate students in the Faculty (down slightly from 715 in 2021). Of these, 239 are pursuing their doctoral degree, and 136 are international students. When weighing part-time students as 0.3 units, the total full-time equivalent (FTE) in Fall 2022 was 535.8 graduate students (Figure 1).

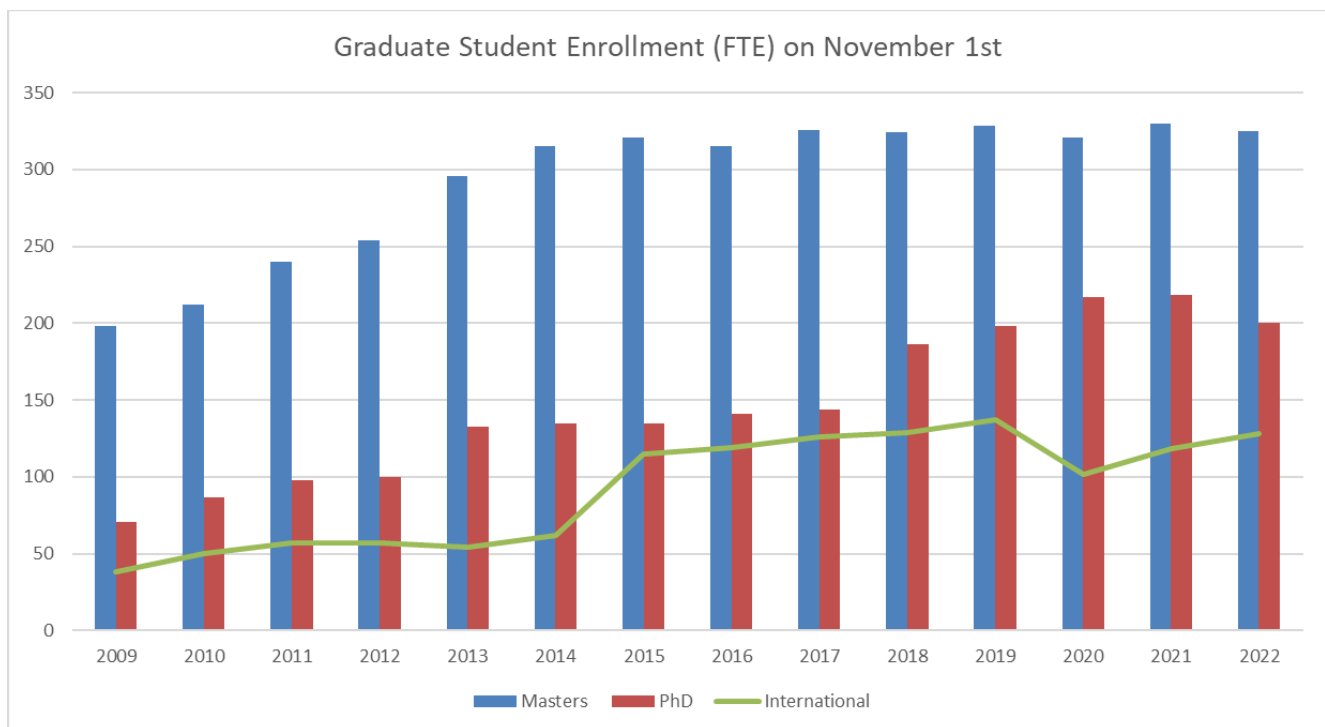


Figure 1: Full-time Equivalent Graduate Student Enrolment in the Faculty of Environment on 1st November 2009-2022 (government count date).

Demand

The trend in the demand for our graduate programs is similar to last year. Applications are down slightly from our historic high in 2020-21, when we received over 700 applications for both Masters and Doctoral programs. For Fall 2022 we received 629 applications (Figure 2).

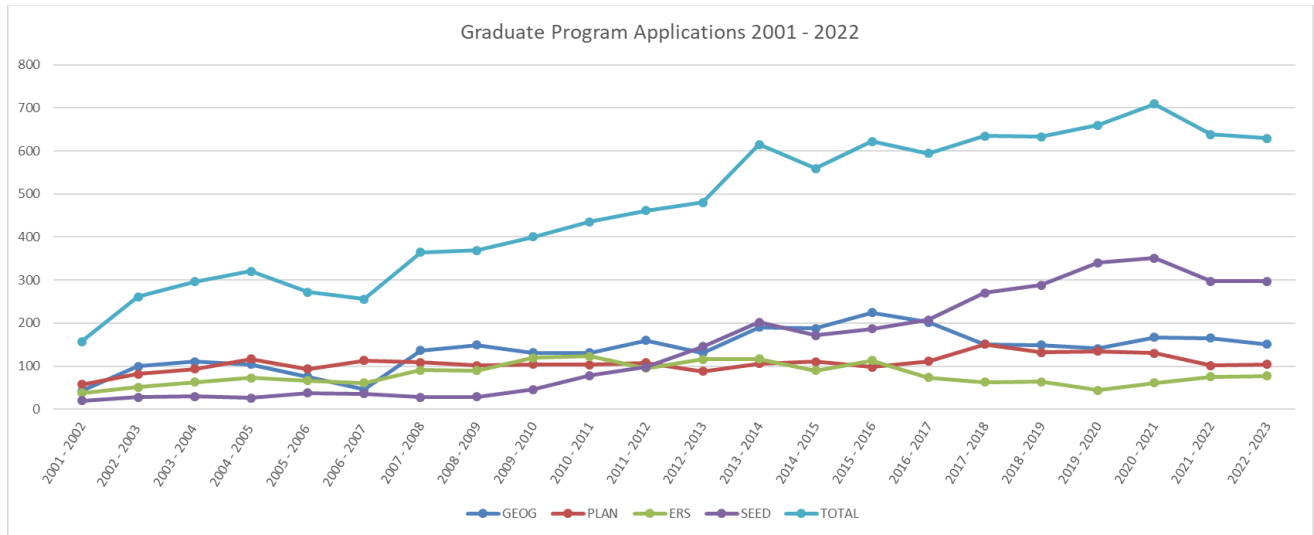


Figure 2: Number of Graduate Program Applications, by unit, 2001 – 2022

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: We continue to attract high quality applicants. The Dean’s Doctoral Initiative guarantees funding of \$106,848 for students across the four years. This year, the Dean’s Doctoral Initiative offered 10 awards each for domestic and international students. These award recipients were selected from a very strong pool of applicants. Seven domestic and seven international DDI students entered our programs last fall, with two students deferring until fall 2023. In addition, the Faculty offers an entrance award worth \$5,000 for exceptional doctoral students.

Total doctoral applications for Fall 2022 were 135 (40 domestic), down from 143 for Fall 2021 (56 domestic). As of April 17, 2023 total doctoral applications for Fall 2023 are 104 (32 are domestic).

The highlights are as follows:

- The proportion of domestic applicants has decreased since 2019 (2019 = 38%, 2020 = 39%, 2021 = 30%, 2022 = 30%)
- As of April 17, we have made 33 offers (16 domestic), and this is ongoing. In comparison, in Fall 2022 we had made 36 offers (19 domestic).
- As of April 17, we have 26 offers accepted (12 domestic). We had the same number of offers accepted at this time one year ago (2022).

Masters recruitment: For 2023, funding packages for domestic research masters students were adjusted and are worth approximately \$17,188 to up to \$30,782. Non-thesis or professional masters students with high academic averages were eligible for entrance awards worth \$2,000 to up to \$4,000. Last year, we offered 15 IMAE awards to incoming international masters students, with 12 students entering our programs last fall.

Total masters applications for Fall 2022 were 504 (189 domestic), down from 575 for Fall 2021 (299 domestic). As of April 17, total masters application for Fall 2023 are 466, (187 domestic). The highlights are as follows:

- The domestic applicant pool in 2023 is similar to last year (2019 = 47%, 2020 = 52%, 2021 = 52%, 2022 = 38%, 2023 = 40%)
- As of April 17, we have made 220 offers (129 domestic), and this is ongoing. In comparison, in Fall 2022 we had made 199 (130 domestic) at this time.
- As of April 17, we have 147 (79 domestic) offers accepted, compared to 117 at this time last year (71 domestic)

Changes in the Grad team:

- Jason Santo served the faculty as the interim Graduate Studies Marketing and Recruitment Specialist while Christina Pope was on leave.
- This year, we welcomed Anastasiya Saparaliyeva and Jennifer Doucet as Graduate Program Administrators in SEED.

Other highlights:

- We held a highly successful week of grad studies open house recruitment events (in person/blended/online) during November 21-24, 2022.
- The Faculty of Environment was well represented at this year's 2023 GRADflix event. Our participants included; Amerald Fang (GEM), Anika Chang (GEM), Caitlin Laidlaw (GEM), Larissa Gospodyn (GEM), Navya Nair (SEED), and Patrick Bosworth (SEED) . Congratulations to Caitlin Laidlaw, who placed 2nd, and to all our participants.
- Note: the University of Waterloo GRADtalks and Three Minute Thesis (3MT) programs are on pause due to the pandemic.
- The Faculty of Environment and the University are continuing to respond to the many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we have returned to in person programs, we continue to provide some online services to support graduate students. These online services include supporting the completion of graduate milestones, in particular PhD thesis examinations, through online delivery. In addition, we are working with the GSPA to support research students who face challenges associated with research funding.
- This coming year, we will be prioritizing the implementation of the recommendations of the President's Anti-Racism Task Force.

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.

Scholarship Recipients:

Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients:

Award Name	Recipient		Department	Program
	First Name	Last Name		
NSERC (CGS-D)	Nathanael	Bergbusch	SERS	PhD - Water
NSERC PGS	Jason	Phoenix	SERS	PhD
SSHRC (CGS-D)	Burgess	Langshaw Power	GGOV	PhD
SSHRC Doctoral	Brenton	Nader	PLAN	PhD
Tri-agency (NSERC)	Courtney	Bayer	GEOG	MSc
	Julie	DePauw	GEOG	MSc - Water
	Monika	Wagner	GEOG	MSc
	Cassandra	Sherlock	SEED	MES
Tri-agency (SSHRC)	Felicia	Watterodt	GEOG	MES
	Sara	Bohnert	GEOG	MES
	Joy	Tigchelaar	PLAN	MA
	Stephanie	Cortinovis	SEED	MES
	Melanie	Issett	SEED	MES
	Cameron	McGlade-Bouchard	SEED	MES
	Anya	Ingram	PLAN	MA
	Alexandra	MacIsaac	SERS	MES
	Kayleanna	Giesinger	SEED	MES
OGS- Domestic	Devon	Jones	GEOG	MES
	Amelia	Merhar	GEOG	PhD
	Brooklyn	Rushton	GEOG	PhD
	Meg	Schmidt	GEOG	PhD
	Weikai	Tan	GEOG	PhD
	Indra	Noyes	GGOV	PhD
	Kourosh	Mahvash	PLAN	PhD
	Khairunnabila	Prayitno	PLAN	PhD
	Kayleigh	Swanson	PLAN	PhD
	Leah	Feor	SEED	PhD
	McKenzie	Huneke	SEED	PhD
	Nicholas	Palaschuk	SEED	PhD
	Vasundhara	Saravade	SEED	PhD
	Pankaj Kumar	Tewari	SEED	PhD
	Emma	Collette	SERS	MES
	Kira Jade	Cooper	SERS	PhD
	Beth	Grant	SERS	MES
	Kyle	Schang	SERS	PhD
	Natasha	Serrao	SERS	PhD
OGS- International	Rodrigo	Curty Pereira	GEOG	PhD
	Dilruba Fatima	Sharmin	SERS	PhD
QEII GSST	Keely Anne	Stenberg	PLAN	PhD
	Donna Valerie	Jones	SEED	PhD
	Maya	Basdeo	SERS	MES
	Katie	Pita	SERS	PhD