Webcast participants: before we start, you can run the audio setup wizard found on the top left corner of your screen to make sure you can hear us. You can use the chat window to ask questions throughout the session.

General Meeting for Graduate Administrators

Friday, October 27, 2017
Welcome and Updates about SGS

Joshua Barker
Dean, Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education and Research
SGS Student Academic Services Updates

General Meeting for Graduate Administrators
October 27, 2017

Josie Lalonde
Director, Student Academic Services
Changes at 63 St. George
Outreach to Graduate Units

- Graduate Unit Advisory Services
  Representative: Ed Baluyut

- Reaching out to graduate administrators:
  - Graduate Administrator Advisory Committee (GAAC)
  - Orientation for new graduate administrators
  - Town Hall meetings at Faculties
  - Roundtable discussions at SGS
  - Learning Cafes

- ed.baluyut@utoronto.ca
SGS eForms

- Converting paper-based forms to online tool
- Built-in workflow – system-generated emails
SGS eForms

- We have released:
  - Online payment of UHIP for Postdoctoral Fellows
  - Online late registration fee payment for students
  - Payment to opt-in to Student Life, Hart House, and Kinesiology & Physical Education services during a leave of absence
  - Registration form for our upcoming SGS International Credentials Workshop
  - Conference Grant application form
  - Summer Gym bursary application form
  - SGS award payment activation form
  - Online meeting room booking
  - Registration for brunch with the Dean
  - Change of name or gender
SGS eForms

Soon to be released:
- Change of campus affiliation
- Leave of absence request

Next in the queue:
- Confirmation of Registration letter request
- Confirmation of Degree letter request
- SGS Accessibility Grant application
Next Generation Student Information Services (NGSIS)

- NGSIS Platform Modernization Project
- Converting ROSI programming from Natural to Java
  - 2 M lines of code
- Migrating from mainframe environment to Linux servers
  - Java/JavNat performs better in server environment
  - Current mainframe nearing end of life
  - Better able to handle transaction volumes
Next Generation Student Information Services (NGSIS)

- Benefits:
  - Reduced licencing costs
  - Better integration with other systems
  - Faster student registration
  - Single sign-on
  - Compatibility with Mac
  - Framework for future improvements
Next Generation Student Information Services (NGSIS)

- Implications for Students:
  - None

- Implications for Graduate Administrators:
  - Logon through browser with UTORid and password
  - ROSI screens viewable in web browser
  - Functions, tabbing, keyboard mapping
  - Correspondence printing
  - Downloads: TSO vs EntireConnect
  - File management system
Next Generation Student Information Services (NGSIS)
Next Generation Student Information Services (NGSIS)

- Implication for the very near future:
  - Testing – beginning in January

- Projected cutover – May 19-21, 2018

- Questions???
Health & Wellness at SGS

- New Wellness Counsellor: Sean Martin
- Will be adding a second Counsellor – stay tuned
International Visiting Graduate Student (IVGS) Program

- Study abroad – but not formal exchange
- Conduct research at U of T for up to 3 sessions
- Maintain registration at home university
- Do not pay UofT tuition
- Do pay incidental fees, UHIP, and System Access fees
Why IVGS?

- Ensures that visiting students
  - Are registered as students (formal status)
  - Have access to campus services
  - Have appropriate health insurance through UHIP
  - Are covered by U of T’s liability insurance

- Improves chances of securing study permit (as opposed to work permit)
IVGS Program Issues

- Session/fee structure at the University
  - Incidental fees and access to services

- Immigration
  - Timelines
  - Study Permit vs Work Permit
    - May receive study permit – welcome to Canada!
    - May be asked to apply for a work permit
  - “Employer/Employee” vs “School/Student”
IVGS: What Can We Do?

- What SGS is doing to enhance IVGS
  - Improving information on website (FAQ’s)
  - Developing capacity for immigration advice
  - Improving equity in fee assessment and facilitating access to services

- What graduate units can do
  - Promote awareness of issues visiting research students face (e.g., immigration, costs)
  - Contact SGS in a timely manner for advice
  - Align visit dates with sessional dates if possible
U of T Safety Abroad Office

- Off-Campus Safety Policy and Safety Abroad Guidelines
- Staff / Faculty → Ensure that students register
- SGS Request for Off-Campus Registration form
- UofT Safety Abroad can help:
  - Safety abroad training
  - Risk management strategies
  - Emergency support – 24/7 emergency hotline
- megan.mcintosh@utoronto.ca
Update on Doctoral Examinations and Convocation Processes

Lisa Haley
Postdoctoral Office
What’s New

- **Program Completion Offices**
  - Program Completion Officers, Doctoral and Masters

- **Registration and FOEs**
  - Students must be registered in order to defend AND submit their theses

- **E-Forms**
  - FOE Booking and Degree Requirements Completion Letters

- **Skype**
  - Approved for use! No pre-approval required.
Finishing Degree Requirements

- **Thesis Submission, All Students**
  - ProQuest
  - Submission date determines fees/convocation

- **Letters confirming degree requirements**
  - Students may obtain letters of completion upon request
    - sgs.doctoral@utoronto.ca
    - sgs.masters@utoronto.ca
Convocation

- **Diploma Holds**
  - Outstanding fees include current academic year fees

- **BoD Fees**
  - Applies to part time students and students who have accelerated their program

- **Graduation delays not permitted**
  - Students must proceed to graduation after finishing degree requirements
  - A “walk-through” at the following ceremony is only permitted in special circumstances
SGS Awards, Financial Aid & Funding

Updates for the Graduate Administrators Meeting

October 27th, 2017

Laura Stathopoulos, Director
Graduate Awards & Financial Aid
Graduate Awards at SGS

• Launches/administers more than 50 scholarship programs annually
• Close to 8000 applications are submitted by students and prospective students
• About 5000 applications are processed and adjudicated centrally by SGS
• Requires ~ 30 committee meetings
• Each meeting requires 5 – 12 members (Coordinators/Grad Faculty)
• GAO staff provides payment and ongoing support to nearly 5000 award holders

....and growing
Schmidt Science Fellows  
(program launched Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 2017)

- $100,000 USD
- Full-time 11-month postdoctoral research study
- UofT permitted 5 nominees
- Grad Chairs asked to forward top candidate(s)
- Make use of existing applications where available
- Unit nominations due to SGS Nov 1<sup>st</sup> - instructions to follow
- UofT forwards names on Nov 13<sup>th</sup>
- Nominees gain access to application

Program Structure

Postdoctoral Research

The Fellows will receive a stipend of $100,000 as part of the Program. This will include conducting a full-time, 11 month or longer postdoctoral research study in a world-leading laboratory, focusing on a discipline in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics or computing that is different from their existing area of expertise and planned future focus. Our goal is to introduce the Fellows to the ideas, practices, methods, and cultures of other scientific disciplines, broadening their scope of experience. In addition to pursuing the traditional career arc that has aspiring scientists delve deeper and deeper into their field of expertise immediately following their PhD, these individuals can benefit from first obtaining a broader view of the world. Schmidt Science Fellows will have that opportunity, working in a new lab and a new field that will help them form a diverse perspective on the questions and techniques that will position them to make breakthrough discoveries and drive societal change.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org
Understand Your Funding

The University of Toronto is committed to making funding for graduate students more transparent. Doctoral-stream graduate programs at the University of Toronto offer a range of financial supports to graduate students to offset the cost of their graduate education. For those students receiving funding, the amount and type of support can vary across programs.

Decisions about the availability, composition, sources and annual amount of graduate funding over the course of a student's program are made primarily at the Faculty and graduate unit levels, not by the University overall. Therefore, the best contact for students about their own graduate funding is always their Faculty and/or graduate unit or home department.

Students accepted into most research-stream Master's and PhD programs will receive funding from their graduate unit -- in other words, from their department and/or Faculty. Funding typically covers one year of master's study and four to five years of doctoral study. The information below explains Base Funding -- which is the graduate unit's funding commitment -- and the average Actual Income received by full-time, active graduate students in their respective programs.

Variation in both Base Funding and Actual Incomes is related to Faculty and graduate unit decisions as well as the composition and sources of funding. Faculties and graduate unit decisions take many things into account, including student recruitment, faculty research foci, program enrolment and resources, and time to degree completion.

Individual graduate students may bring forward complaints about the interpretation, implementation or compliance with University, faculty, and/or graduate unit policy regarding their individual funding package. For more information, visit the Funding Complaint Process page.

What is Base Funding?

Faculties and graduate units determine Base Funding amounts for doctoral stream programs and the number of years that students will be eligible. Base Funding amounts vary across graduate units. For example, in the Faculty of Arts and Science, Base Funding ranges across programs from $16,500 to $22,500 per year for eligible students in 2016-2017 (plus tuition and fees). The composition of Base Funding, e.g., employment income as Teaching or Research Assistants (TAs and RAs), research stipends, and fellowships, also varies among graduate units.

In addition to Base Funding, all eligible students receive the cost of academic tuition and fees.
Graduate Awards Office

Fong Di Caterina
Manager, Graduate Awards
Graduate Awards Office

Alice Brummell
Coordinator, Student Support and Financial Aid
SGS student support

Financial Advising
Parental Grant
Emergencies Grants
Emergency Loans
Master’s Completion Bursary
Summer Gym Bursary
Accessibility Grants

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THINKING FORWARD
Questions?

SGS Graduate Awards Office
63 St. George Street, Room 201
Email: sgs.financial.assistance@utoronto.ca
and
graduate.awards@utorontoc.ca
Tel: 416-946-0808
Thank you for attending!