

# The College of Graduate Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Okanagan Campus



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# Message From The Dean

The College of Graduate Studies supports students from the time they apply to UBC's Okanagan campus until their journey across the stage after completing their degree. Our 2018/19 annual report highlights how we support students to achieve personal, professional and academic success and outlines how we are positioning ourselves to meet the intensifying research needs of our campus.

UBC consistently ranks among the 40 best universities in the world, is among the top 20 public universities globally, and is a member of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities. Graduate students are at the forefront of contributing to research excellence at UBC and driving growth on the Okanagan campus.

Applications to graduate programs for the 2019/20 Academic year increased 60% from the previous year. Part of this boost was due to the Master of Data Science which launched in September 2018, and growth in the Master of Science in Computer Science which launched September 2017. Other new applications were for our revised Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies program, which now includes six themes or defined areas of interdisciplinary study. The Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology also launched in 2019.

The past year the College of Graduate Studies worked to remove barriers for all students and increase access and support for Aboriginal students. In recognition that a GPA is not the sole indicator of academic excellence, we removed the first-class GPA requirement from all Aboriginal awards and the University Graduate Fellowship. This means that more students who are making satisfactory progress will be eligible for funding. We also introduced the Graduate Dean's Aboriginal Entrance Fellowship, bringing the total annual funding dedicated to Aboriginal students to almost \$200,000.



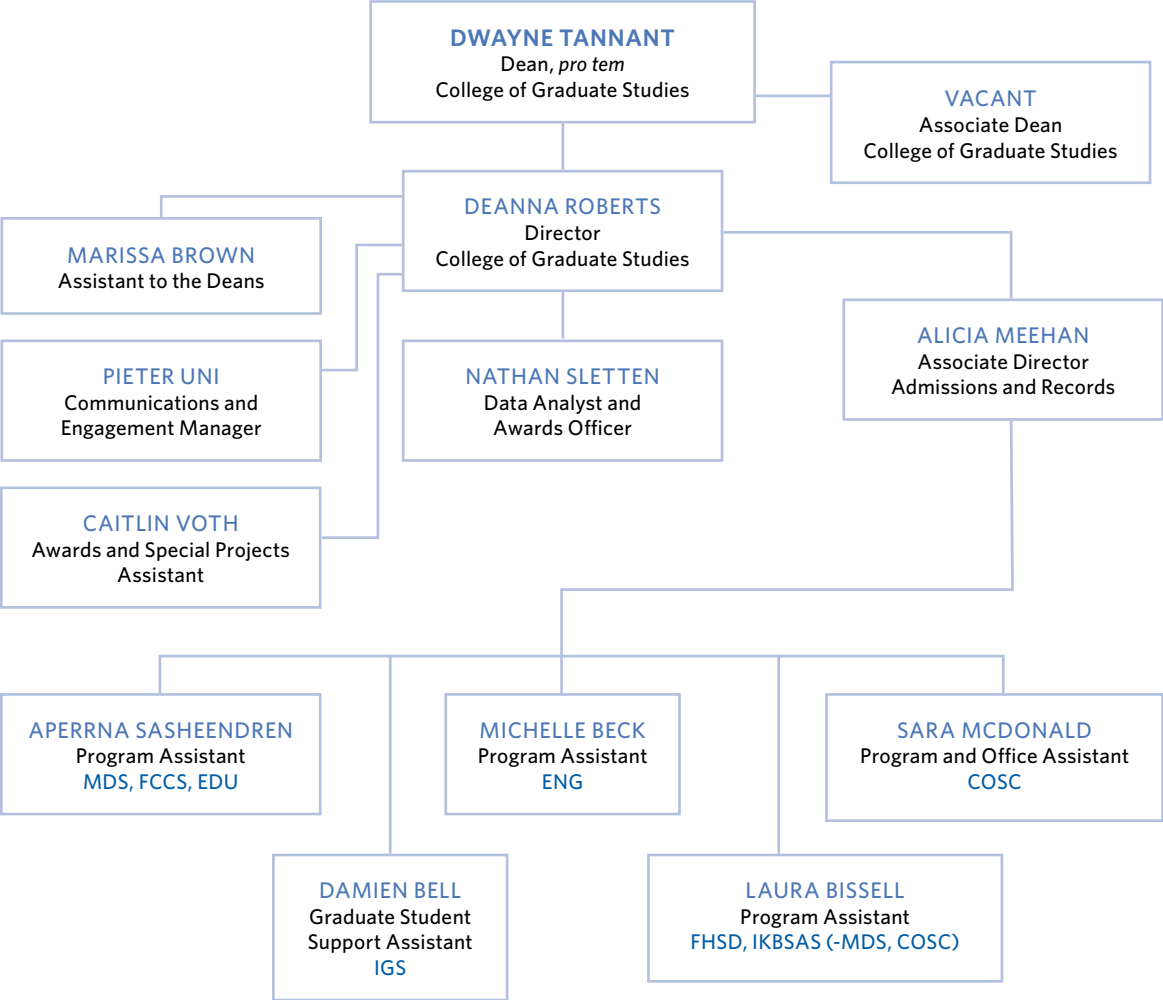
To increase recruitment of top international doctoral students, the College of Graduate Studies now also offers the International Four-Year Doctoral Partial Tuition Award. This award, supported through the UBC Excellence Fund, covers the difference between international and domestic tuition for first-class international doctoral students.

UBC has ambitious plans for graduate students on our campus over the next twenty years. As we look toward 2040 and imagine a campus with 3,000 graduate students and over 30 new graduate programs, the College of Graduate Studies will continue to address under-representation of indigenous students, create opportunities for inclusion and collaborate with our community and campus partners to ensure our graduate students are appropriately supported and celebrated.

**Dwayne Tannant**

Dean *pro tem*, College of Graduate Studies

# Organizational Chart



# At a Glance

We empower graduate students to explore, innovate, & challenge ideas



We foster an environment that promotes excellence in graduate research, interdisciplinarity, innovation and global engagement. We encourage students to explore, learn, and contribute knowledge to a civil, sustainable society.

## College of Graduate Studies Responsibilities

We are mandated to:

- Oversee the quality and administration of graduate courses of study and graduate educational matters
- Facilitate student lifecycle processes, from application and admission through to graduation
- Support post-doctoral fellows
- Maintain a central coordinating role in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Program
- Administer all graduate student merit-based funding
- Coordinate workshops and training related to graduate student academic and professional development and wellbeing

## Quick Statistics



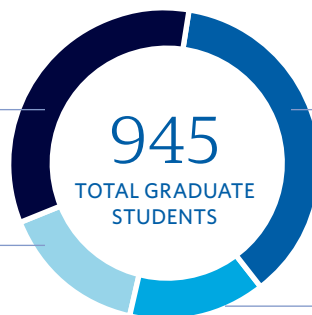
GRAD PROGRAMS

19

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

318  
DOCTORAL

144  
COURSE-BASED  
MASTERS



349  
THESIS-BASED  
MASTERS

133  
THESIS-OPTIONAL  
MASTERS



ALUMNI

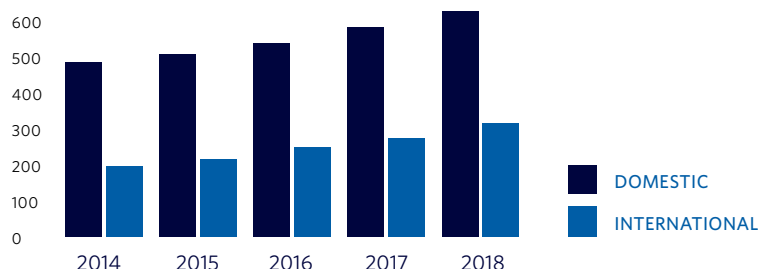
1,775

### GENDER DISTRIBUTION

♀ 52.6% FEMALE

♂ 47.4% MALE

### DOMESTIC VS INTERNATIONAL



\*data reported as of November 1, 2018

# Applications and Enrolment

We provide oversight and support for graduate programs on the Okanagan campus

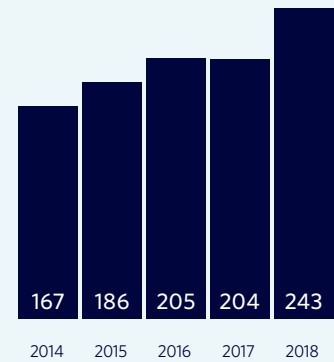
New students and applicants at UBCO receive assistance from our dedicated Admissions and Records team, who provide administrative support throughout the student lifecycle, from applications through to graduation.

## APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS



PROJECTED 2019/20 TOTAL  
(In progress, as of June 24, 2019)

## STUDENTS GRADUATED



## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



# Student Funding

We manage merit-based graduate student scholarships and awards

The College of Graduate Studies (CoGS) is responsible for merit-based graduate awards at the Okanagan campus of the University of British Columbia. We manage award applications, adjudications, processing and payments of all internal awards and select external awards. We work with faculties on new award proposals, partner with Development and Alumni Engagement and Enrolment Services on donor-funded awards, and recommend all merit-based graduate awards to Senate.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Killam Doctoral Scholarship

Killam Doctoral Scholarships are the most prestigious awards available to graduate students at UBC. Approximately 15-20 awards are made each year to the top doctoral candidates across UBC in the Affiliated Fellowships competition. The stipend for the 2018/19 awards is \$30,000 per annum for two years and a \$2,000 allowance for research-related travel during the 24 months of the scholarship.

In 2018/19, UBC's Okanagan campus had five Killam holders – the highest number of awardees to date.



### Excellence Fund Awards

The College of Graduate Studies drafted the terms of three new awards and secured support from the UBC Excellence Fund to increase funding available to Aboriginal and international students. The first payment of these awards will begin in September 2019.

#### INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The International Doctoral Fellowship supports top international students who are beginning their UBCO doctoral programs. The fellowship provides funding for a total of four years: a \$25,000 stipend/year plus tuition.

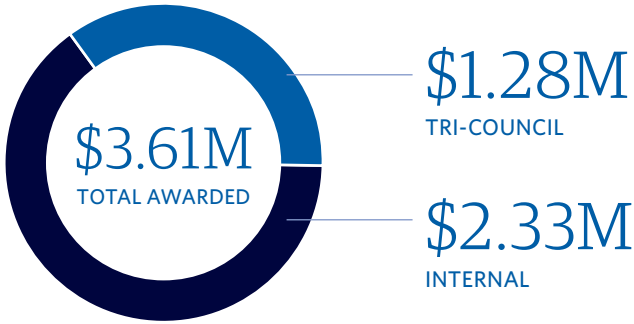
#### INTERNATIONAL FOUR-YEAR DOCTORAL PARTIAL TUITION AWARD

The International Four-Year Doctoral Partial Tuition Award is available to incoming international doctoral students who have a first-class admission GPA, or PhD transfer students with a first-class GPA at the time of transfer to their PhD program. The award pays the tuition differential between international and domestic tuition for eligible students. The award provides funding for up to a total of four years (48 months) per awardee.

#### GRADUATE DEAN'S ABORIGINAL ENTRANCE FELLOWSHIP

The Graduate Dean's Aboriginal Entrance Fellowship is a merit-based fellowship awarded to incoming full-time Canadian Aboriginal graduate students entering a thesis-based graduate program. This includes Canadian First Nations, Metis or Inuit students. Eight \$10,000 awards are available annually. Fellowships are awarded as a one-time award per degree program.

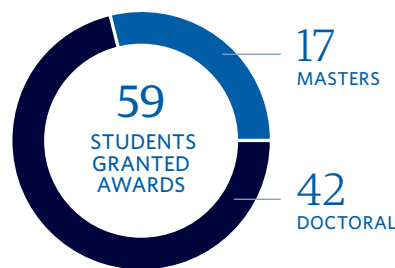
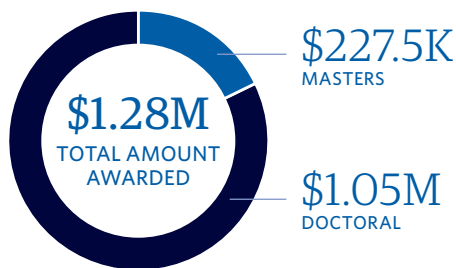
## Total Amount Awarded



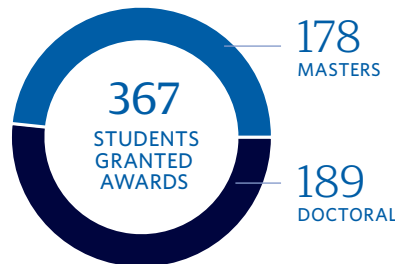
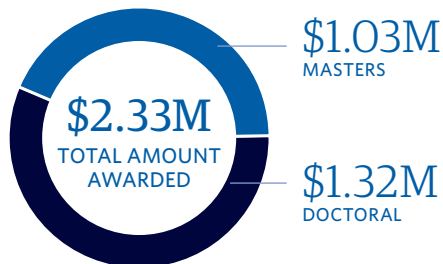
**AVERAGE AWARD FUNDING FOR ALL THESIS-BASED STUDENTS (Internal and Tri-Council)**

**\$4,853**

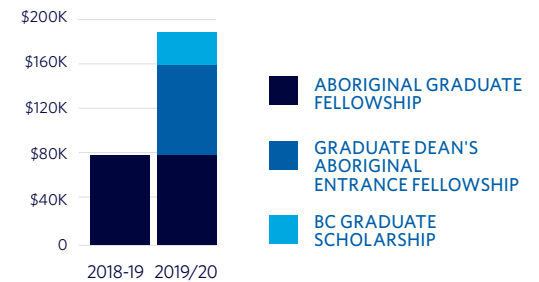
## Tri-Council Award Funding



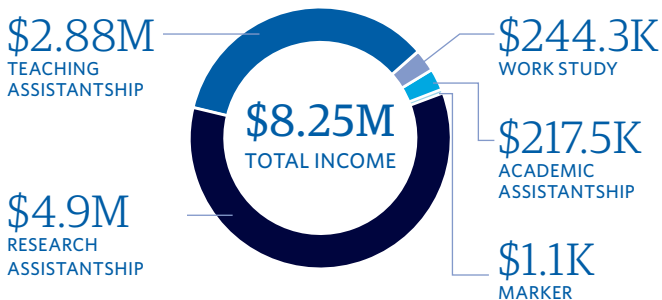
## Internal Award Funding



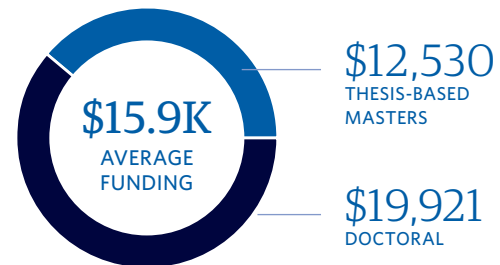
### ABORIGINAL STUDENTS



## GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTMENTS



## AVERAGE FUNDING FOR ALL THESIS-BASED STUDENTS (Internal, Tri-Council and Appointments)





# Workshops and Events

We partner with other campus and community services to deliver graduate student workshops and events focused on academic skills, professional development and health and wellness

Workshops	Attendance
Writing the Doctoral Scholarship Application Tutorial (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, Vanier) x 2	24
Doctoral Tri-Council application review Drop-In Session x 3	3
Foundations of Project Management I	12
Building Effective Supervisory Relationships Workshop x 2	14
Diversifying Your Research Career Registration	5
Introduction to Research Ethics Registration x 2	8
Peer Writing Group Network Registration x 2	34
QPR Suicide Awareness Workshop Registration x 2	15
Writing the Ethics Application Workshop Registration x 2	7
Writing the Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's Tutorial x 2	21
Writing the Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's Application Drop-In Session x 3	5
How to Rock the 3MT: Competition Info and Presentation Skills x 2	22
3MT Practice Session x 2	5
3MT Copyright x 2	7
The University's relationship with the host Nation	5
Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault	17
Best Practices In Graduate Supervision	8
The History of First Nations in British Columbia	4
It Begins with U: Upstander Intervention	1
How to Apply, Interview, Get Jobs Workshop Registration	2
Total	219

\* New workshops highlighted in blue

Some of our key partners include the Centre for Scholarly Communication, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Aboriginal Programs and Services, the Office of Research Services, Health and Wellness, the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, Mitacs, and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the Vancouver campus.



## Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

Since 2014, the College of Graduate Studies has been hosting the annual 3MT event where graduate students present their research in just three minutes to a general audience. This year's competition was the biggest 3MT event hosted to date, with over 125 audience members, nine finalists and \$6,000 in prize money awarded.

# Graduate Program Development

Outlook 2040 identifies new graduate programming for our campus, including over thirty new graduate programs by 2025.

CoGS is currently working with faculties to introduce a PhD in Computer Science and a PhD in Nursing to our campus for 2020 intakes.

The campus debuted two new graduate programs in 2018/19, which our office supports administratively:

1. Master of Data Science
2. Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology

Over the last few years, CoGS has also led the revision of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) program. Following a systemic review of the IGS program, CoGS, in collaboration with faculties and departments across our campus, launched a revised IGS program founded on themes. This approach ensures the sustainability of the IGS program, leverages the unique profile of our campus and supports UBC's commitment to enable interdisciplinary research that focuses on problems of societal importance.



# Key Initiative Highlights

We routinely make continuous improvements to the graduate student experience and the systems that support them

**a) Policies 0-4 & 0-9:** CoGS worked with faculties and departments across our campus to revise policy 0-4 to define the membership, structure and responsibilities of Graduate Council and made changes to the Terms of Reference of Graduate Council. We also introduced policy 0-9, which defines membership in CoGS and conditions associated with the granting of supervisory privileges.

**b) Support for Aboriginal students:** Recognizing that Aboriginal students are underrepresented and under-supported in Canadian post-secondary institutions, CoGS increased award funding dedicated to Aboriginal students from \$80,000 per year to nearly \$200,000 per year, and removed first-class GPA requirements for funding, allowing a more holistic view of academic achievement to guide award funding. Aboriginal students can now receive the newly developed Graduate Dean's Aboriginal Entrance Fellowship in their first year of studies, and the Aboriginal Graduate Fellowship in a subsequent year of study.

**c) Recruiting top international students:** CoGS introduced the International Four-Year Doctoral Partial Tuition Award which covers the difference between domestic and international tuition for first-class doctoral students. In September 2019, CoGS will pay out the first International Doctoral Fellowships, which awards \$25,000 plus tuition for up to four years to three top international doctoral students.

**d) Support for domestic students:** CoGS developed criteria and implemented the British Columbia Graduate Scholarship which provides \$15,000 to 18 incoming students in each of September 2018 and September 2019. Two awards in each of these cycles are reserved for Aboriginal students. Aboriginal students are also considered in the general candidate pool for these awards.

**e) CoGS website redevelopment:** CoGS launched its new website in the summer of 2018. The revised site includes an awards and opportunities database, deadlines database and forms database, along with enhanced navigation and content improvements.

**f) Supervisor tracking in SISC:** CoGS worked with our colleagues in the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the Vancouver campus to test and implement new functionality within SISC that allows departments and our office to track and report on supervisors and committees.

**g) Academic Calendar review:** For the first time since the inception of CoGS, we performed a comprehensive review to ensure all information within the Academic Calendar related to graduate studies was accurate and met the current needs of our students and programs.

**h) Data analyst and awards position:** In order to provide CoGS and faculties the information we need to make strong strategic decisions, CoGS created a new position to collect, track and analyze graduate data. This position works alongside Okanagan Planning and Institutional Research and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on the Vancouver campus to ensure comprehensive data sets for student applications, enrolment, funding, and academic support and trends.



# Planning for the Future

We are positioning CoGS to support UBC's strategic direction and goals

UBC's strategic plan: *Shaping UBC's Next Century*, and *UBC Okanagan Outlook 2040* emphasize inclusion, collaboration, and innovation, and set ambitious yet realistic goals for the future of our campus.

As we imagine a future where graduate student enrolment triples to 3,000 students, and graduate program offerings increase by over 30 new programs, CoGS is taking stock of where we are as a campus service department and where we need to be to.

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE COMING YEAR:

- Successfully hiring a new Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Graduate Studies who will provide the strong visionary leadership necessary to grow graduate student enrolment and research on our campus
- Working with campus, community and provincial leaders to increase the amount of graduate student funding available to students on our campus
- Continuing to break down barriers to admission and funding for Aboriginal students, and provide better support to Aboriginal students on campus
- Streamlining the application and admissions process to accommodate the increase in graduate program applications and ensure we are effectively working with graduate support positions in programs and faculties
- Assessing the organizational structure and adding positions in the College of Graduate Studies to support growth and changes to graduate studies on our campus
- Modernizing College of Graduate Studies forms and award applications, to cut down on processing time and automate our interactions
- Contributing to the Integrated Renewal Process and acting as subject matter experts to inform the creation of the Workday student stream
- Expanding the number of graduate students on our campus to align with the targets set out in Outlook 2040 to grow graduate student enrolment from 1,000 to 3,000





COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
The University of British Columbia  
Okanagan Campus  
[gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca](http://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca)

