

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Kevin Flynn, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Admissions Templates for Student Mobility Categories

**DECISION REQUESTED:**

*It is recommended:*

*That Council approve the Admissions Templates for Student Mobility Categories, effective upon Senate confirmation of Council's decision*

**PURPOSE:**

Admissions templates are being recommended for approval to ensure standard admissions requirements are outlined for students who come to the University of Saskatchewan for the purposes of short-term study, and are not currently enrolled in a degree program at our university.

**CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:**

The Visiting Student and the Inbound Student Exchange Program categories have long been established at the U of S, but are only now being formalized with admissions templates outlining the requirements:

- The Visiting Student category enables students to enroll in courses at the U of S and have their credits transferred back to their home institution. These students are admitted to the university on the basis of a letter of permission from their home institution, or through a formal partnership agreement. Students must be in good standing at their home institution and meet English proficiency requirements. Tuition is paid to the University of Saskatchewan. Students are admitted for up to one year of study. Extensions require a re-application.
- Inbound and Outbound Exchange Students are managed through a reciprocal Exchange Agreement between the U of S and a partner institution. Numbers of students are limited by the agreement. The selection of Inbound Exchange students (to the U of S) is done by the partner institution. The selection of Outbound Exchange students (to the partner institution) is done by the U of S. The exchange agreement outlines minimum academic and language proficiency requirements. Students are admitted for up to one year of study. Tuition is paid to the student's home institution.

On June 1, 2014 the University of Saskatchewan was granted Designated Learning Institution (DLI) status by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) under the Province of Saskatchewan's Designated Learning Institution Framework. This status enables the U of S to

receive international students under the new International Student Program. Designation is granted based on the institution's adherence to legal regulations regarding the IRCC International Student Program (ISP) as well as requirements established by the Government of Saskatchewan. Any derogation from our responsibilities as a DLI can result in an audit and a potential revocation process. In early 2015, IRCC changed its regulations, effectively requiring the University of Saskatchewan to disallow the option for international students from other universities to be registered at the U of S as Visiting Scholars.

The University was required to establish a new pathway for students to come to the university to undertake short-term research. In May 2015, the Visiting Research Student (VRS) was piloted. This stream allows international and domestic students at both the undergraduate and graduate level to be admitted to the U of S to conduct research in collaboration with and under the supervision of a U of S faculty member. This new category provides a way for the University to adhere to regulations by formally admitting, registering, and recording the successful or unsuccessful completion of research activity by short term visiting research students. Students submit an online application, identify a supervisor, and have their research plan approved before admission is recommended to the College of Graduate Studies & Research. The VRS category was designed to mimic the Visiting Scholars category. Tuition is not assessed and students are not required to provide proof of English proficiency. Registration is allowed for up to 6 months within a 12-month period. The category also allows international students to apply for a study permit, and if on-campus work conditions are included on the study permit, students may receive payment for research while they are here. Students registered in the VRS category may not register in any credit course work.

### **CONSULTATION:**

The Academic Programs Committee reviewed the admissions templates for mobility categories at its May 25, 2016 meeting and recommended them for approval by Council. The templates align with University Nomenclature revisions. The International Activities Committee was provided the opportunity to review the templates at its June 7 meeting as well.

### **SUMMARY:**

By capturing our admissions requirements for student mobility categories, we will ensure consistency in the admission of students under these different categories and will allow the U of S to better track the activity of students on our campus.

### **FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:**

These admissions templates require Senate confirmation and will be presented at its October 2016 meeting.

The admissions templates will come into effect immediately following Senate confirmation of Council's approval.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Admissions Templates for Mobility Categories
  - Visiting Research Students
  - Visiting Students
  - Exchange Students

## 2016-17 Admission Requirements Student Mobility Categories

### **College: College of Graduate Studies & Research**

### **Program(s): Visiting Research Student Program**

#### **Definition:**

A program of study whereby an undergraduate or graduate student is admitted to the University of Saskatchewan for the purpose of engaging in an approved plan of research with a faculty supervisor. Visiting research students are not assessed tuition, and are registered at the university for a period not exceeding six months.

#### **Admission Qualifications:**

- Sufficient postsecondary education and English proficiency to engage effectively in undergraduate-level or graduate-level research, as determined by the faculty supervisor

#### **Selection Criteria:**

- Submission of a Visiting Research Student (VRS) application
- A research plan including research objectives, research activities, and expected learning outcomes
- Approval of an identified U of S faculty supervisor
- Review and approval of application, research plan, and supervisor by College of Graduate Studies & Research

#### **General Information:**

- A VRS may pursue supervised research only, and may not enroll in any credit coursework at the University.
- Students will be registered by CGSR in a zero credit unit research course, which denotes that student is engaged in full-time academic research.
- VRS students will not be assessed tuition and will be assessed off-campus student fees providing access to limited U of S student services. Students may elect to enroll in the Health, Dental and U-Pass plans.
- Students will be assigned a CR (Completed Requirement) for satisfactory completion of the research objectives or an F (Fail) for unsatisfactory completion. An official transcript of the visiting research studies may be ordered.
- Students who wish to register in credit coursework, or who wish to stay longer than six months, must pursue other admission options such as admission as a non-degree student, a visiting student, or a joint student.
- International visiting research students are encouraged to obtain a study permit although it is not required by CIC for periods of study six months or less. Where faculty intend to remunerate research activity, the student must obtain a study permit and apply for a SIN on arrival in Canada.

2016-17 Admission Requirements  
Student Mobility Categories

**College: All U of S Colleges and Schools**

**Program(s): Visiting Student Program**

**Definition:**

A program of study either formally established through an agreement or through a letter of permission, enabling a student to attend the University of Saskatchewan, with credit transferred back to their home institution. Tuition is paid to the University of Saskatchewan.

**Admission Qualifications:**

- Proof of sufficient postsecondary education and English language proficiency to engage effectively in undergraduate-level or graduate-level studies. This proof comes from the home institution, generally in the form of a Letter of Permission, transcripts, or a selection process that is outlined in a current mobility agreement.

**Selection Criteria:**

- Submission of an application for admission
- Review and approval by College (direct-entry delegated to Admissions & Transfer Credit Office)

## 2016-17 Admission Requirements Student Mobility Categories

**College: All U of S Colleges and Schools**

**Program(s): Student Exchange Program**

**Definition:**

A Student Exchange is a program of study whereby partner institutions establish a reciprocal agreement which enables students to pay tuition at their home institution and to register and study at the host partner institution, with credit transferred back to the home institution. The typical duration of an exchange is one or two terms.

**Inbound Exchange Students**

**Admission Qualifications:**

A current exchange agreement must be in place. The exchange agreement outlines minimum academic and English language proficiency requirements at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Selection Criteria:**

Inbound exchange students, coming to the University of Saskatchewan from a partner institution, are selected by the partner institution.

Inbound exchange student numbers are limited by the agreement.

**Outbound Exchange Students**

**Admission Qualifications:**

A current exchange agreement must be in place. The exchange agreement outlines minimum academic and language proficiency requirements at the partner institution.

**Selection Criteria:**

Outbound exchange students from the University of Saskatchewan, who are attending a partner institution, are selected by the University of Saskatchewan.

Outbound exchange student numbers are limited by the agreement.