

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
**RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE**  
**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Paul Jones; Chair, Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 21, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee Annual Report

**COUNCIL ACTION:** For information only

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC  
WORK COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL  
2017-18**

**Terms of Reference**

1. Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly and artistic work.
2. Recommending to Council on policies and issues relating to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly and artistic work.
3. Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly and artistic work.
4. Providing advice to the Vice-President Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies which provide funding to the University.
5. Providing advice to the Vice-President Research, the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.
6. Examining proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly or artistic work at the University and providing advice to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.
7. Receiving annual reports from the Vice-President Research and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.
8. Receiving and reporting to Council the University's research ethics boards' annual reports.
9. Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.

## **Committee Membership of 2017/18**

### Council Members

John Gordon	Medicine	2018
Paul Jones (chair)	School of Environment and Sustainability	2019
Julita Vassileva	Computer Science	2019
Bob Tyler	Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Studies) Agriculture and Bioresources	2019
Rainer Dick	Physics and Engineering Physics	2020

### General Academic Assembly Members

Garry Gable	Music	2018
Virginia Wilson	Library	2018
Jon Farthing	Kinesiology	2020
David Burgess	Associate Dean (research, graduate support and international activities, College of Education)	2020

### Other members

Karen Chad	Vice-President Research ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Trever Crowe	Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Research ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Jessica Quan/ Sheldon Moellenbeck	[USSU designate]
Mays Al – Dulaymi/ Jesus Corona Gomez	[GSA designate]

### Resource members

Dena McMartin	Director, Research Services and Ethics
Laura Zink	Director, Strategic Research Initiatives
Secretary: Amanda Storey, Office of the University Secretary	

The Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work (RSAW) committee met 11 times during the 2017/18 year and addressed many issues related to research, scholarly and artistic work at the University of Saskatchewan.

In 2017/18, the RSAW committee provided input on changes to IT Communication Services Policy. The committee appreciated the work being done to strengthen the U of S's policies related to communications and to ensure that the university's suite of IT policies are well aligned and reflect current best practice.

RSAW engaged with representatives from the University Library a number of times over the course of the year to discuss the development of an institutional repository in response, in part, to tri-agency requirements for open access publications. The committee was pleased to have the opportunity to review and comment on policies and guidelines being developed to support the use of the repository.

The committee continued its work on artistic discovery at the University of Saskatchewan. The committee received a report, prepared in collaboration with RSAW, on phase one of the project from the Vice-President, Research in December 2017 and engaged in a frank and thorough discussion of the findings at that time. That report was ultimately presented to University Council in April 2018. RSAW remains committed to reviewing the forthcoming initiatives related to artistic discovery and will continue to engage University Council in discussion on this topic going forward.

The RSAW committee received an annual update from the Tri-agency leaders Bram Noble (SSHRC), Ron Borowsky (NSERC), and Darcy Marciniuk (CIHR) at its March 13

meeting. Committee members were interested in the success rate of applications of tri-agency funding, as well as the changes occurring at the national level with regards to the number of grants and grant sizes. Committee members were interested in the widely-disparate success rates depending on granting agency. Tri-agency leaders spoke about internal work conducted to improve success rates as well as work done by U of S members on the tri-agency review boards, and work being done to align the work of the three boards.

The RSAW committee has worked with the chairs of the Research Ethics Boards and has determined that annual reporting will occur in the fall, instead of in the spring, to better align with their workflows. Details of this meeting with Research Ethics Board chairs will be reported in the 2018-19 annual report from RSAW.

The RSAW committee provided comments on the University Plan on a couple of occasions in 2017-18 in addition to having the chair of RSAW on the University Plan Advisory Group. RSAW was pleased to have the opportunity to see its thoughts and goals reflected in the plan. RSAW commends the Provost and his whole team for their work on this impressive document. Additionally, the committee was provided the opportunity to provide feedback to the Vice-President, Research on the Research Strategic Plan in May 2018.

The committee also had the opportunity to meet with the Vice-President, University Relations to discuss University Rankings, as well as with the new Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement regarding the Indigenous Peoples Signature Research Area. Both these conversations highlighted a number of topics and projects that will be a part of the committee's work in the years to come.

The service of John Gordon as a representative of RSAW on the Centres Subcommittee of Planning and Priorities Committee and the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships, Bob Tyler as a representative on the New Researcher and Distinguished Researcher Awards Committee and David Burgess as a representative of RSAW on the Centres Subcommittee is recognized with appreciation. Appreciation is also extended to presenters who attended the RSAW committee this year. I also want to thank Garry Gable and John Gordon for their service as Vice-Chairs this year and acknowledge the exemplary administrative support provided by Amanda Storey.

*Attached as appendices to this annual report are the annual reports of the Office of the Vice-President Research and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies 2017/18.*

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Annual report of the Vice President Research for 2017/18
2. Annual Report of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for 2017/18



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of the  
Vice-President Research

[USASK.CA/VPRESEARCH](http://USASK.CA/VPRESEARCH)

# Unleashing Discovery

Annual Report  
2017-2018



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## A Year in Review: Discovery the world needs

University of Saskatchewan researchers are generating discoveries and insights the world needs. They are engaging in research, scholarly and artistic works that matter. I am proud to share with you some of the exciting highlights of the past year in this annual report.

We are building momentum with institutional-level grants, developing principles to inform public, industry and community partnerships, and creating new research clusters in areas of importance to Saskatchewan and Canada. We are developing a strategic research plan that includes advancing the Indigenous Peoples signature area of research. One in 10 first-year students now has a research experience--believed to be the highest rate in Canada.

For NSERC Discovery Grants, current data suggests that USask researchers matched the national average. We're in the top seven in the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities for NSERC Industrial Research Chairs and were recently awarded our first NSERC Steacie Fellowship in 25 years. SSHRC success rates are steadily climbing and have benefited from implementation of internal review processes. And USask is making great strides in CIHR engagement and success. The USask success rate for 2018 was slightly higher than the national average.

With the launch of our re-branded commercialization unit Innovation Enterprise, we've become the Canadian hub for the novel academic-industry matchmaking approach known as AIMday™ which will increase research and innovation collaboration among universities within and outside Canada.

We're reaching out to community partners through agreements with the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Symphony and Rемаi Modern.

We're advancing the International Blueprint for Action and hosted a highly successful *People Around the World* conference—PAW 2018: Global Learning, Mutual Gain—last winter.

We also increased our focus on telling the USask research story to the world through a new award-winning Research website, *Discovery Digest* newsletter, compelling short videos, and participation in the new academic newswire *The Conversation Canada*.

In short, working with our entire campus research community, we are building on our strengths, diversifying and seizing research, scholarly and creative opportunities.

Karen Chad,

Vice-President Research



# Executive Initiatives and Projects

## Strategic Research Plan

Vice-President Research Karen Chad is leading development of a strategic research plan that reflects on the university's progress and sets a vision for the next seven years, articulating institutional research priorities and directions to 2025.

The first phase resulted in the creation of a model and strategic framework based on interviews with senior researchers, leaders, partners, collaborators and advisors.

The second phase will result in a plan that describes an inspiring future for the University of Saskatchewan research community, including addressing barriers and identifying opportunities to enhance the university's global impact.

Consultation has been a hallmark of this project throughout its first phase. This will continue throughout the refinement and adoption of the strategic research plan.

## Artistic Discovery

Vice-President Karen Chad and Dean Peta Bonham-Smith of the College of Arts and Science are co-executive sponsors of a project to articulate and celebrate the key role that the fine and performing arts has in the history, values and life of the university, and to enrich the contributions that these scholars and students make in advancing our mission, vision, and goals.

Chad has committed to ensure that artistic works related to the university's discovery mission are better understood and celebrated across the academy.

The first phase of this project involved data collection, background research, and open-ended consultations where a diversity of perspectives were sought. A report to University Council was presented on this first phase in March 2018.

## New project for collaborative use of infrastructure

This project will encourage and enhance the collaborative use of infrastructure, enabling the university to carry out its academic mission with greater effectiveness. The vision is a university where users find it attractive and easy to use collaborative infrastructure, and infrastructure operations are consistent and transparent.

The project will support linked university initiatives and study best practices and successful examples elsewhere. The goal is a strategy and a roadmap that invites users to discover the value of collaboration, centered on the infrastructure lifecycle i.e. how we envision, design, build, operate, and evaluate space, facilities, and equipment.

The project is jointly initiated by the offices of the Vice-President Research and the Vice-President Finance and Resources.

## Partnering with Mitacs

USask is a Mitacs full partner. In 2017-18, we accessed the following Mitacs programs for a total value of \$2,235,900 (compared to \$1,578,967 in the previous year).

- 94 *Accelerate Internships* (1.3x previous year), valued at \$1,478,000, including 18 new companies and 15 new professors

- Three *Elevate Fellowships* (1.5x previous year), valued at \$405,000 over two years
- 10 *Globalink Research Internships* hosted at UofS in Summer 2017, valued at \$120,000
- Three *Globalink Graduate Fellowships* (3x previous year), valued at \$90,000
- Six *Globalink Research Awards* (3x previous year), valued at \$14,500
- 146 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows attended professional skills training workshops, valued at \$58,400
- Six *Career Connect* placements (pilot program), valued at \$70,000

## Centres

In 2018, the OVPR launched an initiative to re-examine the institution's approach to centres with the intent of building on recent internal efforts and Canadian (and North American) best practices for structuring, supporting and managing university centres. This investigation, which resulted in a discussion paper on centres, reviewed recent USask process and practice changes, examined strategies employed at U15 research institutions, explored best practice literature and undertook consultation with key stakeholders within USask (i.e. Centre Directors' Forum, the Associate Deans Research Forum, the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee, and the Planning & Priorities Committee).

This investigation re-affirmed both the value of centres within the USask research environment and the need for new approaches to best position centres as drivers of multi- and transdisciplinary research, scholarly and artistic work. In 2018-19, the Office of the Vice President Research will spearhead two broad courses of actions that emerged from the reviews and consultations:

- Revision to the USask Policy on Centres; and
- Implementation of new guidelines, process and support mechanisms to enable centre development and activities based on best practices.

## Partnership agreements

- **City of Saskatoon MOU**

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Saskatoon and USask in spring 2018, the OVPR is leading efforts to enhance research and collaboration between USask researchers and City of Saskatoon experts. In May, the two organizations collaborated on a "brain exchange" which enabled discussions on research around the theme *Adaptation to Climate Change*. In the coming year, USask will build on this pilot project to encourage enhanced collaborations on a variety of shared thematic interests.

- **USask-Remai Modern MOU**

In what is believed to be the first agreement in Canada between a university and a city-owned art museum, USask and Remai Modern signed a partnership agreement to collaborate in areas of complementary strength and mission through joint initiatives that will benefit Remai Modern, the university, and the community. The province's two leading cultural institutions agreed to pursue collaborative initiatives in public programming; Indigenous initiatives; partnered exhibitions; research, scholarly and artistic work; teaching; and acquisition activities. A special focus is engagement with Remai Modern's pre-eminent collection of Pablo Picasso linocuts and a related collection of Picasso ceramics.

- **USask-SSO MOU**

An MOU was signed January 28th by USask President Peter Stoicheff and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO) Executive Director Mark Turner. The agreement aims to foster connections between the community and the university's diverse range of scholarly and artistic work, including events and projects across many colleges. The partnership also promotes engagement with the USask instrument collections, such as the Amati string instruments, a rare quartet of 17th-century instruments, and the growing Kaplan Collection, comprised of historical and indigenous instruments from around the world. The MOU formalized a collaboration underway since 1931, the inaugural year of the SSO and the USask Department of Music.

## **Indigenous Peoples Signature Area: Development of a strategic plan**

The Vice-President Research has struck an advisory committee to guide development of a strategic path toward celebrating, supporting, and advancing research, scholarly and artistic work in our Indigenous Peoples' signature area. The Advisory Committee held its first meeting in May 2018 and will continue its work over the coming academic year.

## **Development of Partnership Principles**

To ensure USask is focused on developing partnerships that mutually respect our mandate and that of our partners, the OVPR is leading an initiative to articulate a set of principles around engagement (how, when and why we partner) with a broad range of public, private and public good partners. In phase 1, a multi-disciplinary working group of faculty and student representatives focused on developing principles to inform university-industry partnerships. In phase 2, the OVPR will be working with the offices of Community Engagement and Indigenous Engagement to expand the principles to be more inclusive of the range of partners with whom USask engages.

## **Program and Services Refinement: Managing Budget Reductions**

In 2017, PCIP levied budget reductions on a number of funds used to support programs for researchers. As a result of these cuts, the following programs were eliminated:

- Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fund, which funded a variety of initiatives aimed at enhancing social science and humanities research and artistic activity.
- Research Special Initiative Fund, which enabled the OVPR to sponsor special activities, usually public events (e.g. USSU's UGR poster event in January).
- Visiting Lecture Fund, which provided support to bring in external lecturer.
- CIHR Matching Program, a small discretionary fund, traditionally used to provide bridge funding for CIHR

The following programs were reduced:

- Undergraduate Research Initiative - *from \$400K to \$270K*
- Publication Fund - *from \$57,037 annually to \$25,000 annually*

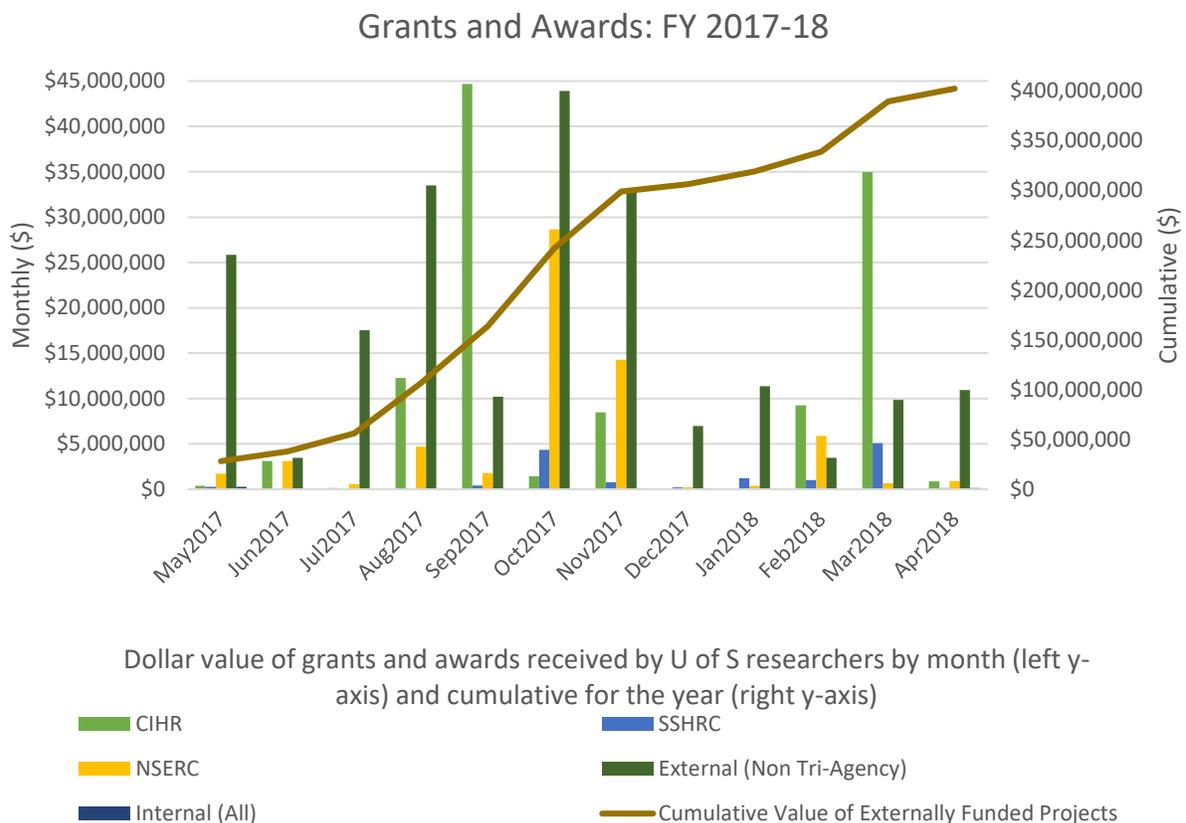
# Research Services and Ethics Office (RSEO)

The RSEO serves the USask community by facilitating and promoting research success. Our team of highly skilled and dedicated staff support researchers and academic leaders in developing competitive proposals for innovative research that is safe and ethically sound.

## Agreements

Research Support Specialists and Contracts Officers work directly with researchers and Research Facilitators to develop funding proposals and agreements with external and internal agencies primarily in Canada, but also with international partners like the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The goal is to provide proactive guidance to researchers in support of research integrity and autonomy, as well as to promote excellence as the “University the World Needs”.

Our office is using 2017-18 as a baseline year for activity and research revenue as the first full year of UnivRS implementation for grants, awards, and contracts. In the most recent fiscal year, research revenue over the life of the agreements from grants and awards totaled nearly \$400M, and from contracts nearly \$90M.



Grants and Awards includes funding received from the Canadian Tri-Agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC), as well as from non-Tri-Agency research funding sources, such as the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation and Mitacs.

A total of 372 research contracts were negotiated and signed in 2017-18.



Dollar value of contracts signed by USask researchers by month (left y-axis) and cumulative for the year (right y-axis)

The team uses a strict series of protocols to review all contracts to ensure that researchers have autonomy to conduct the cutting-edge research they pursue.

### Tri-Agency Success

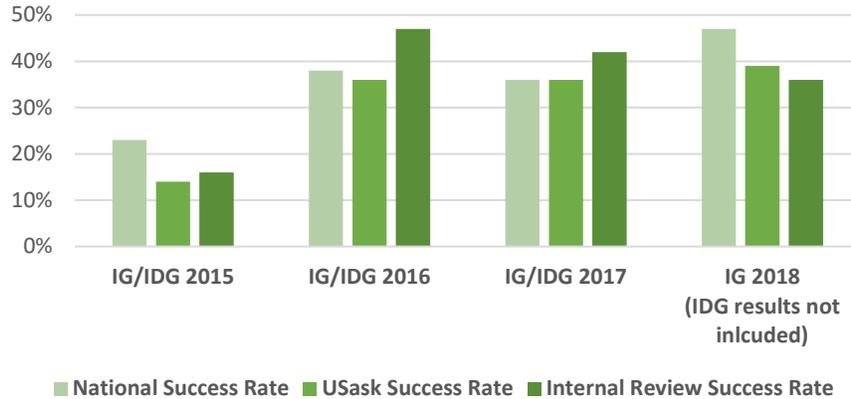
Overall success rates for key tri-agency funding programs are on par with national rates. For the NSERC Discovery Grants program, 2018 national results are not official but current data suggests that USask researchers matched the national average.

### NSERC Discovery Grants Success Rates (2015-2018)



SSHRC success rates are steadily climbing and have benefited from implementation of internal review processes. The 2018 data for Insight Development Grants have not yet been received and are thus not directly comparable to those provided for 2015-2017.

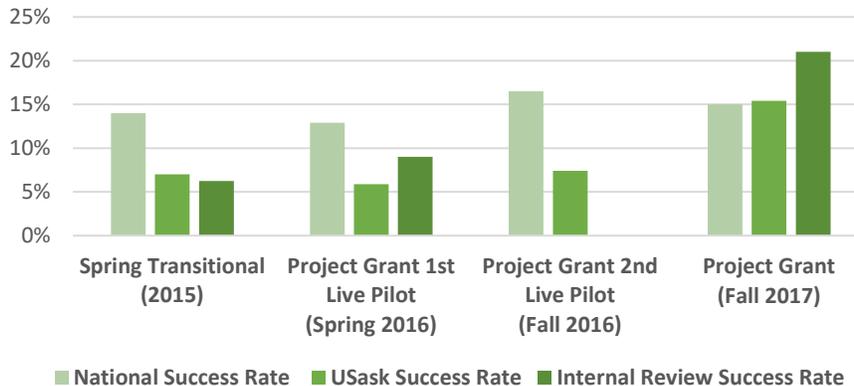
### SSHRC Insight and Insight Development Grants Success Rates (2015-2018)



The new President’s SSHRC Explore and Exchange programs are extremely popular and well supported across campus. This initiative is not only USask-supported, but championed by SSHRC for researchers to further develop and grow their ideas as well as to be shared on CVs under successful receipt of tri-agency funding.

USask is making great strides in CIHR engagement and success. The USask success rate for 2018 was slightly higher than the national average, although the total dollar value of those grants remains well below the national average. With strong success rates nationally, CIHR-funded research has significant momentum and continues to build.

### CIHR Transitional/Project Grants Success Rates (2015-2017)



CIHR researchers have benefited most significantly from internal review processes. Established NSERC researchers not currently holding grants are also experiencing higher-than-national average success.

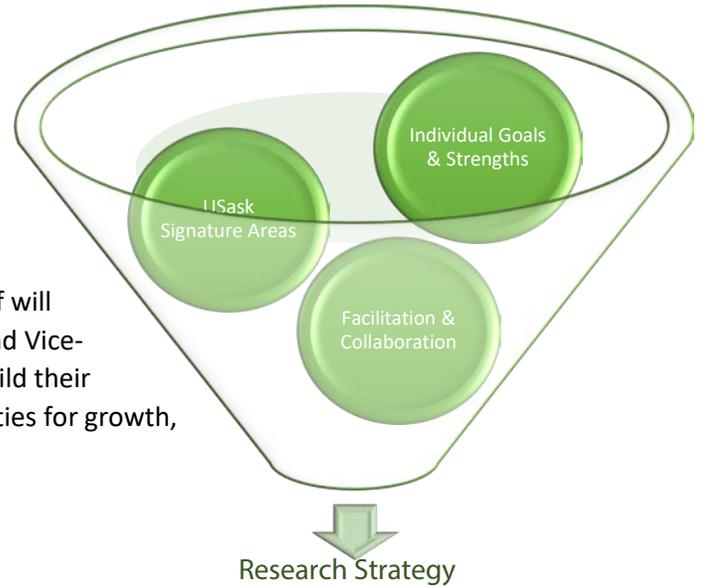
### Animal and Human Ethics

Both animal and human ethics teams are leading transition to UnivRS, including changes to online forms creation and submission processes.

### Academic Mentorship and Research Development

In its sixth year of existence and in collaboration with the Provost's Office, colleges and schools, a new model to support researchers' strategic goals and long-term plans will be launched.

With a proactive service model, RSEO leadership and staff will work with researchers, research facilitators, Associate- and Vice-Deans (Research), Deans, and Directors to help faculty build their individual strategic research plans and identify opportunities for growth, investment, collaboration, and development.



## Responsible Conduct of Research

The Vice-President Research oversees the [Responsible Conduct of Research policy](#).

In 2017-18, six allegations were received by the OVPR, of which two proceeded to a hearing. No breaches of the policy were found.

# Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI)

SRI supports development of institutional-level grants, faculty awards and recognition, and enhancement of the undergraduate research experience. In 2017-18, the unit focused on strengthening programs to support incubation of research clusters and development of competitive proposals.

## Building Research Capacity and Success through Innovative Services

In 2017-18, the unit focused on strengthening programs to support incubation of research clusters and development of competitive proposals.

### Test Your Concept

- Early-stage proposals presented to a panel of experts
- Available for: SSHRC Partnership, NSERC CREATE

### Expert Peer Review

- By scholars with demonstrated success and/or national review panel experience

### Research Cafés

- Builds momentum in areas of strategic importance
- Assists research cluster development and collaboration across units
- Enhances research culture
- Four cafés held in 2017-18

### Research Cluster Incubation

- Infectious Disease Incubation
- Cannabis Research Cluster
- Energy Research Cluster

## Building Momentum with Institutional-Level Grants

SRI submitted strong, well-developed, early-stage proposals that went through a rigorous feedback process through Test Your Concept events and expert peer reviews. Full proposals included two exciting firsts – the Canada 150 Research Chair program (4) and the Strategic Partnership Grants for Networks (led by USask). SRI supported 17 proposals and stage 1 submissions for programs.



## Strategic Initiatives

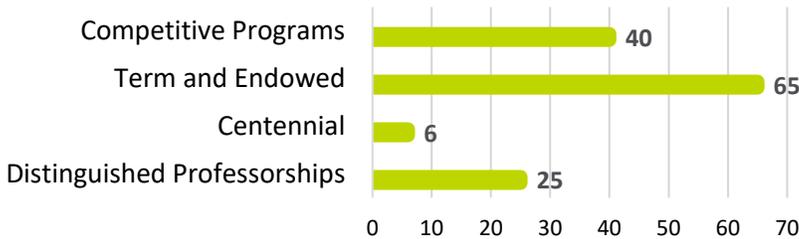
SRI contributes to strategic initiatives through:

- Centres Strategy: discussion paper
- Chairs Strategy: including comprehensive USask profile of chairs and new website
- CRC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan
- Research Clusters in development:
  - Infectious Disease; Cannabis; Energy

## Supporting USask Research Chairs

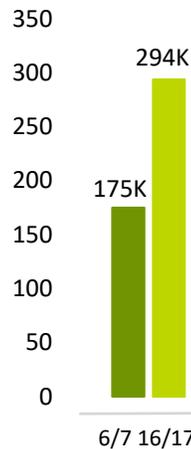
SRI supports key aspects of the USask chairs program. In 2017-18, the first comprehensive survey of USask chairs was completed and a new website developed.

### 136 Total Research Chairs



### NSERC Industrial Research Chairs

#### U of S Average Award Value 06/07 vs 16/17



Since 2006, the U of S has increased its NSERC IRCs to 6, placing it among the top 7 in the U15 for NSERC IRCs

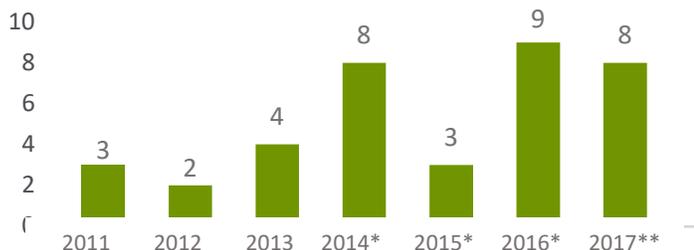
### Canada Research Chairs

- 23 active chairs (30 allocated)
- 2017-2018: one Tier 1 and one Tier 2 chair awarded
- Active searches: five Tier 2 chairs

## Awards and Recognition

SRI's support for international and national faculty awards and recognition includes 39 competitive award submissions in 2017.

### Achievement Record Awards



\* SRI's inception in 2014

\*\*15 nominations from 2017 remain outstanding

### Highlights include:

- 9 successes to date, 8 of which are achievement record awards (15 results remain outstanding)
- Royal Society College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists (2)
- Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (3)
- SHRF Achievement Award (1)
- NSERC Steacie Fellowship (1) – First U of S recipient in 25 years

## Undergraduate Research Initiative

SRI provides programs and support to this initiative with the aim of ensuring every undergraduate student graduating from USask engages in a research, scholarly or artistic work experience. Currently, metrics for student engagement include:



## Research Profile and Impact (RPI) Initiatives

**The unit works closely with researchers, research leaders and communicators across campus to tell the university's research story and build the university's research profile provincially, nationally and internationally through a variety of targeted communications strategies.**

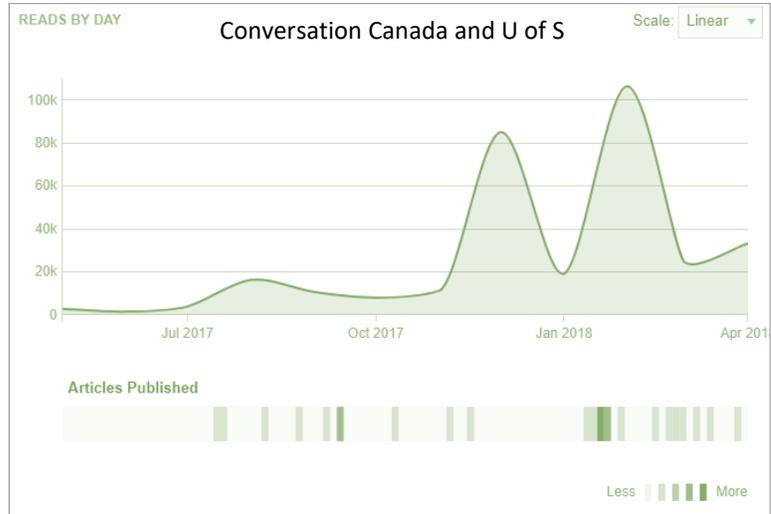
The unit is the university's liaison with government funding agencies and ensures compliance with communications clauses in research contracts. Communications products created by the unit—ranging from advertorials to news releases to videos—support student and faculty recruitment, government relations, and alumni and donor engagement. The unit also provides strategic communications counsel and support to OVPR units, research groups and communicators.

### New Approaches to Highlighting Research Success

Over the past year, the unit focused on the following new initiatives:

- A new **Funding Successes Database**, a sortable online database in the new Research website for searching successfully funded USask research projects
- A [new externally focused Research website](#) that highlights impacts of USask research, particularly in signature areas, community-based research, student research, Indigenous initiatives, international success, and commercialization
  - Won a 2017-18 national Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education award
- A new monthly **Discovery Digest newsletter** on USask research, scholarly and artistic work
  - Distributed to over 5,600 faculty and staff across campus, as well as to leaders in municipal, provincial, and federal governments
- Use of **compelling short videos** to tell research stories for a wide range of purposes, ranging from graduate student recruitment (events in Vietnam, China and Latin American countries through CALDO), profiles of Royal Society inductees and new university researchers, news releases, and alumni and development events across Canada and beyond.
  - Produced 12 videos including an “Overview Signature Areas” video and two water security videos
  - Invited to present on video as a research communications tool at the 2017 Universities Canada Directors of Communications meeting in Ottawa
- [The Conversation Canada](#): Increased the visibility of USask nationally and internationally by promoting researcher participation in this new independent academic newswire funded by 22 Canadian universities, Universities Canada and SSHRC:

- As of April 30, the overall readership of 35 USask articles in the Conversation Canada and Conversation sites abroad was 427,106.
- Several stories were re-published or followed by media outlets, i.e. *The National Post*, *Maclean's*, *CBC*
- Several online sites and news aggregators republished stories including *The Weather Network* (52,434 readers), *IFLScience*: 40,898, *Quartz*: 26,989, *Daily Mail*: 22,239, *Business Insider*: 20,655, *Discover Magazine*: 9,500, and *World Economic Forum*: 2,145.
- Examples of reach: worldwide **audience of almost 89,000** for researcher Emily Jenkins' piece about a deadly parasite potentially transferring from dogs to humans, and more than **48,000 readers** for water expert John Pomeroy's analysis of the water woes in Cape Town, South Africa
- The majority of readers were in Canada (38%), U.S. (31%), UK (5%), Australia (4%), and India and South Africa (3%)



### Leveraging Profile through Partnerships

- Partnered with **The StarPhoenix** newspaper on the **"Young Innovators"** story series, featuring 18 graduate student and supervisor profiles later re-purposed for a wide range of academic (Graduate Studies, student recruitment), government and Tri-Agency stakeholders
- Partnered with the **Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)** to produce stories on USask health researchers which SHRF publishes in their bi-annual magazine
- Worked with Universities Canada on an **economic mapping project** that highlighted USask research participation in nine economic sectors
- Organized many **ministerial research funding announcement events**. An example is partnering with the Canadian Space Agency for the launch of the USask student CubeSat project
- Partnered with **Tourism Saskatoon** to highlight research at USask via three widely distributed articles on international websites

### Other Major Research Profile-Building Activities

- Organized and promoted **2018 Images of Research Competition**. 86 photo submissions (40,290 pageviews) and 9,200 visitors to the contest website from over 75 countries, with celebration event and a public photo exhibition in Place Riel.
  - Invited to present on this innovative initiative at the 2017-18 Tri-Agency Communications Summit in Vancouver.

- **Promoting signature areas:** Examples include garnering national and international media attention for the new USask Canada 150 Chair in Remote Sensing. Featured our new CERC in Food Security as the speaker at the highly influential Bacon & Eggheads MP Forum in Ottawa in May, and arranged for CLS and GIFS directors to speak at Ottawa alumni events. Drafted a major multi-university communications strategy for the \$170-million Global Water Futures (GWF) research program for the GWF Inception Meeting in Waterloo.
- **National profile-building through research advertorials:**
  - Highlighted USask community-based research and USask success as No. 1 in Canada for research income growth – full page in the *National Post*, *Ottawa Citizen* and *Hill Times*.
  - Produced a half-page advertisement with University Relations for *Canada's Innovation Leaders Supplement* (USask “First in Canada for Research Income Growth”), and a story focusing on two USask CFREFs in water and food security.
- **Promoting commercialization:** Promoted AIMday and the launch of a rebranded Innovation Enterprise (IE) and oversaw development of a communications plan for building IE profile.
- **Promoting international research:** 11 international students profiled in Young Innovators series; six research stories for the International Partnerships website; videos -- on maternal and infant health research in Mozambique, a \$1M research and training donation for food security, USask Confucius Institute, Canada 150 Study Abroad scholarship winners, and stories for the PAW2018 Conference and Saskatchewan government’s *Inside International Education* Newsletter

### Canada 150: Promoting USask Discoveries and Leadership in Nation-Building

With Karen Chad as Canada 150 Project Executive Sponsor, the unit led the USask Canada 150 communications campaign, working with an advisory committee from across campus. Initiatives underscored how USask has played a disproportionately large role on the national stage in championing human rights, social justice and diversity:

- Produced 17 articles on USask Nation Builders such as John Diefenbaker, Emmett Hall, Hilda Neatby, Albert Johnson, Ted Hughes, Roy Romanow, Tom Molloy, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and Patricia Monture.
- Produced 10 “Discoveries with Impact” stories (unique contributions to areas such as agriculture, construction engineering, transplant medicine, nuclear medicine). These stories were highlighted in the Convocation program.
- Arranged three public events with former prime ministers (Jean Chretien, Kim Campbell and Paul Martin – all interviewed by USask Chancellor Roy Romanow);
- Held a national forum on the future of health care in Canada,
- Organized four book launches highlighting diversity: Jim Miller’s *Residential Schools and Reconciliation*; Craig McInness’s *Mighty Hughes*; Bob Calder’s *A Hero for the Americas*; and Peter MacKinnon’s *University Commons Divided*.
- Produced videos of drone footage to highlight the beauty of the campus and key research facilities. The videos are now used by many groups on campus for recruitment, special events, postcards and other spin-off projects.

# Innovation Enterprise (IE)

**Innovation Enterprise (IE, formerly Industry Liaison Office) initiates, develops, commercializes, and implements innovative, sustainable and knowledge-based solutions generated by USask.**

## **IE: Building on a New Vision and Brand**

After rebranding from the previous “Industry Liaison Office” and launching with a new vision focused on an entrepreneurial approach to technology commercialization, Innovation Enterprise has undertaken implementation of a new strategy to support positioning and reinforcement of the brand and vision. This includes targeted stakeholder engagement and communications, growing new and existing programs, and building the team and organizational capacity required to be successful.

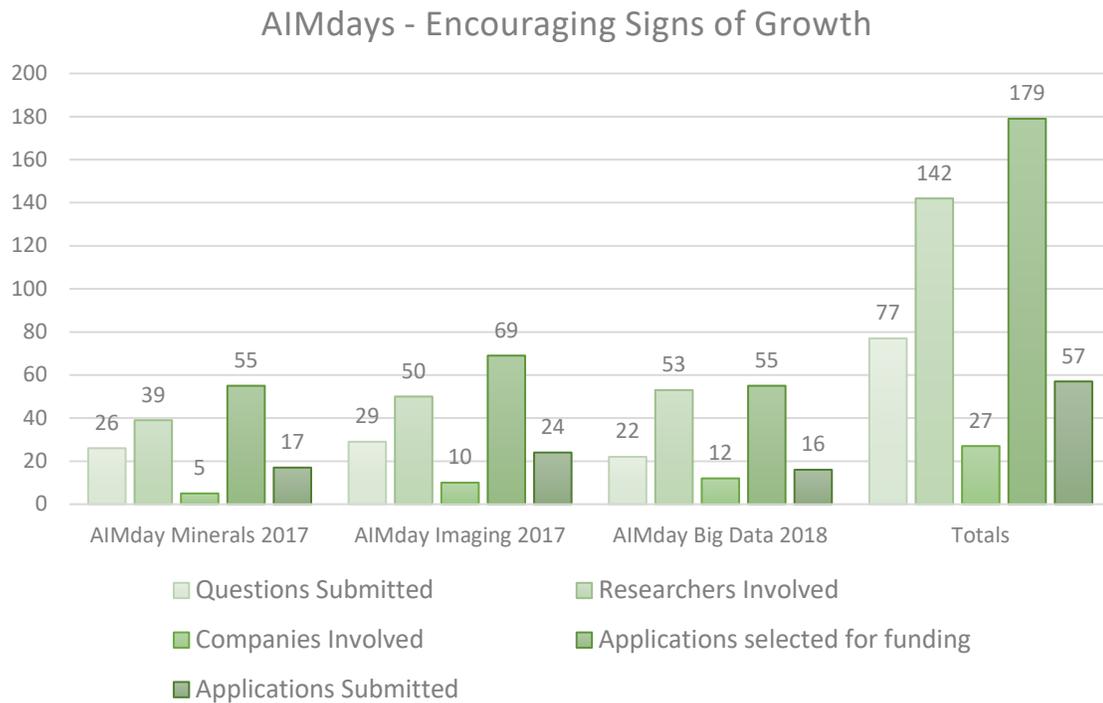
## **Programs and Initiatives**

- **Student Innovation and Business Analysts (SIBAs)** are students of all years and fields engaged to perform commercialization research projects on active innovation files handled by IE. Projects range from market research and competitive analysis to summarizing reports on market trends, for example. This work promotes an entrepreneurial culture and offers undergraduate and graduate students a chance to explore dynamics of innovation and business development.
  - Over 50 students hired, including a Program Coordinator, with average participants working five hours per week.
  - 171 projects have been assigned, of which 124 have been completed.
- **Portal for Industry Engagement (PIE)**, a web-based database, provides an overview of expertise, facilities, services and technologies at USask: more than 5,500 page visits from over 100 countries.
- IE is evaluating the possibility of leading the **USask World’s Challenge Program** which enables students to compete in this international challenge by coming up with ideas that address global issues. Incorporating this as a new program will be subject to resources required and available.
- In October 2017, IE published an **Innovator’s Guide** for all campus innovators that explains the role of IE and answers common questions around commercialization of knowledge intensive products and solutions.

## **Stakeholder and Ecosystem Support**

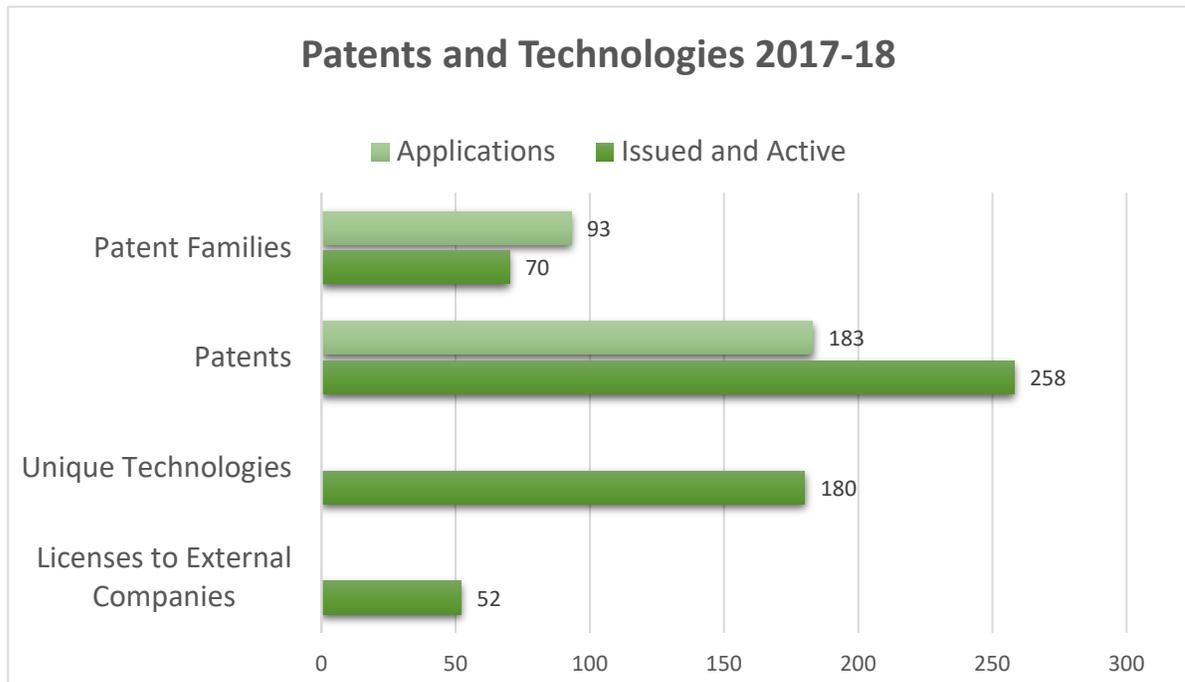
- IE is supporting a **new business accelerator program** launched in February 2018 by Co.labs, in partnership with Innovation Saskatchewan. The accelerator, Co.launch, provides an opportunity for very early-stage businesses and founders to develop their teams and business ideas through mentored learning and cash prizes awarded by an investor panel. The goal is to participate actively in growing the regional innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

## AIMday™ Initiatives and Events:



- AIMday™ is a unique academia/industry meeting concept initiated and successfully developed by Uppsala University in Sweden. IE has a collaboration agreement with Uppsala University to implement AIMday in North America.
- After hosting the first ever AIMday™ in North America in March 2017, with a focus on the mineral sector, IE hosted two more AIMday™ events, held in collaboration with University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The focus was on finding solutions to a wide variety of questions and problems on the topics of imaging (Oct 2017) and “big data” (April 2018).
- In March 2018, IE signed a collaboration agreement with Uppsala University to be the exclusive Canadian hub for AIMdays. This will increase both research and innovation collaboration among universities in and outside Canada.

## Operational Overview and Highlights



- Having established a **Creative Works Portfolio Manager** position in early 2017, IE has begun growing the pipeline of innovations and services offered. This includes consulting with faculty on copyright and other non-patent IP ownership and protection issues ie. a Kinesiology project with two principal investigators on a multi-author work in several media, and a copyright analysis with a damage mitigation strategy for a fine arts professor whose work was in danger of piracy. Planning for continued development of this portfolio will be evaluated in light of resources available during the coming year.

### Technology Transfer Highlights:

- In 2017, Excir Works was founded based on technology developed at USask in the laboratory of Stephen Foley. The technology allows for recovery of gold from consumer electronic waste in a novel and environmentally friendly process. The company has three employees plus the CEO, and has raised \$200K to date. This method is the fastest known, is highly selective for gold, far less toxic than other options, requires minimal energy input and ambient pressure, and uses reagents that are cheap and recyclable. In the report period, the company has gained traction with potential industry partners and investors.
- In October 2017, USask signed a licensing agreement with Gastrogenix Inc. for a lossless image compression algorithm technology that the company will be using in wireless capsule endoscopy, allowing non-invasive imaging of the human gut. IE is working with the company on follow-on research as well as expanding our agreements to include newly developed and related technology.
- A microbial endophyte, developed at and owned by USask, has passed regulatory approval by U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), a significant milestone in the commercialization process. The technology, licensed to Boston-based Indigo

Agriculture in 2013, improves crop yield in drought conditions, and can now be sold to millions of farmers in the U.S. with future registration possible in many more countries. Currently, collaboration between the company and USask on new technologies derived from this initial work is continuing.

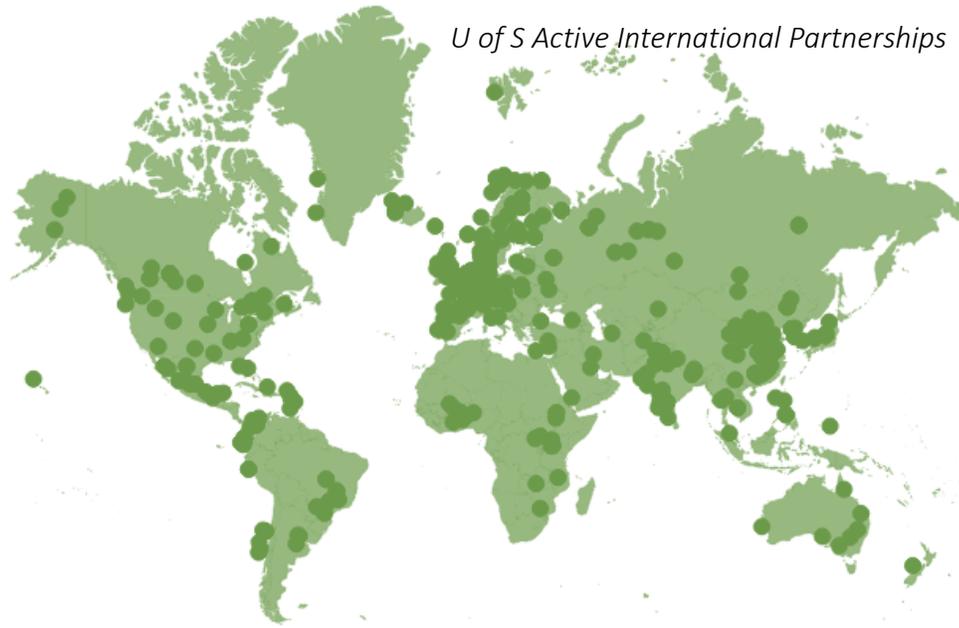
- In the past three years, Indigo Agriculture and USask, through IE, have built an extensive collaborative research program around this technology and secured almost \$3 million in research grants, plus in excess of an additional \$13 million from industry.
- In early 2017, Indigo launched its first commercial product into the US market. In late 2017, Indigo closed a \$156M series D investment round, and initiated international expansion with offices in Australia and Argentina. The company has raised over \$300M to date.
- Electrical and computer engineering researcher David Klymyshyn and his team invented a radically different approach to fabrication of compact radio frequency (RF) antennas and devices using non-traditional polymer-based materials, enabling improved performance and increased functionality for various emerging wireless communication and sensor devices.

Polytenna, a company started by Klymyshyn and his team, completed an accelerator program EvoNexus in San Diego. IE is working through the final steps required to license the technology to Polytenna for commercialization in fixed and mobile communications products and networks.

- Anandia Labs, founded in 2014, performs cannabinoid testing and research and is built on intellectual property developed by Jonathan Page jointly at NRC and USask. Anandia has grown to 24 employees and during this past year closed a round of financing totaling CAD \$13.4 million. Anandia is now valued at CAD \$63 million and has been recognized as the leading independent cannabis analytics, testing, and genetics company in Canada.

# International Research and Partnerships

The International Office provides leadership, coordination, and support services to advance the internationalization of the university's core missions of research, teaching and learning, and service.



## International Blueprint for Action

The USask International Blueprint is a strategy and roadmap to enable international learning experiences, increase diversity, strengthen our global impact through discovery, and grow our global citizenship and international community service.

Specific achievements in the past year include:

- Hosting the first *People Around the World* conference, *PAW 2018 – Global Learning, Mutual Gain* on February 7, 2018. The event will recur annually.
- Developing, communicating, adjudicating and awarding of international research and community development awards to 10 recipients totaling \$375,000
- Development, communication, adjudication and awarding of two rounds of international travel awards totaling \$164,000 to 36 faculty and staff
- Appointing two additional research specialists, one partnership specialist, and an Information Officer in the International Office, and piloted an International Liaison Officer in Shanghai
- Through the International Institution of Education (IIE) Scholar Rescue Program, a scholar from Cameroon was able to teach and do research in the College of Education
- Improving website information on international funding and conference opportunities for faculty students and staff
- Developing a strategy to better support and integrate visiting international faculty

- Establishing the Sask Alliance, a consortium among USask, University of Regina, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, which collectively and collaboratively promotes Saskatchewan as an education destination for international students
- Receiving China Ministry of Education approval for the University of Saskatchewan-Beijing Normal University Joint Centre for Climate and Water Sciences and the USask masters of water security to be offered at BNU.
- Developing a partnership with the Global Challenges University Alliance.

### Partnership Initiation and Agreement Development

During the period May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018, a total of **46** new agreements and **26** renewals have been executed:

- **28** new MOUs and **15** renewals
- **18** new mobility agreements and **11** renewals
- **One** co-operation agreement to develop the Mini-Language Lesson Program with the Confucius Institutes of USask and U of R

Region	International MOUs		International Mobility	
	New	Renewed	New	Renewed
Africa	3	2	3	
Americas <sup>1</sup>	7		4	1
Asia <sup>2</sup>	6	8	4	1
Europe	11	5	7	8
Middle East				
Oceania				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>

### Delegation Support

- 43 incoming delegations, with about 115 participants, providing invitation letters for visas, itineraries, logistics, briefings and hosting; these delegations included diplomatic officials, government and university representatives.
- 16 outgoing delegations, in the form of briefing notes, advice and guidance regarding priorities, and promotional materials.

### International Research Success

More than 120 international research projects were awarded in the 2017/2018 fiscal year, for example:

- Irena Creed (SENS) was awarded \$300,000 from Universities Canada Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee fund for a project which will fund 44 scholarships.

<sup>1</sup> Excluding domestic agreements, i.e. the SASK Alliance MOU and the cooperation agreement signed between the Confucius Institutes of U of S and U of R.

- Seok-Bum Ko (Engineering) was awarded \$257,000 by the Korea Evaluation Institute of Industrial Technology and administered by Seoul National University R&DB Foundation called *Developing Processor-Memory-Storage Integrated Architecture for Low Power, High Performance Big Data Servers*.
- Li Chen (Engineering) awarded \$144,604 from NSERC for project *On-Chip Voltage Regulation in Advanced Technologies*.
- Kasap Safa (Engineering) awarded \$128,400 from NSERC for project titled *Optical Switching based on Transition Metal Oxide Thin Films*.
- Susan Whiting (Pharmacy and Nutrition) awarded \$100,000 from the Grand Challenges for project called *Using eggshell calcium to mitigate fluorosis in Ethiopia*.

### University International Conferences and Symposia

Support for international activities, providing conference organization, delegation co-ordination, briefing and speaking notes, flag and gift protocols, liaison with campus security, MOU signing ceremonies:

- University of Dhaka (UD) symposium and institutional visit, April 24-25, 2017;
- Pluses of Pulses Symposium, May 25-26, 2017;
- CONAHEC Conference, June 12-14, 2017;
- 23rd International Conference on Collaboration and Technology (CRIWG 2017), August 9-11, 2017; and
- International Symposium of Internationalization, Education and Social Development, hosted by the Confucius Institute at the University of Saskatchewan, August 17-18, 2017.

### Other International Conferences

- 9th Atmospheric Limb Conference, June 11-14, 2017;
- 2nd Emerging Technologies for Global Food Security, June 19-22, 2017;
- 25th Canadian Symposium on Catalysis, May 8-11, 2018.

### Upcoming International Conferences and Symposia

- Canadian Nuclear Society Annual Conference, June 3-6, 2018;
- 39th Symposium on Remote Sensing, June 17-23, 2018;
- 3rd Emerging Technologies for Global Food Security, June 18-21, 2018;
- 5th International One Health Congress, June 21-27, 2018;
- International Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man 2018, June 26-27, 2018;
- 2018 International Conference on X-Ray Microscopy, July 15-19, 2018;
- International Executive Council Meeting of the International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage, August 11-17, 2018;
- Canadian Lipid and Bioresource Conference 2018, September 9-11, 2018;
- 3rd Symposium of the Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC), October 16-19, 2018;



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate  
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## 2018 Annual Report to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) Committee of University Council

Meeting: May 29, 2018

Dr. Trever Crowe, Interim Dean  
College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS)



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## Message from Dr. Trever Crowe

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was established in 1946, and our strong network of faculty and staff members works hard to attract the very best graduate students and support them from admission to convocation. Our team is highly committed to providing world-class student experiences, with a focus on 3 priorities

- Collaboration with partners internal and external to the university;
- Opportunities for international experiences; and
- Program quality and innovation.

The breadth of programming, including traditional and interdisciplinary topics, and research innovation make the University of Saskatchewan distinct. Our facilities are beyond compare. The Canadian Light Source Synchrotron, the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Center, VIDO-Intervac, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Social Sciences Research Laboratories don't exist elsewhere. The University of Saskatchewan is home to the Global Institute for Water Security, the Global Institute for Food Security, three interdisciplinary graduate schools, a division of biomedical engineering...and the list goes on. We have incredible facilities, unmatched program options and community relationships and engagement that are the envy of most.

Collaboration with academic units and other campus offices is an essential element of our success. Students enjoy tremendous support provided by campus partners such as the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning, the International Student and Study Abroad Centre or programming provided by our University of Saskatchewan Library. Our collaboration also extends beyond campus, and I encourage you to consider opportunities in international engagement which might take the form of a student exchange or the opportunity to study abroad.

We constantly seek innovation and creativity in program structure and delivery. This means expanding and enhancing mechanisms which facilitate student mobility. A number of exciting initiatives continue to move us forward to those ends. As a member of Canada's U15 top research-intensive universities, we continue to explore research partnerships with communities, governments and research collaborators that are critical to our meeting and exceeding societal, health and economic needs.

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies remains committed to new and enhanced graduate programs, stemming from areas of research excellence and supporting growth in areas of local and global importance.

Sincerely,



Trever Crowe Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Interim Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies





### College Governance

As a result of a change to the college name in 2017, postdoctoral fellows have been integrated into the governance structure of the college. This has largely involved revisions to committee titles, terms of reference and membership of standing committees of the CGPS Faculty Council. This work to update the college’s governance structure is ongoing. Within the college plan, we propose an alternate structure that will formalize relationships and interactions with other colleges and schools while also streamlining processes and business with University Council and its committees.

### College Membership

CGPS currently maintains 1801 graduate faculty files across all appointment types. We continue to work on a platform to automate membership, but until that is complete we will continue to renew members in the spring through notification to department heads and executive directors.

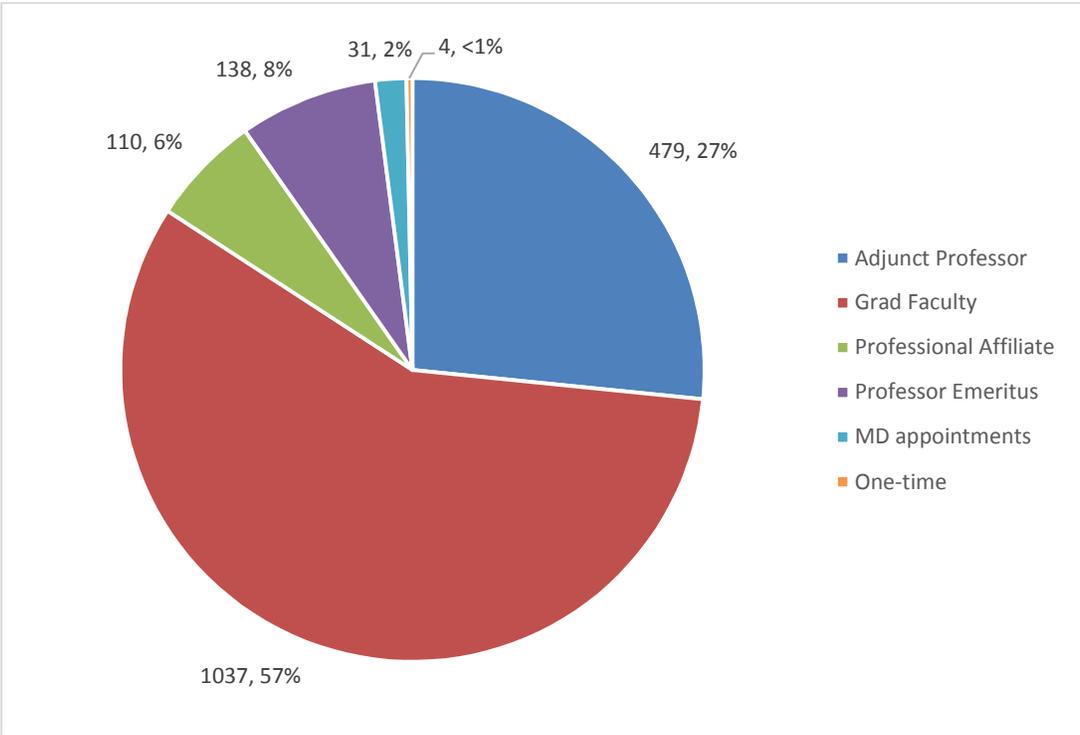


Figure 1: college faculty membership

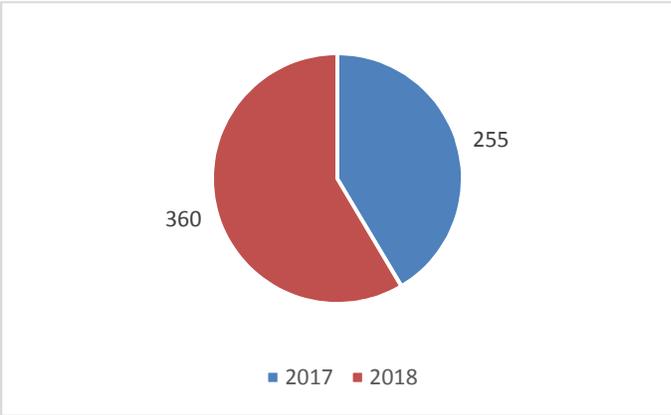


Figure 2: CGPS membership across all types - annual renewals

## College Committees

The CGPS greatly depends on participation by faculty members to ensure the smooth operation of our committees. Across all CGPS committees 100 cross-discipline faculty seats must be filled. While new appointments begin in July of the current year, preparation for membership renewal on these committees begins in March. Figure 1 illustrates that there are an expected 23 seats opening in 2019 and 25 seats in 2020 respectively.

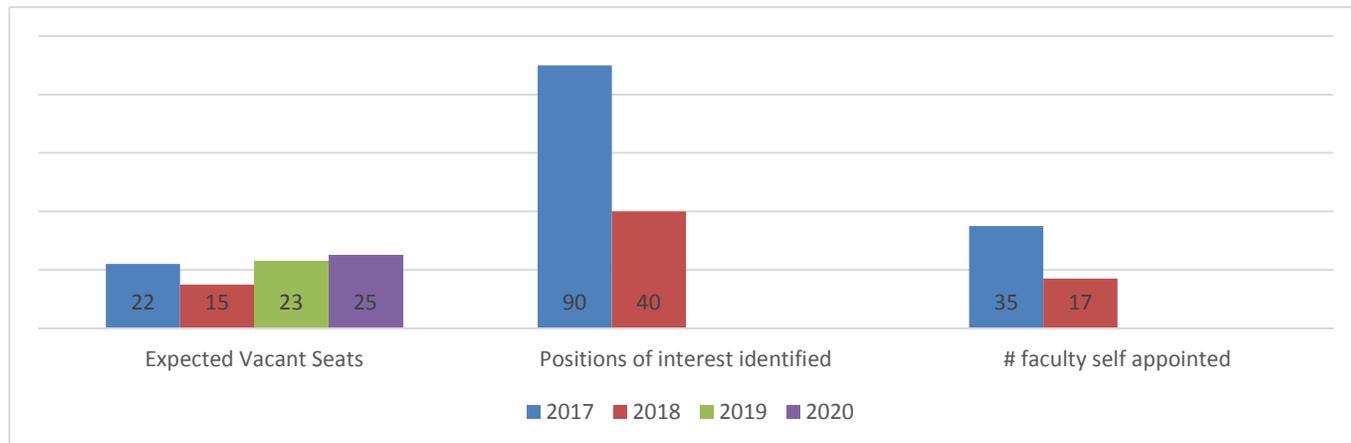


Figure 3: CGPS committee data

## CGPS Student Financial Aid

There continues to be a variety of funding sources for graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. Many students are supported by a combination of awards, fellowships and scholarships from university-wide competitions, department-specific opportunities, and national or external awards.

The college currently adjudicates and manages an awards portfolio now reaching almost ~\$15M across all competitions and available funding. Work continues to be completed on identifying new funding opportunities.

## Scholarships and Awards Highlights

### Indigenous Graduate Student Leadership Award:

- The committee reviewed 10 applications and have the privilege of awarding all six scholarships. (Annual budget of \$150k). Award recipients will be announced shortly.

### Dean's Scholarship Competition

- In total (Rounds 1 and 2), the CGPS Awards Committee offered 25 Master's and 70 PhD scholarships with a value of just over \$2.1M. The final award counts for the Dean's scholarship are not finalized until all scholarships offered are officially accepted by students and all students have determined how they fared in tri-council competitions, when applicable.

### Devolved Scholarships:

- The 2018/19 allocation to devolved units is \$3,651,983. Work is underway contacting departments to deploy funding. Recent communication was distributing, regarding reporting.

### Tri-Agency Doctoral Award Competitions:

- The NSERC Doctoral competition quota for 2018 was 22; we received 12 awards and 1 alternate. Of the 22 competition applications received all were high quality, and notably, 6 were top tier CGS \$35k/yr.
- The SSHRC Doctoral results are currently being calculated. The committee reviewed 33 applications for this competition to fill our 20-award quota. Results of the national competition have not been received as yet.

### Tri-Agency Master's Competitions:

- We are waiting to hear back from CIHR (4 awards), NSERC (17 awards) and SSHRC (19 awards). A total of 149 applications were reviewed by the CGPS Awards Committee for all of the CGSM Tri-Agency competitions with a total awards value of \$700K plus top-ups of \$240K.

## NSERC USRA Competition:

- The NSERC Sub-Committee reviewed 143 applications of which 62 awards were offered. The scholarship includes \$4500 per award paid by NSERC with a supervisor top-up commitment of at least 25% of the award value. Total award values for 2018 are expected to be \$279K plus the supervisor supplements.

A nation-wide announcement is planned early September 2018 announcing this year's Vanier Scholars CGPS is limited to what can be said about these awards until the announcement, but we are excited to let you know that the University of Saskatchewan was awarded two NSERC and two CIHR Vanier scholarships this year. Our office reviewed a total of 19 applications for the 2018 competition.

## Internationalization

**Cotutelle Program** guidelines and forms are now available online. There have been three Cotutelle agreements for individual students approved in the last three months. A further three are under development.

**Partnership Agreements** are an important tool used to open doors to increase bilateral graduate student training opportunities. The College has collaborated with faculty and staff to develop many agreements, most notably in China and various Latin American countries. In addition to numerous student mobility agreements completed throughout the year, the following dual degree agreements have been renewed or undertaken.

- M.A. Sociology, Xi'an Jiao Tong University, China: renewed
- M.Sc. Physics and Engineering Physics, Peoples Friendship University of Russia, Russia: renewal underway
- Ph.D. Soil Science, Meiji University Graduate School, Japan: new under development

**Sponsorship Agreements** with other universities or governments are a means to support international students to attend the U of S with external funding. The CGPS currently has four inter-institutional sponsored student agreements under development. In addition, the SENESCYT agreement with the Ecuadorian government is due to expire in June and negotiations for a renewed agreement are underway. The agreement with China Scholarship Council will expire next December and work has begun to renew that agreement as well.

**Study Abroad Handbook** was part of the work undertaken through the Canada 150 Graduate Student Fellowship, and in collaboration with ISSAC. Research into the international education opportunities available for U of S students, along with information on funding, types of programs and the process of applying, was completed during the winter months. An electronic handbook has been developed and should be available to students and faculty very soon on the website.

## Recruitment

**Collaborative Recruitment Model** adopted by the CGPS, the University Language Centre (USLC) and the Student Recruitment Service Team in the TLSE (Teaching, Learning and Student Experience) several years ago enables joint planning and delivery of recruitment activities. This move has helped to maximize representation for the University of Saskatchewan in a broader range of markets and more effectively utilized the available staff resources. The efforts of individual faculty members, as well as colleges, schools and departments also play a significant role in graduate enrolments.

Table 1: graduate student enrolment growth over three years

Graduate Students	2014/16		2015/16		2016/2017		Growth Over 3 Years	
	Enrolment	% of total enrolment	Enrolment	% of total enrolment	Enrolment	% of total enrolment	Enrolment	%
All	3863		3946		4086		223	6%
Domestic	2401	62%	2454	62%	2495	61%	94	4%
International	1462	38%	1495	38%	1591	39%	129	9%
Saskatchewan	1473	38%	1513	38%	1547	38%	19	2%
Out of Province	915	24%	926	23%	934	23%	74	5%
Aboriginal	246	6%	276	7%	301	7%	55	22%



Since 2012, the College has focused resources on recruitment efforts in those countries where the prospective students would be eligible for scholarships from their own governments. The intent was to maximize enrolment growth by attracting students who hold external scholarships. In this timeframe, the China Scholarship Council has provided scholarships to 99 PhD degree students and almost 144 visiting students and scholars, which represents an investment of over \$9.5 million in funding support (based on monthly stipend of \$1600/student x length of stay) for individuals attending the University.

There is a continued need to increase the diversity of the international graduate student body, while maintaining or increasing domestic enrolments. Other countries identified as potential markets for government sponsored students were Brazil, Ecuador, Vietnam, Colombia, and most recently, Mexico. Recruitment activity and investments have been expanding to include these countries, and as a result, we are seeing an increase in the numbers of sponsored students from countries other than China. Although it typically takes five years of market presence to realize change, greater diversity in the international graduate student population is emerging. Over the last three years, the international student enrolments have increased by 6% however, enrolments from China have dropped slightly, while other top or targeted countries have increased or remained stable.

Recruitment efforts for the 2017/2018 academic year saw CGPS staff actively on the ground in Colombia, China, Ecuador, India, Mexico and Vietnam. Partners in USLC and TLSE represented graduate recruitment interests into other locations, both domestic (Saskatchewan and Alberta) and international. In addition, faculty efforts in recruiting students have resulted in growth in student numbers from other countries, notably Bangladesh and Ghana.

Recruitment activities include attendance at graduate specific fairs, workshops and presentations, delivered either onsite at partner institutions or open house format at public venues, webinars and distribution of promotional materials. During the last year, CGPS staff attended:

- 25 recruitment fair days internationally
- 39 institutional partner workshops and in-country open house events
- 3 virtual fairs for students located in various Latin American and Caribbean countries;
- 3 webinars for prospective students and information sessions for partners and agents
- 5 presentations to international students who were attending a short term program at the U of S

**Faculty Ambassador Program** supported 12 faculty members' participation in various recruitment activities last year. This includes providing promotional materials, orientation and funding to individual faculty who are travelling to other universities, conferences and events so that they are better positioned to promote the U of S. It also included supporting three faculty to participate as a member of a recruiting team visiting key markets to take part in partnership development discussions for collaborations in graduate education and programs.

**Marketing and Promotional** efforts to increase name recognition and promote the U of S to prospective graduate students continued throughout the year. CGPS collaborated with the TLSE and USLC to jointly develop a single international view book, which was subsequently translated into Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish for all recruiters to use. In addition, graduate program information was included in the domestic market view book, which was distributed throughout western Canada by domestic recruiters.

Research, writing and editing to produce the fourth edition of Discover uSASK, the CGPS graduate student research magazine, took place during the winter. The magazine, published on April 30, 2018, will be used as a marketing and promotional tool for the next year. Work continues to develop short stories on graduate student success for publication on the uSASK website, the CGPS Facebook page and the University's Chinese WeeChat site.

## Programs and Operations

### Banner Document Management

As has been previously discussed, Banner Document Management is now being used for all graduate admissions, which allows for electronic upload and storage of admissions documents. We are utilizing this software further by implementing it for our student file system as well. We will be undertaking a project to digitize all current student files, beginning February 1st and plan to have fully transitioned to a paperless student filing system by June 2019.

### Graduate Administrators' Forum

We continue to hold our graduate administrators' forums three times per year. We appreciate the time that graduate administrators take to attend and participate in these forums, and we value the opportunity to spend time together providing updates, discussing challenges, and sharing information with one another. We appreciate when faculty and supervisory staff make accommodations so that grad admins can attend these forums. The next forum has been scheduled for May 9, 2018.

## Academic Affairs

The university is a key constituent of the broader community, and we play a prominent role in preparing students as global citizens, role models and leaders. The university expects students to exhibit honesty and integrity in their academic endeavours and to behave responsibly and in a manner that does not interfere with the mission of the university or harm the interests of members of the university community.

*(Guidelines for Academic Conduct 1999)*. **The CGPS oversees a variety of academic areas primarily providing oversight in graduate academic policy and programs as well as advocating for students and faculty.**

Table 2: *academic affairs snapshot*

	Formal Academic Appeal Hearings (heard by CGPS)	Formal Academic Misconduct Cases (heard by CGPS)	Informal Resolutions of Academic Misconduct (reported to CGPS)	Requirement to Discontinue issued to student
2016-17	3	6 (7 students)	N/A	14
2017-18	5	4	6	25

## Graduate Student Statistics

Comparing the origin of students (*Figure 4*), it is interesting to note that in 2017-18 overall enrolment has increased by 0.90%, over 2016-17; yet enrolment by Canadian students has decreased by 2.8%.

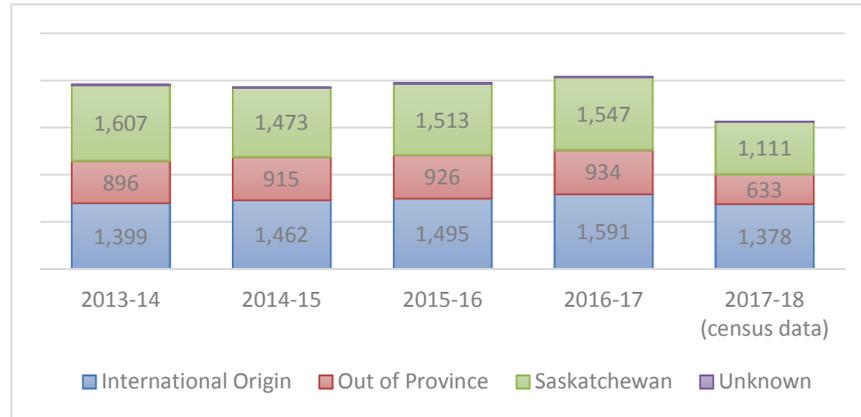


Figure 4: graduate enrolment by origin

Approximately, 27% of the graduate student population will convocate annually. Actual registrations increase approximately 25% after census dates. Registration numbers as at 201801 is 4,205.

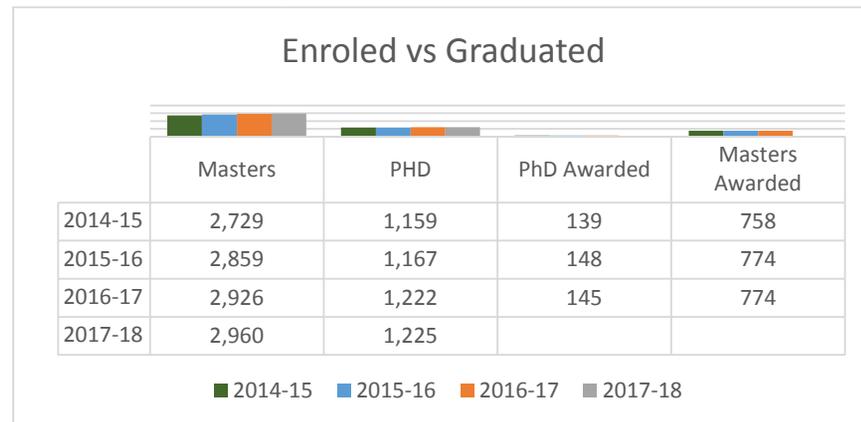


Figure 5: enrolled vs graduated students

Opportunity to grow unique and innovative programming is evident. Further research must be done to ensure CGPS capitalizes on emerging markets.

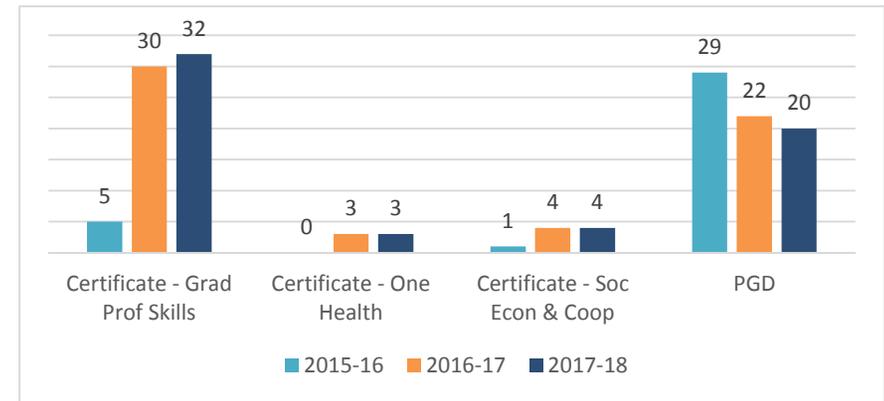


Figure 6: graduate enrolment (certificates/diplomas)

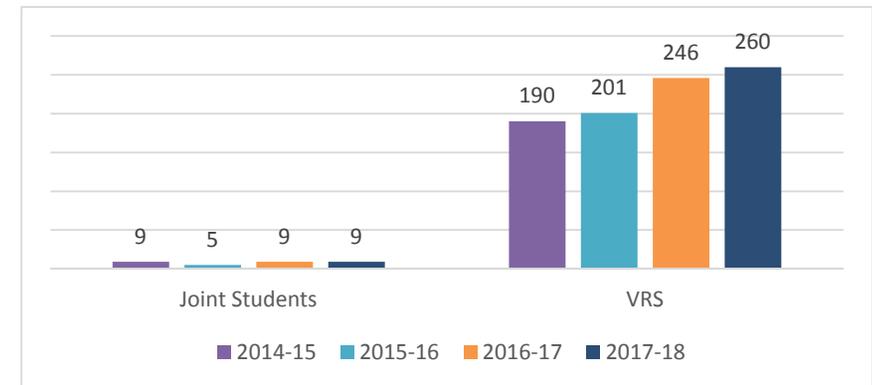


Figure 7: joint and visiting research students



Aboriginal students showed a decrease of 6.9% as of the fall 2017 snapshot. Once all registrations were complete, census numbers are exactly on par from last year.

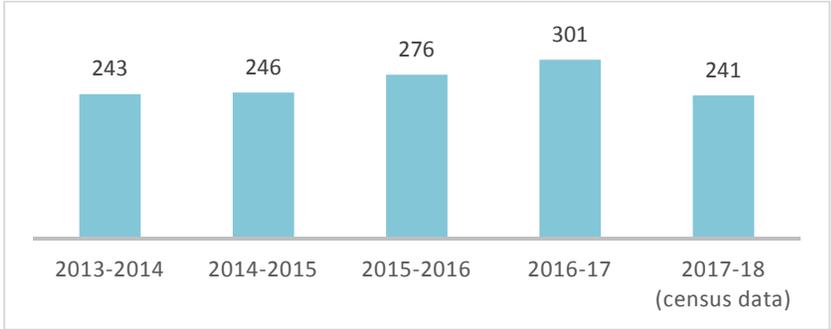


Figure 8: Aboriginal graduate student headcount

Figure 9 indicates the 3-year trend in the most popular international markets. Both China and Ecuador provide government scholarships to their citizens to go abroad for post-graduate studies.

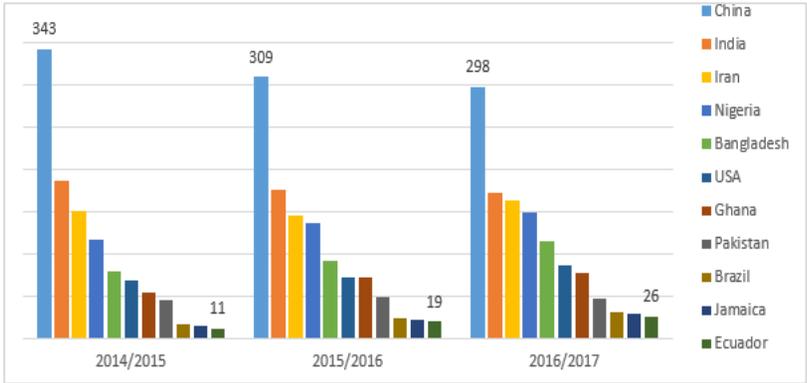


Figure 9: top international markets

In 2017-18 (YTD) a total of 7002 applications were received of which 1505 students were offered admission; of those applications 5498 were international (13.8% were offered admission).

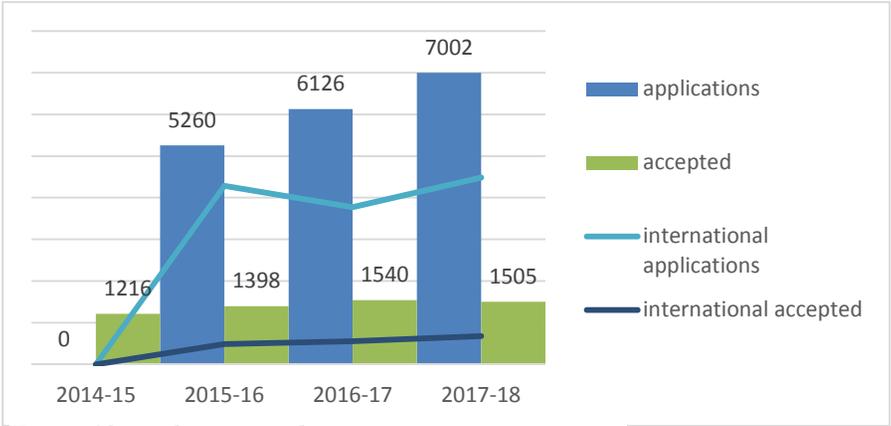


Figure 10: application v admission

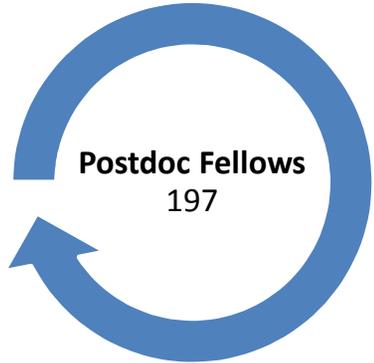


Figure 11: number of active postdoctoral fellows at the University of Saskatchewan

## Global grad student support grows

From sunny South America to the frosty Canadian prairies, Bruna Maria Remonato Franco's academic journey was sparked by her dedication to animal welfare.

LESLEY PORTER  
Mar 7, 2018

"I am passionate about animal welfare," said Franco, originally from Curitiba, Brazil. "When I had the opportunity to do a PhD I was very interested because it seems like it's my life goal, to feel like I'm doing something to help the animals to get a better life."

Currently completing her PhD in animal and poultry science at the U of S, Franco is also a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, awarded yearly since 2005 by the College of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies (CGPS) to graduate students with outstanding academic records and research potential.

Franco earned her veterinary medicine degree in Brazil. She worked as a veterinarian while completing a master's degree in veterinary sciences specializing in farm animal welfare. Her husband received a scholarship to complete a portion of his graduate studies in Canada. While visiting him, she met with agriculture professor (and future graduate advisor) Karen Schwean-Lardner. After being accepted for her PhD program, Schwean-Lardner emailed her information about the Dean's Scholarship.

"There were some requirements about grades and publications," Franco recalled. "I thought, 'OK, let's give it a try.'"

Franco was already in Canada, so she worked with family and friends back in Brazil to arrange the necessary paperwork. Her efforts paid off when she was awarded the scholarship.

"I was so happy when I got it," she said. "We have our daughter here, so we have to pay for daycare, which is not cheap, and other expenses we have."

She added that without this funding, "it would be tight for us. So this helped us a lot. I have no words to say how grateful I am."

Not long after, the college announced another half a million dollars would be committed to the scholarship fund to cover tuition costs of doctoral student recipients.

"This was amazing—another amazing gift for us," said Franco. "I can concentrate on my studies and I know that at the end of the month I will have the money and what I need to pay for my family's expenses, so I can be full-time here and focused on my PhD."

On top of the Dean's Scholarship, CGPS recently announced two new scholarships aimed at supporting top graduate and post-doctoral researchers.

The Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award is geared towards Indigenous students who have taken on an active role of leadership in their community. In addition to covering tuition costs, master's and PhD students are eligible to receive \$16,000 and \$20,000 respectively—making it a unique award.

The Bringing the World to Saskatchewan scholarship is aimed at attracting top academic talent to the province. In total, \$110,000 is available to international graduate students and post-doctoral fellows—making this the first U of S-backed funding package available to post-doctoral scholars.



PhD student Bruna Franco came to the U of S from Brazil. (Photo credit: Lesley Porter)

"The college is thrilled to support our talented students and post-doctoral researchers," said Trever Crowe, interim dean of CGPS. "Funding of this calibre will allow scholars to complete their studies and reach their research goals with minimal financial burden."