Graduate Studies at Memorial University (2010-2019)

“The growing demand for Memorial’s graduate programs is a decade-long trend and a direct result of our reputation as leader in graduate education. Our distinguished faculty supervisors, research excellence, and exceptional student services all contribute to making Memorial one of the most desirable places to pursue a graduate degree.”

- Dr. Aimée Surprenant, associate vice-president (academic) and dean of graduate studies

Educating the world’s best and brightest

Memorial University is in demand by graduate students and researchers. In Fall 2019, graduate enrolment exceeded 4,000 for the first time in Memorial’s history. Graduate students now account for 22% of Memorial’s student population, the highest proportion among comprehensive universities in Atlantic Canada according to the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU).

Over half of our graduate students are female and 40% are from outside of Canada. According to the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS), the province of Newfoundland and Labrador ranks first in proportion of full-time international graduate students, and is among the best at attracting graduate students from other provinces.

We’re committed to creating the right conditions for student success. In 2019, Memorial awarded $23.9 million to a total of 1,816 graduate students, including $1.4 million through external funding competitions. In 2019, we conferred a total 997 graduate diplomas and degrees; and from 2010 to 2015, the province of Newfoundland and Labrador led the country in growth in graduate degrees awarded.

A decade of growth in graduate studies

The past decade saw tremendous growth in graduate studies at Memorial. Graduate applications increased by 142% over the past ten years, including an increase of 254% in international applications. According to the AAU, graduate enrolment at Memorial has increased by 35% since 2010, compared to an average growth of 12% among Maritime universities. Memorial’s international graduate enrolment increased by 204% and female graduate enrolment increased by 26%.

Our graduate students are enrolled in a total of 179 graduate programs now offered at Memorial across the St. John’s, Marine Institute, and Grenfell campuses. The number of graduate diplomas and degrees conferred has increased by 52% since 2010.

Growth in graduate studies at Memorial (Fall 2010 to Fall 2019)
A collaborative approach to student supports

Memorial’s graduate students are supported by some of Canada’s best faculty supervisors, staff advisors, and student services. These are a few examples:

- Each year, Memorial offers over 100 free workshops and programs to foster whole-person learning and build diverse professional skills and competencies, including a first-in-Canada entrepreneurship training program for international graduate students.
- The School of Graduate Studies’ diversity committee and Special Advisor to the AVPA and Dean on EDI work to foster a welcoming and supportive campus culture for graduate students of all backgrounds by actively identifying and eliminating barriers to success.
- Through a strong network of service units, Memorial offers orientation, accommodations, programming, and advising services for graduate students with families and dependents.
- Memorial is the only university in Canada to offer a formal, blended-learning training program for faculty to become excellent supervisors and mentors. The program is offered free of charge for Memorial faculty, and for a fee to academic staff outside of Memorial.

Our approach to training and supporting graduate students is informed by graduate students. We consider and act on their feedback on all aspects of their academic and student life. That approach has been acknowledged both by students and professional associations involved in advancing graduate education:

- In 2015, Memorial University ranked first among Canadian universities in the International Student Barometer, the global benchmark for international student experience, in the category of support from the graduate school.
- Two of the past four recipients of the prestigious Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools Geoffrey Marshall Mentoring Award were Memorial University faculty members.
- Memorial is the only university to have twice received the CAGS Award for Excellence and Innovation in Enhancing the Graduate Student Experience.
- Memorial University was awarded the Association for Graduate Enrollment Management Promotion of Excellence Award for its collaborative approach for recruiting and supporting graduate students.

To learn more about the work of Memorial’s master’s and doctoral students and alumni and how they are making a difference, please visit the School of Graduate Studies website.