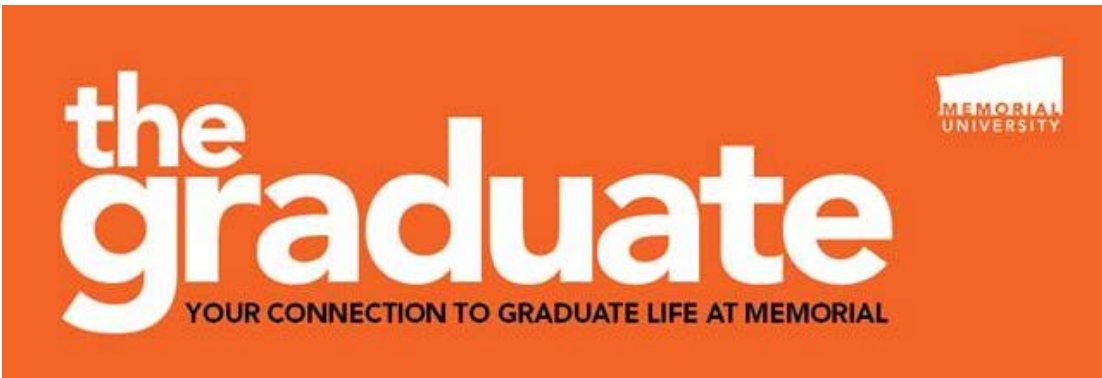


From: [School of Graduate Studies News](#) on behalf of [Hurley, Ashley](#)
To: SGS-NEWS@CLIFFY.UCS.MUN.CA
Subject: [SGS-NEWS] News for Graduate Students
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:03:27 PM



- [Important Notices](#)
- [Resources for Students](#)
- [Remote Learning](#)
- [Professional Skills Development](#)
- [Campus News](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

COVID-19

Memorial has created a webpage to share accurate information about COVID-19 and the university's response. This page will be updated regularly: <https://www.mun.ca/covid19/>.

Medical Insurance

Graduate students and families are strongly encouraged to obtain proper medical insurance coverage on an on-going basis. At a time of uncertainty, you want to ensure you and your family are covered in case of a medical situation or emergency.

For information regarding eligibility for coverage under the provincial Medical Care Plan (MCP) for NL residents, and to apply, please visit:

https://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/mcp/mcp_applications.html. If students are covered under Foreign Health Insurance and have further questions regarding their coverage, please contact the Internationalization Office: www.mun.ca/international. For information regarding GSU Health Insurance, please visit: <https://www.gsumun.ca/health-dental-plan>.

To view the specific health insurance components of MCP, GSU, and Foreign Health, please view the Internationalization Office's health insurance FAQ:

<https://www.mun.ca/international/programming/healthinsurance/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.php>.

Emergency Relief

Funds are in place to support the spectrum of stressful situations for students, including the SGS Graduate Student Emergency Fund available to graduate students on any of Memorial's campuses. For more information or to apply, please visit: <https://gazette.mun.ca/campus-and->

[community/emergency-relief](#).

Spring Semester

Registration for graduate students will begin Monday, April 27, 2020. Updated registration times will be sent to students via their @mun.ca email address and will also be viewable in Memorial Self-Service.

Memorial's spring semester, including intersession and summer session, will continue with remote instruction of all courses at all campuses of Memorial University. This means in-person on-campus courses will not resume before September 2020.

Semester start and end dates will remain the same. Students will be informed via their @mun.ca email of their new registration time when it has been assigned.

The Marine Institute will communicate directly to its students any changes to its technical session, summer semester and work terms. As updates become available, they will be posted to www.mi.mun.ca/COVID19.

Spring 2020 Fees

Memorial students will not be charged to pay the Distance Education Administration Fee and Recreation Fee for the upcoming spring semester.

The Distance Education Administration Fee is normally applied only to those taking online courses. Because all teaching and learning is taking place remotely and in a variety of different ways, this fee is waived for spring semester for all students.

With students unable to access the recreational facilities because of the closure of The Works, the Recreation Fee will not be charged for the spring semester.

Please note, the Campus Renewal Fee, Student Services Fee and Graduate Continuance Fee will continue. These fees help cover critical infrastructure and student services costs that continue to be incurred.

For more information please visit: <https://www.mun.ca/covid19/news.php?id=13207&type=news>.

Processing times for services

As most of the Registrar's Office staff and School of Graduate Studies staff are working remotely, processing and service times for many services have increased, including requests for enrolment verification letters, official transcripts, etc. As the Memorial community continues to practice social distancing, students are discouraged from coming on campus at this time to drop off or pick up documents. Please do not visit campus at this time. Details on how to request services can be found here: <https://www.mun.ca/covid19/news.php?id=13180&type=news>.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Canadian Government has released a new benefit, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). For detailed information regarding the CERB please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>. Students can assess their eligibility and apply online here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>. The Canadian

Broadcasting Corporation has also compiled an excellent guide (including eligibility requirements, date available, and application instructions) to federal and provincial benefits for people affected by COVID-19, please see here: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirusbenefits/>.

Exams

Students are advised that there will be no final exams taking place on campus in April. This includes both on campus and online invigilated exams. This does not apply to exams for certificate, diploma, undergraduate or graduate students at the Fisheries and Marine Institute. Those students will be updated directly by their faculty. Students can review the FAQ page at www.mun.ca/covid19/students/exams.php.

Academic Regulations

Graduate students are advised that the general regulation of Termination of a Graduate Program has been waived until further notice. This means that a graduate student's program will not be terminated for any reason, including failure to attain a final passing grade of A or B in a program course. This waiver will be rescinded at some time in the future.

Research

The Health Research Ethics Authority (HREA) Research Ethics Office (REO) has been closely monitoring the developments related to COVID-19. In light of recent restrictions, the REO of the Health Research Ethics Board (HREB) wishes to advise researchers that, effectively immediately, their research protocols must be modified or delayed to avoid face-to-face personal interactions with research participants. Specifically, research protocols for continuing research will need to be amended to replace face-to-face interactions with remote communication. Read more here <https://www.mun.ca/research/news.php?id=13170&type=announce>.

Spring Convocation 2020 in Corner Brook and St. John's

Memorial University will postpone Spring Convocation 2020 ceremonies that were scheduled for May 14 in Corner Brook and May 26-29 in St. John's.

Since an opportunity to walk across the stage and accept a hard-earned degree is the culmination of years of hard work for many students, the Spring Convocation ceremonies will be rescheduled to fall 2020 for those graduates who wish to participate. New dates will be determined based on venue availability in St. John's and Corner Brook; details will be released when they are available.

Graduate Student Payroll Deduction – Spring 2020

Each semester, graduate students have the option of requesting tuition to be paid automatically through payroll deduction. This request for automatic deduction must be completed each semester through the student's MUN Self Service account.

Once the spring registration date is confirmed you can request payroll deductions online by visiting: www5.mun.ca/admit/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin. Select "Graduate Student Payroll Deduction Request", which can be found under the "Employee Services" tab.

If you have questions or concerns about your funding, please email sgs@mun.ca.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Resources for graduate students

SGS has created a resource page addressing health and wellness, academic continuity, funding/financial aid, and student supports as your study/research remotely:

<https://www.mun.ca/sgs/current/resources.php>.

Video Messages from the Dean

Every day Dr. Aimée Surprenant, Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Dean, School of Graduate Studies provides a video update for all graduate students, as well as great advice for coping with the uncertainty of COVID-19. You can watch all videos here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpdPIxhRWwJEv0ruFFgPQ3A/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=0.

Research and writing

Dr. Cecile Badenhorst has compiled a variety of useful research and writing videos for research/thesis based graduate students, please see here:

http://www.mun.ca/sgs/Videos_research_thesis_writing.pdf.

Tips for researchers and graduate students

Researchers and research-intensive graduate students at Memorial are learning to adapt their activities and use remote technologies to continue their work, projects and studies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Gazette* offers these tips for researchers and graduate students as they navigate through a new normal: <https://gazette.mun.ca/research/new-normal/>.

Mental Health

The Mental Health Commission of Canada has developed a Mental Health First Aid COVID-19 Self-Care & Resilience Guide. The guide provides self-health tips, outlines a resilience plan, and provides links to valuable resources: https://www.mhfa.ca/sites/default/files/mhfa_self-care-resilience-guide.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0M79aZVFqBG99vz14a7i73XjqEC-t6YtUZWaZ0o_7yzRuyJbjXwS8jp6k

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre is currently offering online tutoring sessions for students. You can submit your work online which will be reviewed by an online tutor within two business days. For more information on online tutoring, please visit:

<https://www.mun.ca/writingcentre/services/distance/index.php>.

For a complete list of all Writing Centre resources, please visit:

<https://www.mun.ca/writingcentre/resources/>.

Student Wellness and Counselling Centre Services

The Student Wellness and Counselling Centre continues to remain open and staff are providing services to students via telephone and virtual sessions, with the exception of some physician and nurse appointments. For full details and to book an appointment, please visit:

<https://www.mun.ca/covid19/students/student-health-wellness.php>.

Internationalization Office (IO)

The Internationalization Office continues to provide supports to you remotely. This means email and other social media platforms including FB messenger, Skype and Zoom. Book an immigration advising appointment on the Navigate app or by emailing aabu@mun.ca. For all other questions please email international@mun.ca and an advisor will respond to you as soon as possible.

Mindful Moments Series

The Gardiner Center will be offering a 15-minute guided mindfulness session on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. The free session will be broadcast over Facebook live and led by Gardiner Centre instructor and Positive Psychology coach, Jennifer Kelly. For more information and to join the session, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/GardinerCentre/posts/2932374866820006>.

Bookstore online resources for students

The Memorial University Bookstore will update its website, www.bookstore.mun.ca, regularly with information regarding course materials. The Bookstore has partnered with VitalSource, Memorial's digital course materials provider, to launch VitalSource Helps, a program that provides access to e-books to all Memorial University students effective March 23 until April 30, 2020. Students may begin accessing these materials now at <https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com>. Further information, including answers to frequently asked questions for students can be found here: <https://support.vitalsource.com/hc/en-us/articles/360044467674>.

REMOTE LEARNING

Transitioning to Remote Learning

The Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning has created a Student Help site to assist students in transitioning from in-person to remote learning:

<https://blog.citl.mun.ca/resourcesforstudents/>. The site provides information on submitting assignments, presenting and participating in online classes, and also provides learning strategy resources and other helpful links. If you have further questions, the Remote Instruction Transition Team can help: <https://citl.mun.ca/TeachingSupport/instructionalcontinuity/>.

Tips for working from home

University of Toronto experts provide five tips for working from home and staying on track: <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/working-home-here-are-five-tips-u-t-experts>.

How to defend a PhD remotely

Alyssa Frederick, of nature, A Nature Research Journal, discusses her experience of defending her thesis remotely, and provides advice on how to do so successfully: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00971-z>.

Successful Online Learning

Education blog, EDX, provides tips for successful learning online, which include: self-care, time management, community and social learning, learning strategies, and learning logistics: <https://blog.edx.org/tips-for-successful-online-learning/>.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Interview Skills

Do you have questions about job interviews? The presentation will focus on tips for different types of interviews including in-person, telephone, and online. Now is a great time to build up your career skills so that you are ready when opportunities arise. Bring your questions!

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 15, 1 - 2pm NST

Mode: Online

Hosted by: Science and Career Development

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Surviving and Thriving in Graduate School and Beyond

Graduate school is hard but it shouldn't be impossible - in fact, it should be a rewarding and satisfying experience. In this session, we'll discuss some strategies and tips to survive and thrive in your graduate school program.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 15, 3 - 4pm NST

Mode: Online (Link to Brightspace Online Rooms will be sent prior to event)

Presenter: [Dr. Aimée Surprenant](#), Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Dean, Graduate Studies

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Avoiding Plagiarism

This workshop shows some of the common mistakes academic writers make when incorporating sources into text - mistakes that can lead to unintentional plagiarism. It also provides tips to avoid plagiarizing through developing paraphrasing and summarizing strategies.

Date and Time: Thursday, April 16, 11 am - 12pm NST

Mode: Online (Link to Brightspace Online Rooms will be sent prior to event)

Presenter: Carolyn Best, Manager, The Writing Centre

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Entrepreneurship Training Program: Skills Identification and Team Building

The idea of starting your own business can be daunting, but it's a lot easier if you have the right co-founders and team to help you along the way. This session will help you identify your own skills as well as the skills you will need within your team to ensure success for your business.

Date and Time: Thursday, April 16, 2-3pm NST

Mode: Online (Link to Brightspace Online Rooms will be sent prior to event)

Presenter: [Grace Tatigian](#), Entrepreneurship Training Program Coordinator

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Systematic Review Methods: A Primer

A systematic review is a particular type of literature review that emphasizes transparency and reproducibility throughout the review process. Although this review method was originally developed to assess the effectiveness of medical interventions, it is becoming increasingly common in disciplines outside of the health sciences. This session will begin with a brief overview of the history and philosophical foundations of systematic reviews. Next, the various stages in the review process will be outlined and described. Other knowledge synthesis

publication types and helpful software tools will also be addressed.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 22, 1 - 2 pm NST

Mode: Online (Link to Brightspace Online Rooms will be sent prior to event)

Presenter: Michelle Swab, Public Services Librarian, Health Sciences Library

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Tips for Remote Working

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 23, 1 - 2pm NST

Mode: Online

Hosted by: Career Development

Registration coming soon!

Entrepreneurship Training Program: Mentors and Advisors

Did you know that there are countless resources out there to help aspiring entrepreneurs? This session will provide an overview of the supports that exist both on and off campus that can help students start their own business. The more help you get, the higher your chance at success!

Date and Time: Thursday, April 23, 2 - 3pm NST

Mode: Online (Link to Brightspace Online Rooms will be sent prior to event)

Presenter: [Grace Tatigian](#), Entrepreneurship Training Program Coordinator

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Virtual Networking Tips

Networking is an essential part on any job search and is often hailed as the most effective strategy for uncovering opportunities. We can still maintain and develop our professional network even as industry professionals are working remotely. In this presentation, learn how to build a professional network online, effective online platforms in which to do so, and tips on how to be an effective virtual networker.

Date and Time: Monday, April 27, 2 - 3pm NST

Mode: Online (Registration not required)

Hosted by: Humanities and Social Sciences

[CONNECT HERE](#)

For more professional development opportunities for graduate students, please visit the [EDGE website](#).

CAMPUS NEWS

Virtual defence

Defending Memorial's first online thesis – during a pandemic: <https://gazette.mun.ca/campus-and-community/virtual-defence/>.

Building access

Memorial is phasing in reduced building access on St. John's campus, beginning with reduced building hours: <https://gazette.mun.ca/campus-and-community/building-access/>.

Glad you were here

Board chair salutes outgoing president, Dr. Gary Kachanoski: <https://gazette.mun.ca/campus->

[and-community/glad-you-were-here/](#).

Cancelled Teaching and Learning Conference 2020

Due to the ongoing escalation of COVID-19 in Newfoundland and Labrador and around the world, and in an effort to prevent the potential spread of the virus, all non-essential gatherings have been cancelled or postponed here at Memorial University.

As a result of this necessary measure, Memorial's [Teaching and Learning Conference 2020](#), scheduled for Apr. 29-30, will be cancelled this year.

Organizers in the [Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning](#) (CITL) will use planning efforts to date in hosting next year's conference, which is scheduled for **Apr. 28-29, 2021**. CITL thanks members of the Memorial University community for your contributions and support in the planning of this event, and look forward to collaborating again in their plans for next year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact tlconference@mun.ca.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or concerns with your program, please do not hesitate to contact [Andrew Kim](#) (for academic matters) or [Carol Sullivan](#) (for financial matters). Alternatively, email our office directly at sgs@mun.ca. We will respond to your email as quickly as possible (normally within 1 business day).