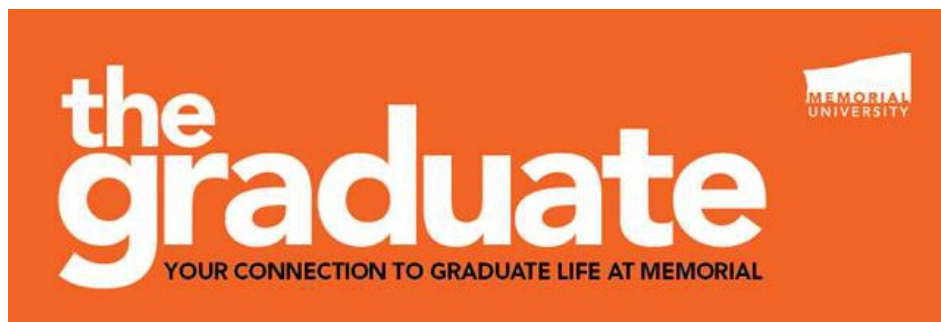


From: [School of Graduate Studies News](#) on behalf of [Hurley, Ashley](#)
To: SGS-NEWS@CLIFFY.UCS.MUN.CA
Subject: [SGS-NEWS] News for graduate students
Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:56:47 PM



- [From the School of Graduate Studies](#)
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FROM THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

To all of our graduate students, please remember that although we are physically distant, faculty and staff in the School of Graduate Studies, your academic units, and all service units at Memorial University are here to help you. We have created a [resources page](#) addressing health and wellness, academic continuity, funding/financial aid, and student supports as you study/research remotely. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your graduate officer or graduate admin staff or email sgs@mun.ca. Someone will get back to you right away.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

COVID-19 UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Update on return to campus

On March 29, Memorial changed the status of the COVID Impact Scale to low, based on the low number of COVID-19 cases in Newfoundland and Labrador. While the province has continued to see low case counts and strong public health measures since that time, there are no plans to change Memorial's current operations. To read more, see <https://gazette.mun.ca/campus-and-community/update-on-return-to-campus/>.

Download COVID Alert App

Memorial continues to encourage faculty, staff and students to voluntarily download the [COVID Alert](#) app to help protect yourself and others. The COVID Alert app helps prevent the spread of the COVID-19. The app is designed to let Canadians know whether they may have been exposed to the virus. A link to the app is available in MUN Safe. More information is available [here](#).

Self-Isolation update

New or returning students should refer to the [arrivals website](#) for the most up-to date information for self-isolation at Memorial University. Please ensure to review all current [federal](#) and [provincial](#) travel requirements before planning your arrival at Memorial. If you have questions or concerns please email selfisolation@mun.ca or selfisolation@grenfell.mun.ca. For more information, please visit the [Memorial COVID-19 website](#).

Computer lab access for students – St. John's campus

The computer lab spaces of EN-3000 in the Engineering and Applied Science Building and the QEII Library

Rotunda are now open for students who do not have access to their own computer. EN-3000 is open between 8am-8pm on weekdays and 8am-6pm on weekends, and the QEII Library Rotunda is open between 9am-9pm Monday to Saturday. The space in EN-3000 must be [booked online](#), and space in the Rotunda must be [booked online](#) as well, both at least 24 hours in advance. Printing is not available in either location. Both buildings will remain under restricted access so students will not be granted card access unless they book online.

SPRING SEMESTER INFORMATION

Student fees for Spring 2021

Memorial's Board of Regents has approved the [suspension of two student fees for the Spring 2021 semester](#). Memorial students will not be charged the Distance Education Administration Fee and Recreation Fee for the Spring 2021 semester.

Spring Convocation virtual event

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Memorial is postponing the spring 2021 convocation ceremonies for St. John's and Corner Brook. However, students who have applied to graduate this spring and have met all the university's requirements will be awarded their degrees, certificates and diplomas on May 19, 2021, and be sent them by mail shortly afterwards. Spring 2021 grads will be invited to cross the stage at a convocation ceremony at a later date, after public health restrictions are lifted and large in-person gatherings are permitted. So while there will be no convocation ceremonies this spring, on Thursday, June 3, Memorial will host Hats Off!, a special virtual event designed to celebrate the spring class of 2021. This fun event will be a unique salute to new grads, welcoming them into the Memorial University alumni family. More details, including special guest performers, will be available in the coming weeks at www.mun.ca/convocation/celebration.

Spring semester payroll deductions

Students can request Graduate Student Payroll Deductions for the Spring 2021 semester, online through [Memorial Self Service](#). Please select "Graduate Student Payroll Deduction Request", which can be found under the "Employee Services" tab. To avoid late fees, students who wish to avail of this option must sign up for payroll deduction for the Spring semester by 11:59pm (NT), May 10 (students will have the ability to sign up for payroll deduction until May 31 but late fees will apply after May 10). Please note, if you choose not to sign up for payroll deduction, all fees will have to be paid directly by the normal deadline dates set out in the [University Diary](#).

Conversation Partner Program

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Conversation Partner Program provides new international students with the opportunity to meet online with fluent English speakers to practice their English speaking skills and develop fluency. Registration is now open for the Spring 2021 Cohort of the ESL Conversation Partner Program. For more information, visit the [ESL](#) website.

FALL SEMESTER INFORMATION

Fall semester update

This past Friday, Dr. Mark Abrahams, provost and vice-president (academic) *pro tempore*, provided an update for students on planning for the Fall 2021 semester. In Dr. Abrahams' words, "We are optimistic for the next year, and expect to be on campus and in-person for university activities in September." We can't wait to welcome you to campus! [Learn more here](#).

Your health first

Memorial is continually assessing the public health environment and will make any needed adjustments to the fall semester based on public health requirements. Fall 2021 semester experience will look different as Memorial follows the public health requirements which could include the use of non-medical face masks, physical distancing and other public health measures. More information will be shared when it becomes available.

Fall 2021 Student Residences Application – Now Open

Student Residences is anticipating being fully open for the Fall 2021 semester. On the St. John's Campus, [Burton's Pond Apartments](#) are great for independent living while still offering students the benefits of living on-campus. Burton's Pond Apartments will be undergoing renovations to better meet the housing needs of our students. Going forward, each student apartment will accommodate two students, each with a private

bedroom, a shared kitchen, a shared office/study space, bathroom and living/dining room. All apartments are fully furnished. The complex includes a laundry room, mail boxes and access to the Internationalization Office.

Applications for Student Residences for the Fall 2021 semester are open and [available here](#). Due to the continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, there will be no application, room confirmation or cancellation fees associated with the fall semester, making your application for residences risk-free. For the most up to date information please refer to the [Memorial Residences website](#).

OTHER GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION

Internationalization Office (IO) Launches New Email

The IO has launched a new email address: immigrationadvising@mun.ca. This email address is for current and newly admitted international students and employees of Memorial University (St. John's and MI campus) to help address questions related to international students' temporary immigration status. The email is monitored throughout the work week by a team of Immigration Advisors who are authorized to answer Canadian immigration questions. When sending inquiries, students are strongly advised to send the query from their @mun.ca email and to include their student number, program of study and current country of residence.

Mental Health Week

Employee Wellness, Department of Human Resources and the Student Wellness and Counselling Centre are offering various virtual sessions during the 2021 Mental Health Week from Monday, May 3 to Friday, May 7. There will be weekly and daily challenges for a chance to win a prize as well as pre-recorded and live Webex sessions. For details and the schedule, please visit the [Student Wellness and Counselling Centre](#) website.

Safety and Health Week - together we can create safe workplaces

The Office of the Chief Risk Officer is recognizing Safety and Health Week, formerly known as North American Occupational Safety and Health week, May 2-8, 2021. COVID-19 has changed the way we do things, but this week can still be celebrated virtually. For more information please visit the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) website.

Dean's Awards for Service Excellence

The Dean's Awards for Service Excellence recognize the work and contributions of graduate staff members (administrative/support and academic) that exceeds the expectations for those positions. Any academic or administrative staff member or graduate student may nominate an individual for this award. The application deadline date is May 31, 2021. For more information, please visit the [School of Graduate Studies'](#) website.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Remote Learning Guide for Graduate Students

In 2020, a team of graduate students worked together to develop a remote learning guide for graduate students that addresses ways you might foster wellness, access community resources, optimize your remote learning experience, manage your finances, and use Webex as a collaboration tool. To access the guide, please visit the [School of Graduate Studies' website](#).

Academic Success Centre

Memorial has just launched the [Academic Success Centre](#) – your hub for information, tools, programs and events that will help you succeed in your learning. Whether you're an undergraduate or graduate student studying on campus, online or remotely, find the support, tips and tools you need to succeed no matter where you are on your learning journey.

Brightspace Notifications

Be sure not to miss any course activities or updates by setting up Brightspace notifications. Need a reminder for an assignment or quiz due date? Want to know when your grade is updated? [Customize your notifications](#) to choose which Brightspace alerts you'd like to receive and how (by email or text message). Have a Brightspace question? Contact the [CITL Support Centre](#) for assistance, available seven days a week.

MUN Libraries Support

Are you working on research assignments this term? MUN Libraries provides a variety of [online resources](#) to

help guide you through the research process in the current remote teaching and learning environment.

The Commons

From formatting papers in Word, to taking professional headshots at home, to designing your own video game, The Commons is offering free, virtual workshops throughout the Winter. [Register here](#). Their staff are also available for virtual, one-on-one tutorials in a variety of software, from Excel to Photoshop. Email commons@mun.ca to set up an appointment.

Mental Health Resources

Individuals with urgent mental health concerns should contact the 24-hour mental health crisis line: (709) 737-4668 (St. John's) or 1-888-737-4668 (province-wide). For other concerns, students should contact the Student Wellness and Counselling Centre. The SWCC remains open and staff are providing services to students via telephone and virtual sessions.

Student Wellness and Counselling

Nothing is more important to us than your health and wellness. Memorial's Student Wellness and Counselling Centre (SWCC) and School of Graduate Studies have partnered to offer dedicated counseling supports for graduate students. To book an appointment with SWCC's counsellor for graduate students, please email complete the [SWCC request counselling form](#). You will be asked to login in to MyMun account and the form will be located at the bottom of the page. Appointments are normally scheduled within 2 business days and are offered via Webex.

Counselling Services for Out-of-Country International Students

Memorial's Student Wellness and Counselling Centre (SWCC) has recently launched keep.meSAFE, an external counselling service for current international students who live outside Canada and cannot access such services due to jurisdictional practice restrictions. The keep.meSAFE service allows students to connect with a trained, certified counsellor wherever they are in the world through telephone, text, video-conferencing and, when appropriate, in-person sessions. For more information please visit the [keep.meSAFE by garde.me](#) website.

Writing Centre's Online Service

The Writing Centre is pleased to offer an online service. For more information about online services, please visit the [Writing Centre's website](#) or email writing@mun.ca.

Computer Support and Repair Services

Memorial's Department of Technical Services and the School of Graduate Studies have partnered to offer [computer support and repair services for graduate students](#) (personal devices such as laptops, monitors, hard drives, etc.) at the internal rate of \$25/hour. To qualify for this rate, graduate students will have to submit [a confirmation of enrolment letter](#) at the time service is requested. For more information or to request a quote, please email: computerrepair@mun.ca.

Memorial University Software and Apps

Memorial University provides a number of apps to improve your campus experience. Please visit [Memorial's Apps Store](#) for more details and to download. The Office of CIO also provides students and employees with the option to download software for free on their personal devices. View the list of free software at [Software for YOU](#).

Accessibility Services

The Blundon Centre (Accessibility Services) is open and available for graduate students. All accessibility staff are working remotely and are available to speak with any graduate student to explore priorities related to academic accommodations or any accessibility related concerns. Please visit the Blundon Centre [calendar of events](#) for workshops and sessions. For more information or if you have further questions please contact blundon@mun.ca.

Student Volunteer Bureau

The Student Volunteer Bureau has a wealth of remote volunteer and professional development opportunities available. Visit the [Student Volunteer Bureau website](#) to learn about how you can stay involved while staying home!

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.

Grenfell graduate students: Track your volunteering and experiential learning!

Grenfell campus has just launched a brand new Co-Curricular Record (CCR) program! A CCR is an official record of activities that students participate in that complements their academic transcripts. A CCR allows students to track their skills and learning experiences outside of the classroom. Such experiences provide students with transferable skills while engaging with communities at Grenfell, in Corner Brook, in Western Newfoundland and beyond. Learn more [here](#).

The Good and the Bad of Black Grad – CAGC’s New Webinar Series

New webinar series by CAGS offered in 2021. Crisis and disruptions in 2020 expose and highlight systemic racism worldwide. Canadian universities were no exempt from this reckoning. At this particular moment in time, higher education institutions across Canada are poised to critically (re-)assess their anti-racism strategies. This is a five-part webinar series aimed to create a space for dialogue that encourages Black academics to share their stories and experiences. This webinar is hosted by Evelyn Asiedu who published an [article](#) which speaks on her experience as a Black female graduate student. For more information please see [here](#).

DEADLINE DATES

May 10, 2021, Monday

- Deadline for fees payment, Spring semester (14-week courses, Intersession and Summer session)
- Lectures begin, Intersession and 14-week Spring semester

May 17, 2021, Monday

- End of Regular Registration Period and last day for undergraduate and graduate students to add courses, Intersession

May 24, 2021, Monday

- End of Regular Registration Period and last day for undergraduate and graduate students to add courses, 14-week Spring semester

May 31, 2021, Monday

- Final date for departments to submit Recommendation for Award of Degree in order for graduate students to be deregistered from Graduate Registration 9000/Medicine 9900 without incurring any liability for continuance fees, Spring semester
- Final date for graduate students to withdraw from programs without incurring any liability for tuition fees, 14-week Spring semester

For a list of all dates and deadlines, please visit the [University Diary](#).

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Time	Offering	Skillset
May 5, 2021		
1-2 pm NDT/9:30-10:30 am MDT	Making the Most of Your Remote Job (Hosted by Career Development)	Communication & Teamwork
May 12, 2021		
1-2 pm NDT/9:30-10:30 am MDT	Job Search Strategies (Hosted by Faculty of Science)	Communication & Teamwork
May 18, 2021		
1-2:30 pm NDT/9:30-11	How to Use Imposter Syndrome to Build Confidence and	Management &

am MDT	Succeed in Life	Responsibility
May 19, 2021		
1-2:30 pm NDT/9:30-10:30 am MDT	Developing a Successful Resume and Cover Letter	Communication & Teamwork
May 21, 2021 Deadline		
5 pm NDT	Graduate Student Work Experience Program (GradSWEP) (For MUN Graduate Students)	Communication & Teamwork
May 21, 2021 Deadline		
5 pm NDT	Student Work & Service Program (SWASP) (For MUN Student Parents)	Communication & Teamwork
May 26, 2021		
1-2:30 pm NDT/9:30-10:30 am MDT	Tips for a Successful Interview	Communication & Teamwork
May 27, 2021		
12-1 pm NDT/8:30-9:30 am MDT	Strengths for Career Success	Management & Responsibility

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

CAMPUS NEWS

365 days

Dr. Timmons highlights Memorial accomplishments from past year. [Read more](#).

'Shared global resource'

Engineering expert part of ocean and transport green economy team. [Read more](#).

Needs assessment

Memorial researchers conducting survey on animal-assisted therapies for families of children with autism. [Read more](#).

Delicate balance

Research into animal adaptations may relate to human diseases. [Read more](#).

Critical Mass

More than \$6.7-million investment in facility to address modern environmental challenges [Read more](#).

SPOTLIGHT

Graduate Student Blog

In one of our recent posts, graduate student Sydney talks about mental and physical health, and discusses the importance of self-care, for a happier and healthier you. Read more of Sydney and our other bloggers' posts on the [Graduate Student Blog](#).