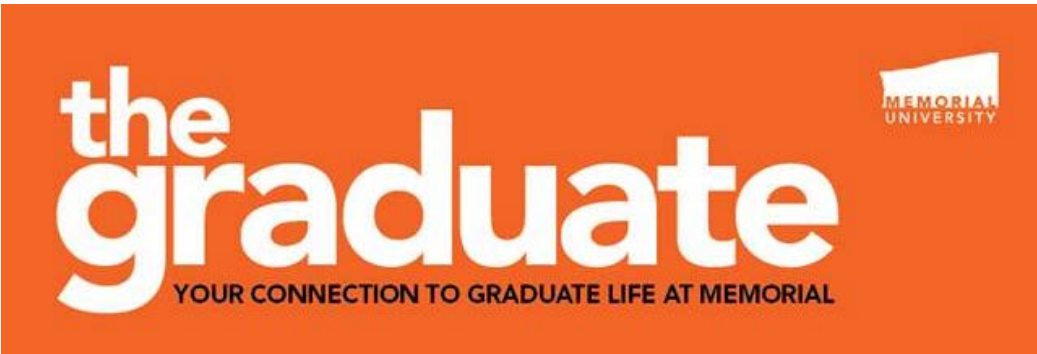


From: [School of Graduate Studies News](#) on behalf of [Hurley, Ashley](#)
To: SGS-NEWS@CLIFFY.UCS.MUN.CA
Subject: [SGS-NEWS] News for Graduate Students
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:21:05 AM



Welcome to Spring 2020! SGS would like to wish all graduate students the best of luck on their virtual journey this semester.

- [Contact Us](#)
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- [Deadline Dates](#)
- [Professional Skills Development](#)
- [Campus News](#)

CONTACT US

Faculty and staff in the School of Graduate Studies are working remotely and available to assist you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your [graduate officer or graduate admin staff](#). You can also email sgs@mun.ca and we will respond within one business day. If your matter is urgent, please email akim@mun.ca. You will receive an immediate response.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)

The Canadian Government has released a new benefit, the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI). The benefit provides financial support to students who are unable to find employment due to COVID-19.

Applications for the CESB are currently open and must be submitted before September 30, 2020. In order to apply, the CRA encourages eligible students to take three important steps:

Step 1: Register a profile with the CRA. If you have never filed an income tax return with the CRA, you may not have a profile. Call 1-800-959-8281 to activate your SIN with the CRA.

Step 2: Register for My Account - this is the fastest and easiest way to apply for the benefit.

Step 3: Enroll for Direct Deposit with the CRA through My Account or your financial institution to get your CESB within 3 days of applying. Alternatively, you must ensure your mailing information is up-to-date in My Account to receive a cheque by mail within 10 business days.

For more information regarding the CESB and to apply, please visit the CRA website:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/emergency-student-benefit.html>.

Memorial University Graduate Student Town Hall

All graduate students at Memorial University are invited to our second online Town Hall discussion on Friday, May 22 at 11:30am. Hosted by Dr. Aimée Surprenant, AVP Academic and Dean of Graduate Studies, our online Town Hall is an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide feedback on how we can better support you at this time with your graduate programs. Faculty and staff will also be present to assist with any questions you might have. If you cannot attend the Town Hall or have immediate questions we can help you with, please don't hesitate to email us at sgs@mun.ca. For more information or to register please visit: <https://event-wizard.com/sgsgsmay2220/0/register/>.

GSU Health & Dental Insurance

Graduate students who would like to opt out of any portion of the GSU Health & Dental plan must do so every academic year. New students are eligible to opt out during their first enrollment semester. Please note, fees will appear on your student account each semester, however, if you opt out, they will be reversed approximately six weeks following the semester start date. Please ensure to check your financial account throughout the semester for updates. The opt out deadline for the Spring 2020 semester is Monday, June 1 at 12pm (noon).

The opt-out form is currently available on the GSU website:
<https://onlineservices.greenshield.ca/StudentOptOut/OptOut1.aspx?cl=43105&edu=25650>.

For further information about coverage, please visit: <https://www.gsumun.ca/health-dental-plan>, or call Green Shield Customer Service at 1-888-711-1119.

Grad student needs assessment

The School of Graduate Studies at Memorial University is inviting you to participate in a needs assessment survey for current graduate students. We want to hear from you and about your recent experience. Your feedback will be important for Memorial's academic and service units to improve supports for all graduate students.

To participate, please visit the following link:
https://mun.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6JaHJt7BxudloCE.

On-campus research

Memorial is implementing a new process for a phased approach to returning to on-campus research spaces, fieldwork and face-to-face interactions with research participants. Read a new statement on research from Dr. Neil Bose, vice-president (research), here <https://www.mun.ca/research/news.php?id=13322&type=news>.

Athletics & Wellness Digital Series

Starting on Wednesday, May 20th the School of HKR and Varsity Athletics will be hosting a 6-week Athletics & Wellness Digital Series. Each week there will be a variety of FREE sessions to choose from that are focused on staying active and living a healthy lifestyle. Every Sunday the upcoming schedule for the week will be posted, which will include weekly yoga, CrossFit, Strength and Conditioning Workouts, Stress Management, coaching seminars, and much more! Tune in via the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/SchoolofHumanKineticsandRecreation>.

Diversity and inclusion webinars

Members of the Memorial University community can avail of free diversity and inclusion webinars

offered by the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion until the end of May. To access the sessions and to register, please visit the calendar of events: <https://ccdi.ca/event-calendar/>. When registering, you will need to click "Please click here to register as an Employer Partner" and indicate that you are an invited guest by Tina Hickey. For more information, please contact Tina Hickey, employment equity officer, Department of Human Resources at hickeyt@mun.ca.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

NEW

Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for international students

Global Affairs Canada's International Education Division has created a list of resources specifically for international students including information on immigration status, benefits eligibility, health care, and more. Visit the Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for international students webpage for more information: <https://www.educanada.ca/study-plan-etudes/covid-19/update-covid-19-mise-a-jour.aspx?lang=eng>.

Thesis writing and Motivation

Dr. Cecile Badenhorst has created a video for thesis/research based graduate students about declining motivation to write and how students can increase their motivation to write. This video is the first in a series of four (4) on motivation and procrastination: <https://youtu.be/oAfKnqjFNJU>.

Doing fieldwork in a pandemic guide

Deborah Lupton has developed a free crowd-sourced document for students who would normally be conducting fieldwork. The document can be accessed via Google Docs: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cIGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/preview?ts=5e88ae0a#>.

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 email blundon@mun.ca to speak with a knowledgeable member of their team!

The Blundon Centre continues to offer programming during Spring/Summer semesters. Check out our calendar of events for workshops or sessions that may interest you: <https://www.mun.ca/student/supports-and-resources/learning/events.php>

Any questions related to academic accommodations or accessibility concerns can be directed to blundon@mun.ca.

REMINDERS

Student Volunteer Bureau

The Student Volunteer Bureau has a wealth of remote volunteer and professional development opportunities available. Visit www.mun.ca/volunteer to learn about how you can stay involved while staying home!

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.

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.

DEADLINE DATES

May 25, 2020, Monday

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

June 1, 2020, 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

June 8, 2020, Monday

- Last date for undergraduate and graduate students to drop courses without academic prejudice, Intersession

June 19, 2020, Friday

- Final date for submission of Master's and Doctoral Theses and Reports for examination, by candidates who expect to receive their degree at the Fall Convocation 2020. Theses and Reports received after this date will be processed as time and resources permit.
- Lectures end, Intersession

June 22, 2020, Monday

- Examinations begin, Intersession
- Semester Break begins, 14-week Spring semester

June 24, 2020, Wednesday

- Examinations end, Intersession

June 25, 2020, Thursday

- Lectures resume, 14-week Spring semester

June 29, 2020, Monday

- Final date for departments to submit Recommendation for Award of Degree in order for graduate students to receive a 50% refund of continuance fees, Spring semester
- Lectures begin for Summer session

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

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship Training Program: Mentors and Advisors

Starting a business on your own can be intimidating, that's why it's so important to have mentors and advisors to help you on your entrepreneurial journey. This session will teach you where to find mentors and advisors, how to connect with them, and explain how they can help.

Date and Time: Monday, May 18, 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](#)

Using LinkedIn Effectively: An Interactive Workshop

In this interactive online session, you will try out strategies to make the most of your LinkedIn account, whether it's building up your network, finding people or organizations, or setting up job alerts.

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 19, 1-2pm NST

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

Presenter: [Dr. Anne Poduska](#), Career Consultant

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Mitacs Foundations of Project Management I

This 2-day course provides an experiential, collaborative learning experience to enable participants to integrate the principles of project management, team building, group dynamics and leadership that participants can apply immediately and in their future careers and lives. Participants experience the processes of collaborative planning and management and can see the benefits firsthand.

Date and Time: Wednesday & Thursday, May 20 & 21, 9am-5pm

Mode: Online (via Zoom)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Entrepreneurship Training Program: Resources and Supports

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: Monday, May 25, 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](#)

Five Ways Open-Source Software can Benefit You and Your Research

Did you know that open-source software can expand the scope of your research? Do you think that it

demands a high level of commitment you can't deliver? This workshop will introduce you to open-source software and give you guidelines to help you get started. This is an excellent opportunity if you are interested in learning more about open-source software or if you are thinking of integrating it into your research. Note: Programming skills are not required for this workshop.

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 27, 1-2pm NST

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

Presenter: [Oihane Cereceda](#), PhD Computer Engineering, Memorial University Alumna and Software Carpentry Instructor

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Four Things to Consider for Graduate Student Teaching

This session discusses and explores specific areas to consider for graduate students in teaching. It focuses on four key lessons for graduate students to focus on to improve their classroom performance, demonstrate effective learning and become better teachers!

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 3, 1-2pm NST

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

Presenter: [Dr. Tom Cooper](#), Associate Professor, Business Administration

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Writing Café for Graduate Students: Opening the Door to Thesis Writing

Are you struggling to write? Has your motivation gone out the window? Dr. Cecile Badenhorst will hold a Writing Café to answer your questions about writing procrastination. She will also discuss strategies to start writing and how to keep going. This is an interactive session (bring your own coffee!). Please feel free to attend even if you don't if you have general topics or questions. If you'd like to forward topics prior to the session, or can't attend but still have questions, please email cbadenhorst@mun.ca. Everyone is welcome

Date and Time: Thursday, June 4, 11am-12pm NST

Mode: Online

Presenter: [Dr. Cecile Badenhorst](#), Associate Professor, Adult Education/Post-Secondary, Faculty of Education

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Entrepreneurship Training Program: Ideation and the Lean Canvas

Have you ever thought about starting a business, but really have no idea where to start? This session will give you the tools to critically consider the feasibility of your business idea (or help you come up with one), and help you learn how to pivot within that idea for the best chance at entrepreneurial success.

Date and Time: Thursday, June 4, 2-3pm

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

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

CAMPUS NEWS

Staying Connected

Grenfell Graduate Student Society finds new – and fun – ways to connect:

<https://www.grenfell.mun.ca/campus-services/Pages/News-Description.aspx?NewsID=411>.

Fall 2020

Memorial to offer remote program delivery for fall 2020: <https://www.mun.ca/covid19/news.php?id=13316&type=news>.

Open to all

Professional development in the time of COVID-19: <https://gazette.mun.ca/public-engagement/open-to-all/>

From the president

As the spring semester begins, President Vianne Timmons has a message for students:

<https://gazette.mun.ca/campus-and-community/from-the-president-3/>.

'Contribute meaningfully'

Engineers collaborating with university, community to fight COVID-19: <https://gazette.mun.ca/public-engagement/contribute-meaningfully/>.

Natural fit

Memorial experts partnering with community volunteers in pandemic response:

<https://gazette.mun.ca/research/natural-fit/>.