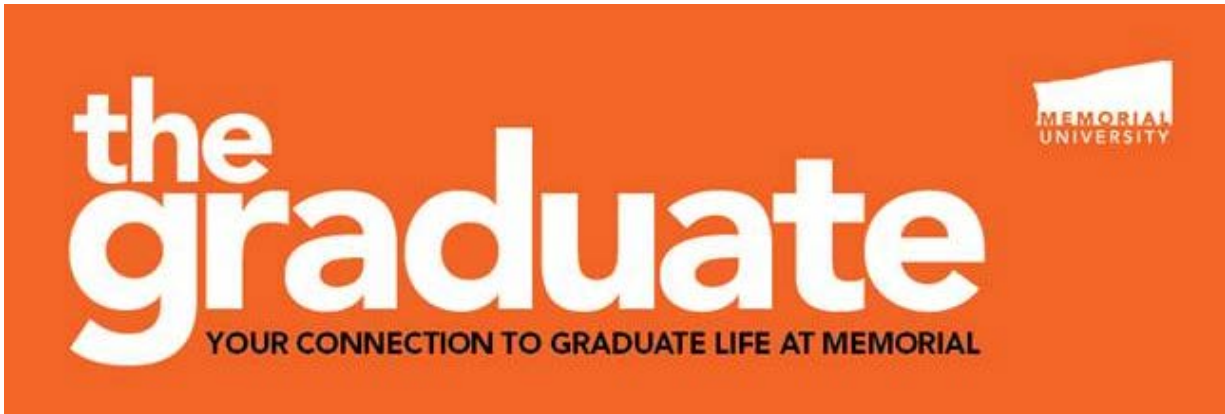


**From:** [School of Graduate Studies News](#) on behalf of [Hurley, Ashley](#)  
**To:** [SGS-NEWS@CLIFFY.UCS.MUN.CA](mailto:SGS-NEWS@CLIFFY.UCS.MUN.CA)  
**Subject:** [SGS-NEWS] News for graduate students  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 4:12:43 PM

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## WELCOME

To all of our new and returning graduate students, we know the Fall 2020 semester will look different than previous semesters or as expected earlier this year. 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 start or continue your 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](mailto:sgs@mun.ca). Someone will get back to you right away.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Fall 2020 Course Offerings and Registration

[Registration for graduate students](#) for Fall 2020 is now open and closes on September 23. You can view and register for graduate courses through Memorial

University [Self-Service](#). Please note the deadline for [fees payment](#) for Fall 2020 is September 9. For more information on course offerings and registration, please visit the [Office of the Registrar](#) website.

## The Graduate Commons

Once you have registered, you'll be able to access in [Brightspace](#) the Graduate Commons, our [online community for graduate students at Memorial](#). The Graduate Commons is a virtual place for graduate students to meet and share ideas. Graduate officers and staff are also available to participate in discussions and answer any general questions.

## Student Fees for Fall 2020

Memorial's Board of Regents has approved the [suspension of two student fees for the Fall 2020 semester](#). Memorial students will not be charged the Distance Education Administration Fee and Recreation Fee for the Fall 2020 semester.

## Graduate Student Parking Permits for Fall 2020

The parking office has now implemented various health and safety controls in response to COVID-19 which has allowed parking operations to resume. Current permits will be honored throughout August to allow renewals and sales to occur. The Fall 2020 graduate student parking allocation is now open and close September 7 at noon. Students can enter the lottery via [my.mun.ca](#) under the Student Tab. Successful lottery applicants will receive an email notification from the parking office after the lottery closes. For more information please visit the [Campus Enforcement and Patrol](#) website. Please note that graduate students (with or without permits) will be able to park at MUN (except Area 30) at no cost until September 14.

## Masks Required On-Campus

Non-medical masks are mandatory for Memorial faculty, staff, students and visitors. These must be worn in public spaces and common areas or anytime two-metre physical distance cannot be maintained while at university facilities or while conducting Memorial business off-campus. Information about masks will be integrated into Memorial's [COVID-19 awareness training](#) and the related [health and safety moment](#). For directions on proper use of masks, please view this [video](#).

## MUN 501

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) will be offering a virtual Graduate Orientation, called MUN 501 for students admitted into graduate programs for the current year, from Winter to Fall 2020. This can be accessible through the Graduate Commons in [Brightspace](#).

## Information Sessions for new graduate students

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) will continue to offer open meetings and information sessions for new graduate students every Friday up to September 18. For

more information on the schedule and to register, or view recordings of previous sessions, please visit the [Graduate Orientation website](#).

## GradFest

GradFest is hosted by the Graduate Students' Union (GSU) and is designed to welcome incoming graduate students to Memorial University. It occurs at the beginning of the Fall and Winter semesters and consists of orientations, workshops, volunteer opportunities, and social events for graduate students to participate in. Please visit the GSU [events page](#) for all upcoming events

## Grenfell Graduate Orientation

Grenfell Campus will also be hosting an additional Graduate Orientation for new incoming graduate students, please visit the [Grenfell Graduate Orientation](#) website for further information.

## 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 that you and your family are covered in case of a medical situation or emergency. For more information regarding health insurance coverage please visit the [Resources for graduate students](#) webpage under Health and Wellness. To view the specific health insurance components of MCP, Green Shield Canada Health Insurance, and Foreign Health Insurance, please view the [Internationalization Office's health insurance FAQ](#).

## Graduate Students' Union (GSU) Health & Dental Insurance Opt-Out

Graduate students who are eligible and 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, if you are a full time graduate student, 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. Students will be able to opt out for the Fall 2020 semester starting on Wednesday, September 9 through the [GSU website](#). The deadline to opt-out is Thursday, October 1 at 12 pm (noon) NDT. For further information or queries, please contact [health@gsumun.ca](mailto:health@gsumun.ca).

To opt out of the Foreign Health Insurance (Guard Me) plan and opt into the Green Shield Canada Health Insurance plan, [visit the Internationalization Office website and follow the opt out process](#) between September 1 and 23, 2020. You must be a full-time graduate student and upload a copy of your valid MCP. If your request is approved, you will automatically be enrolled into the Green Shield Canada Health Insurance plan.

To opt out of the Green Shield Canada Health and Dental Insurance plan, visit the [Graduate Students' Union website](#) from September 9 to October 1, 2020. Please note

that Green Shield Canada Health and Dental Insurance plan and the Foreign Health Insurance (Guard Me) plan do not provide coverage for students outside of Canada.

For more information regarding opt out procedures, please visit the [Resources for graduate students](#) page, under Health and Wellness.

### Foreign Health Insurance Fee Increase and Policy Enhancement

The Internationalization Office is pleased to announce their continued relationship with Guard Me International Insurance as the provider of the mandatory foreign health insurance plan for international students at Memorial University for Fall 2020 onwards. Guard Me has been the provider of the foreign health insurance plan since 2003. Their innovative programs, such as mobileDOCTOR and Campus Ambassadors, and excellent service make them a leader in both the fields of international student health insurance and international education. Beginning Fall 2020, students enrolled in the foreign health insurance plan will notice a fee increase, as well as changes to their policy. The cost for foreign health insurance for Fall 2020 has increased from \$206.84 per semester to \$261.59 per semester. This fee increase provides students enrolled in the plan with two new policy enhancements; (1) coverage up to \$10,000 for medically necessary non-emergent treatment of a condition, and (2) medical expenses incurred as a result of actions while impaired. For more information regarding these changes, please visit the [Internationalization Office](#) or email [international@mun.ca](mailto:international@mun.ca).

### Entrepreneurial Internship

If you have a business idea that you want to pursue and would like to receive financial support while working on your idea, or if you have already started a business and would like help taking it to the next level, you are eligible to apply for an Entrepreneurial Internship through the Memorial Centre for Entrepreneurship (MCE). The internship includes one-on-one mentoring from an experienced business leader, plus interaction with fellow entrepreneurial students in MCE's virtual environment. The internship includes \$4,500 to work on your idea, plus opportunities to be awarded additional funding. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Memorial Centre for Entrepreneurship](#) website.

### Bike locker rentals available for the Fall 2020 semester

Bike lockers, located between the Chemistry and Biotechnology buildings, are available to rent for the fall semester. Students, staff and faculty are eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is Friday, September 11. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Sustainability Office](#) website.

## SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

### Memorial University Bookstore Now Open

The Memorial University Bookstore is now open Monday to Friday from 9 am-

4:15 pm, with very limited capacity. There are several important things to consider before proceeding to the Bookstore. We ask for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines for everyone's comfort and safety. Whenever possible, course materials and items of interest (such as clothing) should be ordered through the [website](#). We can ship anywhere in the world and there is a pickup window on the first floor of the University Centre for local residents. If you order and want to pick up your items, please wait for an email to tell you that the order is ready. If you come to the Bookstore, masks are mandatory. Staff will also be wearing masks for your safety. Enhanced cleaning protocols will be in place and the fitting room will be closed. Parking information will be available on the [bookstore website](#). Because the capacity inside the store will be significantly less than before the pandemic, we will establish lines outside the store and at the pickup window. Long wait times should be anticipated during the back to school rush. As course materials continue to arrive into September, please check the [website](#) to ensure we have what you need before coming in. Please pay attention to all University guidelines and signage while on campus.

### 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](mailto: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](#).

### Student Wellness and Counselling

Nothing is more important to us than your health and wellness. For the Fall 2020 semester, 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 [swccwellness@mun.ca](mailto:swccwellness@mun.ca) and include your full name, your graduate program, student number, current residential address, and phone number. Appointments are normally booked for the next 1-3 business days and offered by telephone or virtual session.

### Writing Centre's online service

The Writing Centre is pleased to offer an online service during the suspension of on-campus classes. For more information about online service, please visit the [Writing Centre's website](#) or email [writing@mun.ca](mailto:writing@mun.ca).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:aabu@mun.ca). For all other questions please email [international@mun.ca](mailto:international@mun.ca) and an advisor will respond to you as soon as possible.

# DEADLINE DATES

## September 9, 2020, Wednesday

- Deadline for fees payment Fall semester
- Lectures begin, Fall semester

## September 16, 2020, Wednesday

- Final date for receipt, by the Registrar, of replacement grades for "INCOMPLETE" grades in undergraduate and graduate courses, Spring semester (Intersession, Summer session and 14-week) 2020

## September 23, 2020, Wednesday

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

## September 30, 2020, Wednesday

- 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, Fall semester
- Final date for graduate students to withdraw from programs without incurring

liability for tuition fees, Fall semester

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

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

### Developing a Successful Resume & Cover Letter

A professional résumé and cover letter are critical to securing an interview in today's competitive job market! Learn how to market yourself effectively so you stand out and make a positive impression. This session will help you to prepare and tailor a resume and cover letter that clearly reflects your education, experience and skills to ensure that your documents are directly relevant to the position you are applying for.

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 16, 1-2pm NDT

Mode: Online

Presenter: [Julie Bowering](#), Career Development Coordinator, School of Graduate Studies

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Building Professional Resilience Through Mindfulness

Mindfulness practices have been shown to help train awareness, facilitate clearer thinking, support employee well-being and resiliency, improve workplace relationships and help people navigate stress and anxiety. Join seasoned mindfulness instructor Andrew Safer and facilitator Dr. Janna Rosales who will guide you through a basic mindfulness practice with discussion and reflection on the ways that mindfulness can support your professional growth and development.

Date and Time: Thursday, September 17, 1-2:15pm NDT

Mode: Online

Presenters: [Andrew Safer](#), Mindfulness Instructor & [Dr. Janna Rosales](#), Facilitator, and Assistant Professor, Engineering

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Thinking About Research From Multiple Perspectives

Research across disciplines can be based in multiple methodologies. In this session we will discuss how graduate students can conduct quality research, regardless of discipline or methodology.

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 22, 1-2pm NDT

Mode: Online

Presenter: [Dr. Beverly Fitzpatrick](#), Education and Assessment Specialist, Pharmacy

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Tips for a Successful Interview

Would you like to improve your interview skills and technique? This session will cover all interview formats, including video conferencing, as well as offer useful resources to ensure you make a positive impression with employers, and land that job!

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 23, 1-2pm NDT

Mode: Online (Connection link will be sent prior to event)

Presenter: [Julie Bowering](#), Career Development Coordinator, School of Graduate Studies

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Things I Wish I Knew Before Starting a Graduate Degree: Lessons in Time Management, Self-Efficacy, and Success

This session will focus broadly on personal experiences in relation to beginning and ultimately completing a Masters program or a PhD. Areas of discussion will include time management tips as well as how to improve your self-efficacy in order to achieve your goal of completing your degree.

Date and Time: Thursday, September 24, 12-1pm NDT

Mode: Online

Presenter: [Dr. Amy Warren](#), Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

## CAMPUS NEWS

### 'Highlight of my life'

Fellowship of \$40,000 to support round-the-world soil sampling. [Read more.](#)

### 'Deep-rooted expertise'

Memorial navigates to top of world university rankings for ocean tech research. [Read more.](#)

### Environmental fellow

Engineering professor receives recognition from national organization. [Read more.](#)

### 'Honour and privilege'

Interim dean of School of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Studies appointed. [Read more.](#)

## MUNUP

President Vianne Timmons is encouraging new and returning students to visit MUNUP - a new online hub with important info on remote orientation and transition programs. [See more.](#)

For more news around campus, please visit [The Gazette](#).

## SPOTLIGHT



## Graduate Student Blog

In one of our recent posts, graduate student Mallory explains the impact the pandemic has had on her fieldwork and graduate program. She discusses the importance of researching what's going on around us, and how we have been given the gift of change. Read more of Mallory and our other bloggers' posts on the [Graduate Student Blog](#).

## Welcome to Memorial

Our graduate students are offering new students a friendly "Hello!" – and are sharing some of their top tips for getting the most out of their Memorial experience. Check out this week's [Fall Welcome message](#) from Dipen Modi, a master of arts (economics) student from Kolkata, West Bengal, India.