

Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey

CGPSS 2016

The 2016 Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) marks the 4th cooperative study undertaken by the *Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS)* and the 3rd study in which the University of Regina has participated. The 2016 survey involved 50 universities and almost 54,000 graduate students from across Canada.

The Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey is composed of:

- The Long Stream Survey for students responding that their program is “Mostly research-based, and I already have a research director/advisor”.
- The Medium Stream Survey offered to students enrolled in a program “Mostly research-based, but I still do not have a research director/advisor”.
- The Short Stream Survey, in which some questions have been adapted to “Mainly course-based” programs.

The 2016 CGPSS was sent to 1,695 graduate University of Regina students. A total of 616 students completed the survey (36%), of which 79% said they were enrolled in a Master’s program. 54% of the respondents answered the Long Stream Survey.

University of Regina Highlights based on the survey responses:

- Graduate students who responded to the survey’s demographic questions tended to be Canadian citizens (57%), female (60%), and from 21 to 40 years old (80%).
- 3% of students who responded to the demographic questions self-identified with a disability or impairment. 35% of these reported having a mental health problem (e.g. depression, bipolar). 77% of students who self-identified with a disability or impairment rated the University of Regina’s effort to accommodate their disability in their program as good, very good, or excellent.
- About 50% of the demographic questions respondents self-identified as a member of a visible minority group, and about 6% self-identified as an Aboriginal person. 95 % reported living in off-campus housing not owned by this university; 48% were married, and 26% had one or two children.

- Close to 56% of graduate students who participated in the survey were in a mostly research-based program.
- The majority of respondents were enrolled in Engineering (23%), Education (19%), Business / Management (10%) and Social Sciences (9%).
- 83% of students who responded to the survey were in their first to third year of graduate studies, of which 62% were full time students. 21% of respondents were studying at the Doctoral level.
- At the time of the survey, 10% of graduate students enrolled in a mostly research-based program had their thesis/dissertation proposal accepted and 6% had defended their thesis/dissertation/research paper.
- When asked what was the primary reason for enrolling in their program, 40% responded *"To equip me to start a career, or advance an existing career outside of academia"*, while 34% responded *"To equip me to start a career, or advance an existing career in academia"*.
- 41% of graduate students who participated in the survey said they would definitely recommend this university to someone considering their program, while 5% of respondents said they would definitely not recommend this university.
- When asked to rate *"The intellectual quality of the faculty"*, 73% said it was either very good or excellent. Close to 3% said it was poor.
- Regarding the *"Availability of area courses I needed to complete my program"*, 40% said it was either very good or excellent. About 13% said it was poor.
- When asked to rate the quality of the support and training they received in *Courses, workshops, or orientation on teaching* (Long and Medium streams only), 73% rated it as good, very good, or excellent. Close to 11% rated it as poor.
- Regarding the quality of the support and training they received in *"Advice/workshops on career options within academia"* (Long and Medium streams only), 30% rated it as poor. Only 11% said it was excellent.
- When asked to rate the quality of the support and training they received in *"Advice/workshops on the standards for writing in your profession"* (Short stream only), 81% rated it as good, very good, or excellent. 6% rated it as poor.
- Regarding the quality of the support and opportunities they received in *"Conducting independent research since starting they graduate program"*, 78% rated it as good, very good, or excellent. Close to 8% rated it as poor.

- 93% of students agreed or strongly agreed that *“My advisor was knowledgeable about formal degree requirements”* (Long stream only). 1% strongly disagreed.
- 84% of students agreed or strongly agreed that *“My advisor was very helpful to me in preparing for the written qualifying exams”* (Long stream only). 5% strongly disagreed.
- 71% of students agreed or strongly agreed that *“My advisor encouraged discussions about current job market and various career prospects”* (Long stream only). 7% strongly disagreed.

About the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) was founded in 1962 to promote graduate education and university research through meetings, publications and advocacy. The Association brings together 58 Canadian universities with graduate programs and the three federal research-granting agencies, as well as other institutions and organizations having an interest in graduate studies.

<http://www.cags.ca/about.php>

About the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey

The Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey (CGPSS) was undertaken in 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016. This survey contains a wealth of information about graduate student satisfaction and experience.

In 2010 more than 38,000 graduate students participated at 38 universities across Canada. In 2013, participation rose to 48 universities and to 50 universities in 2016. The updated National dataset now contains information from more than 144 000 responses.

The universities have agreed to permit access to an anonymized CGPSS dataset, for purposes of improving the graduate student experience in Canada. A Steering Committee formed under CAGS auspices will receive and review access requests. CAGS is supporting the work of the Steering Committee. Please fill out and submit the CGPSS Data Request Form for prompt feedback.

http://www.cags.ca/cgpss_home.php