

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

# UNLOCKING THE FUTURE



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026



FACULTY OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES  
& RESEARCH



University  
of Regina



# Preamble

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Regina experienced unprecedented enrolment growth over the last few years, addressed the recommendations of an external review, and conducted extensive community-wide consultations with Line Faculties, and graduate students, among other stake-holders.

During the same period, the University of Regina has adopted a new strategic plan, “All Our Relations” (2020-2025), imbuing our dedication to the communities we serve with “a strong sense of mutuality and interdependence.”

Graduate studies and research are fundamental to fulfilling these institutional objectives, and a catalyst for creating changemakers. The Unit’s Strategic Plan below provides a roadmap to fulfil and make the graduate education enterprise, as a place of Indigenization, equity, diversity and inclusion, the hub of our graduate student-centered initiatives, entrepreneurship, and innovative discovery in the next five years.

# Vision

**The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Regina is a leader in graduate education among Canada's comprehensive universities**



# Mission



Consistent with the University of Regina, the mission of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research is to:

- Support a diverse range of high-quality graduate programs
- Support original research and knowledge production
- Foster a welcoming and stimulating environment to a diverse student body
- Respond to and anticipate future needs of people in the community
- Provide life-long educational opportunities

The graduate education mission is focused on rigorous advanced study that serves to preserve, extend, and disseminate knowledge in the pure, applied, creative and multidisciplinary realms applicable to all sectors of Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world at large.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research continues to engage with various stakeholders as we aim to lead in graduate education through: innovative programming, Indigenization and decolonization of graduate studies, and strengthening our connections with our communities and the environment. We commit to creating the conditions to support graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to push the boundaries of knowledge and discovery, improve their career-readiness, and realize their full potential.

In response to broad-based consultations and in keeping with the University of Regina's strategic foci, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research has identified four strategic priorities for the next five years:



The commitment of the FGSR to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and to equity, diversity and inclusion, is enshrined within the above themes and will infuse all our processes and initiatives.

*Indigenization of Graduate Studies involves incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing into teaching and research: expand Indigenous engagement in the research enterprise, and facilitate professional development opportunities for units and faculties to learn to Indigenize and decolonize pedagogy, curricula, policies, procedures, and processes.*

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

# Priority I: Unleashing Creativity and Discovery



The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research will be a catalyst for knowledge creation and discovery as we attract highly qualified, talented graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from across Saskatchewan, Canada, and around the world. In the next five years, FGSR will increase graduate student enrolment from the current 12% to 15% of the University student population. We will advocate for quality education where research and creative work are supported through:

- Collaborative and innovative graduate programs to foster changemakers
- Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, and international student recruitment
- Increased graduate, especially Tri-Council agency funding, alongside policy and admission process alignment
- Cotutelle programs, postdoctoral scholars, and grad student exchange

*A climate of equity, diversity and inclusion creates opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to develop skills that will enable effective interactions with people across cultures. We seek to promote social justice, fairness, anti-racism, and elimination of barriers to ensure full participation for all communities in society and economy.*

# Priority II: Enriching Graduate Student Experience



The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research will prioritize improvements to graduate admission processes, mentorship, experiential learning, and career-readiness of graduate students for an inclusive and diverse workplace. In the next five years, FGSR will develop a coherent, experiential graduate professional skills program and increase graduate student participation by 5% annually. Our value-added academic and professional development supports a strong sense of community and enhances the disciplinary training and professional practice graduate students acquire in the classroom, performance/creative spaces, laboratory or fieldwork through:

- Graduate student supervision and mentorship excellence
- The #URGradExperience hub's focus on essential skills and entrepreneurship
- Indigenous, equity, diversity and inclusive spaces and programming
- Experiential learning and grand challenges tackling major social or industry problems

*Internationalization encourages, supports, and promotes the integration of diverse worldviews into discovery through research and teaching. Our international students and postdoctoral scholars strengthen our communities.*

# Priority III: Advancing Collaboration and Partnerships



The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research will champion collaboration as we expand the ability of our partners to innovate, create, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow. In the next five years, FGSR will harness the energy of our ever-expanding graduate alumni network and launch new partnerships in collaboration with the Line Faculties. We will forge robust and mutually beneficial relationships that contribute to capacity-building in Indigenous and underserved communities, in partnership with the City of Regina, Tribal Councils, government and industry partners at the local and global levels through:

- Collaborative and supportive relations with Line Faculties and FGSR staff
- Community service, local, and global partnerships with industry and government
- Forging stronger alumni connections and relationships with other changemakers
- Facilitation of life learning opportunities for sustainable and resilient communities with the City of Regina, Indigenous communities, and across Saskatchewan

*“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” This statement, sometimes attributed to the Native American Chief Seattle, informs our approach to collaboration and partnerships to build a sustainable future for our students and communities.*

# Priority IV: Enhancing Impactful Communication



FGSR will foster the communication of ideas and University ideals, as well as celebrate the unique characteristics and identity of the University of Regina. In the next five years, FGSR will communicate a clearly defined identity as an academic, service-delivery unit and graduate student advocate to internal and external stakeholders, as well as widely disseminate graduate student success stories through various platforms. We will elevate the research and creative achievements of our graduate students and faculty, and cultivate strong pride of place through:

- Mobilizing graduate research dissemination and knowledge translation
- Consistent communication with alumni and faculty
- Expanding international outreach and strategic networks
- Telling our unique story as a forward-looking place of inclusion and innovative ideas

*Graduate student success and alumni accomplishments inspire pride of place and enhance our reputation as a philanthropic institution, community-builder, economic driver, and industry partner.*



[www.uregina.ca/gradstudies](http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies)

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