

GREAT GRAD PROGRAMS – draft discussion document (Oct 2019)

Key characteristics: excellent, purposeful, relevant, rigorous, supportive, student-focused, inclusive, holistic

Clear, articulated purpose and orientation to that end

- Regular review of the purposes of the graduate program and whether/how it is meeting contemporary students' and society's needs; orientation of program characteristics to these purposes
- Awareness of alumni outcomes
- Regular assessment of program quality and alignment with purpose

Sufficient resources and research environment to support high quality research and learning

- Excellent faculty, sufficient supervision and teaching capacity
- Necessary infrastructure, research funding and space, access to necessary research resources

Vibrant, collegial, and supportive intellectual community

- Frequent opportunities for interaction, including academic and social events
- Maintenance of alumni connections

Engaged and effective recruitment and admissions practices; excellent, diverse students

- Holistic assessment, attention to diversities of excellence; decisions by committee and supervisors
- Engaging online presence, outreach efforts, alumni Involvement, interviews and visits

Competitive, transparent funding

- Sufficient, equitable, guarantee for multiple years
- Transparency in amounts and decision-making

High quality, relevant curriculum; excellent teaching

- Sufficient choice, relevant to students' programs and futures
- Inclusion of research integrity focus, relevant professional skills

Excellent supervision

- Support for new and continuing faculty, evaluation
- Use of mutual (student-supervisor) expectations agreements

Supportive and effective oversight of the program and student progress

- Regular committee meetings and reports, focus on academic and broader development
- Orientation; clear, transparent, and observed policies, practices, and expectations

Sustained focus on holistic student development, wellbeing, inclusion

- Attention to personal, professional, ethical, and intellectual development, including the enlargement of perspectives
- Assurance of an environment that is inclusive and that promotes wellbeing among students, staff, and faculty