

Memorandum

Office of the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance)

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TO: Board of Governors
FROM: Josephine Nalbantoglu, Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
SUBJECT: Overview of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of McGill University
DATE: April 26, 2018
DOCUMENT #: GD17-57

ACTION REQUIRED: ☒ INFORMATION ☐ APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME An overview of activities, initiatives and developments of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of McGill University is provided to the Board of Governors for information.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE Presentations feature regularly on Board agendas in order to keep Board members apprised of the University's academic and campus activities.

The following presentation has been prepared by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and provides an overview of the following elements:

- Graduate Enrolment
- International Enrolment
- Graduate Funding by Financial Support Categories
- Supervision/Mentoring
- New Graduate Programs
- GPS Initiatives
- Graduate Mobility Award
- Skill Sets/My Path
- Key GPS Priorities

ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES Presentations of University Faculties apprise the Board of the University's academic priorities.

COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY Faculty presentations are a regular feature on Board agendas.

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/ EXTERNAL REGULATIONS	There are no external legislation requirements applicable.
RISK FACTORS	There are no risk factors applicable.
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	GPS has enabled a sustainable framework for the success of graduate students at the University.
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	N/A
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	N/A
APPENDICES	Appendix A: Presentation

Graduate and
Postdoctoral
Studies



McGill

Presentation to the Board of Governors

April 26, 2018

Mission and mandate

- The mission of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is to promote university-wide academic excellence for graduate and postdoctoral education at McGill.
- GPS provides leadership and strategic direction across the university in close collaboration with the academic and administrative units, and the graduate and postdoctoral community.
- GPS works with Faculties to recruit top students to pursue their graduate studies at McGill.
- Through its partnership with academic and service units across McGill, GPS ensures campus-wide support for graduate student success.



Quick facts about graduate education at McGill

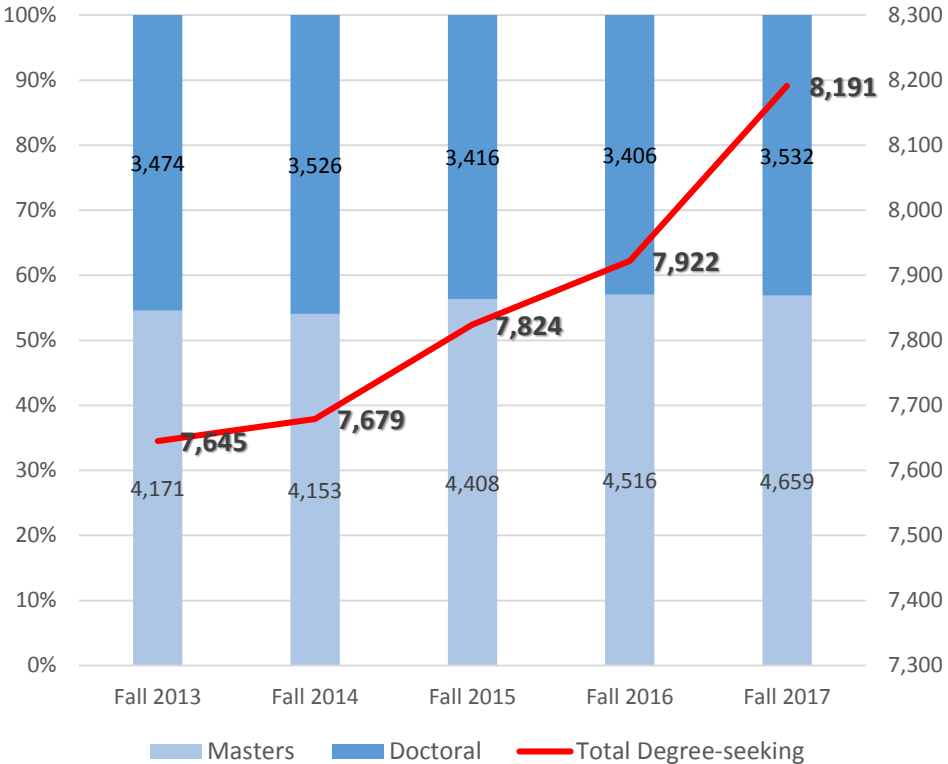
- Total number of degree-seeking graduate students (Fall 2017): 8,191
- Proportion of graduate students: 25 % of total degree-seeking enrolment
- Proportion of PhD students: 10.8 % of total enrolment (highest in the U15)
- Proportion of international students: 39 % of total graduate enrolment (steady growth over the years)
- Gender distribution (full-time enrolment):

	Female	Male
Masters	55.7%	44.3%
Doctoral	48.4%	51.6%

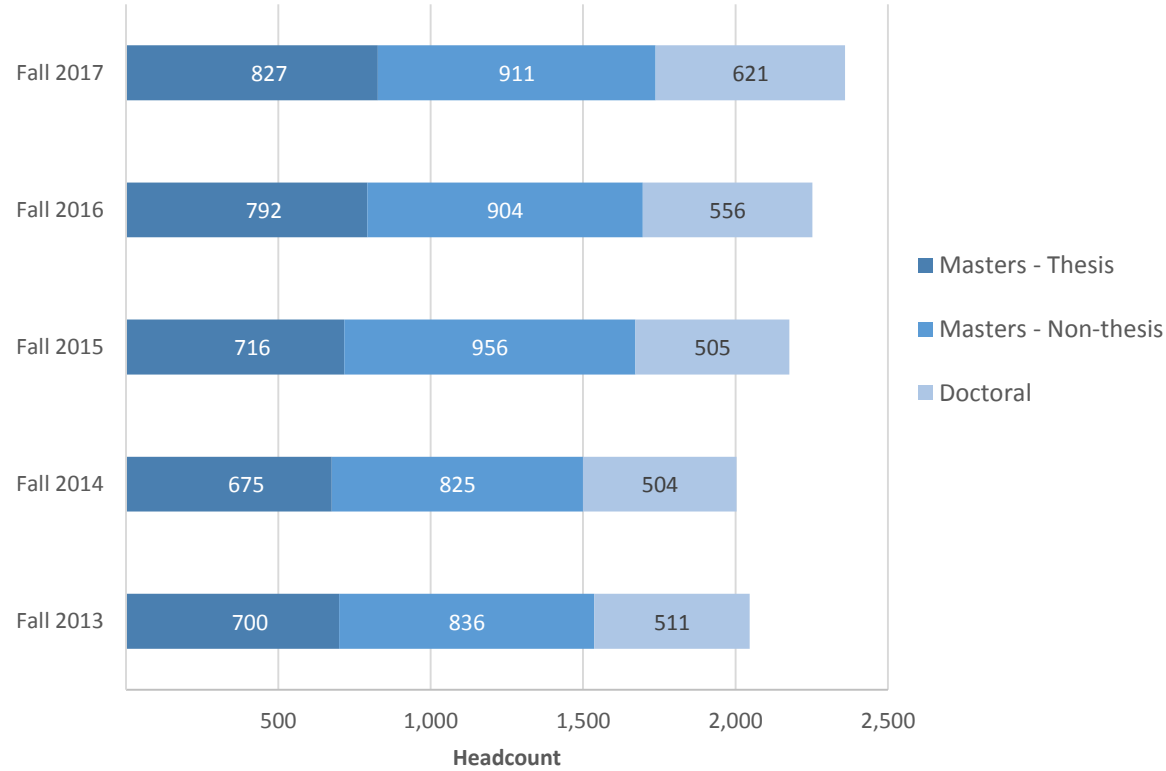


Graduate enrolment

Proportion of Masters and Doctoral Students
(2013 to 2017)

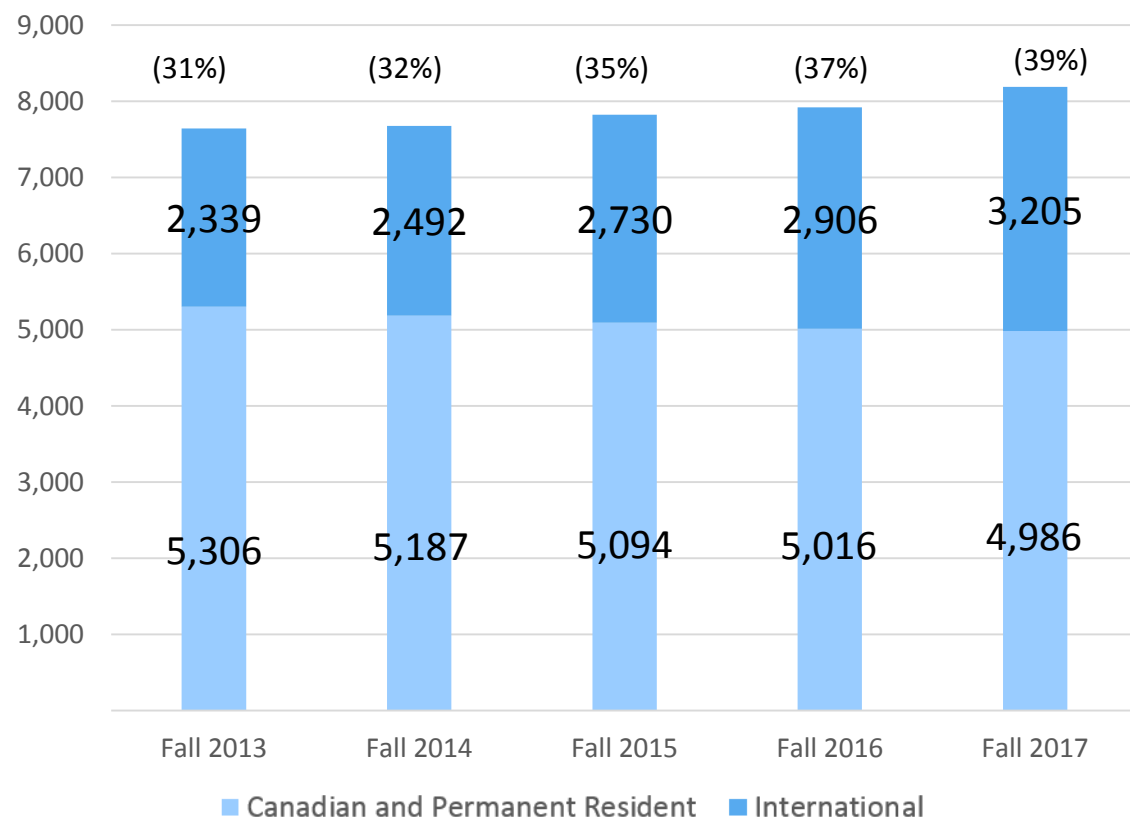


New Fall Enrolment (2013 to 2017)

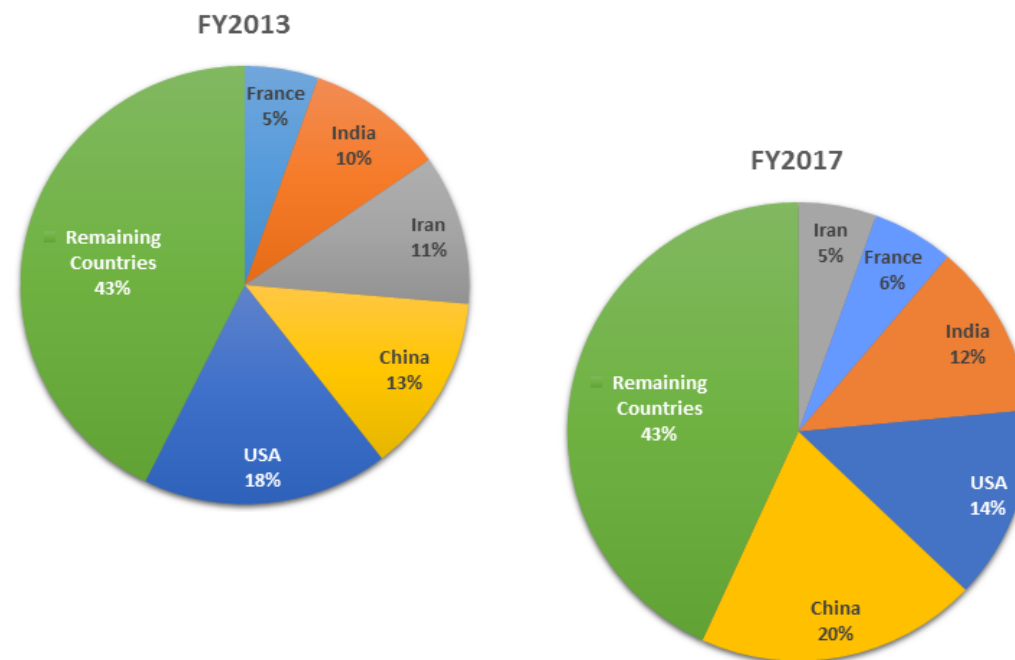


International enrolment

Proportion of International Masters and Doctoral Students
(2013 to 2017)

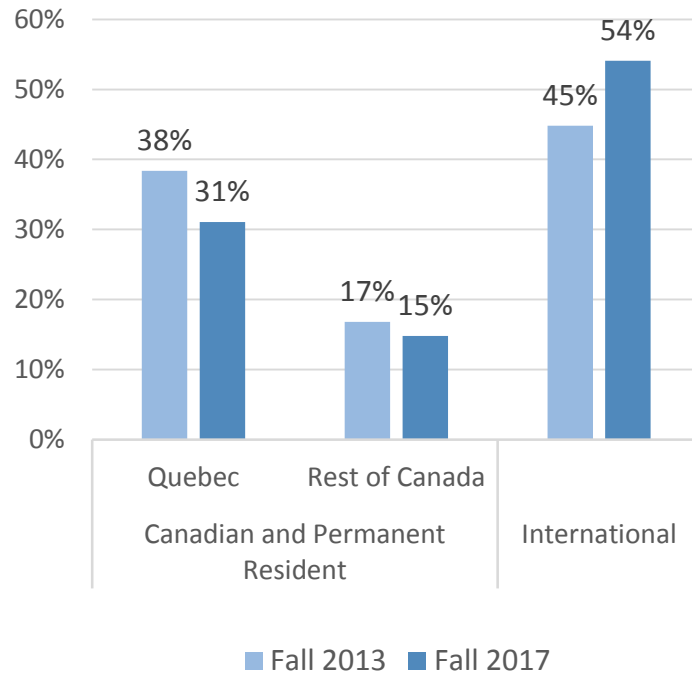


Top 5 countries – International Masters and Doctoral
(FY2013 to FY2017)

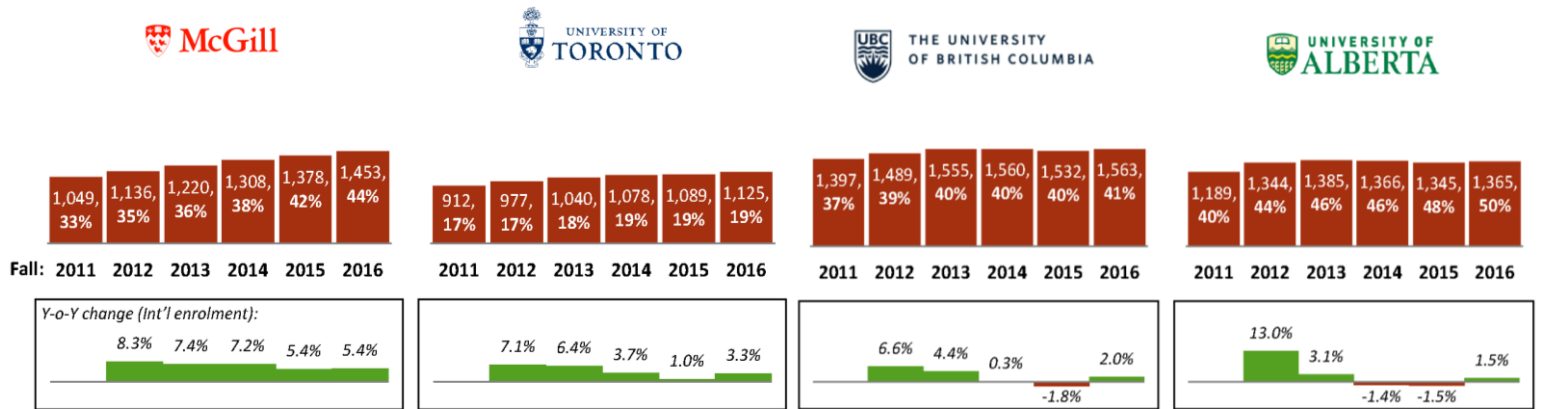


International doctoral enrolment

New Fall Admissions
(2013 to 2017)



Comparison with U15 peers – growth of international enrolment



Source: U15 Fall enrolment headcounts
Prepared by Analysis, Planning & Budget – August 2017

■ Doctoral: Int'l enrolment



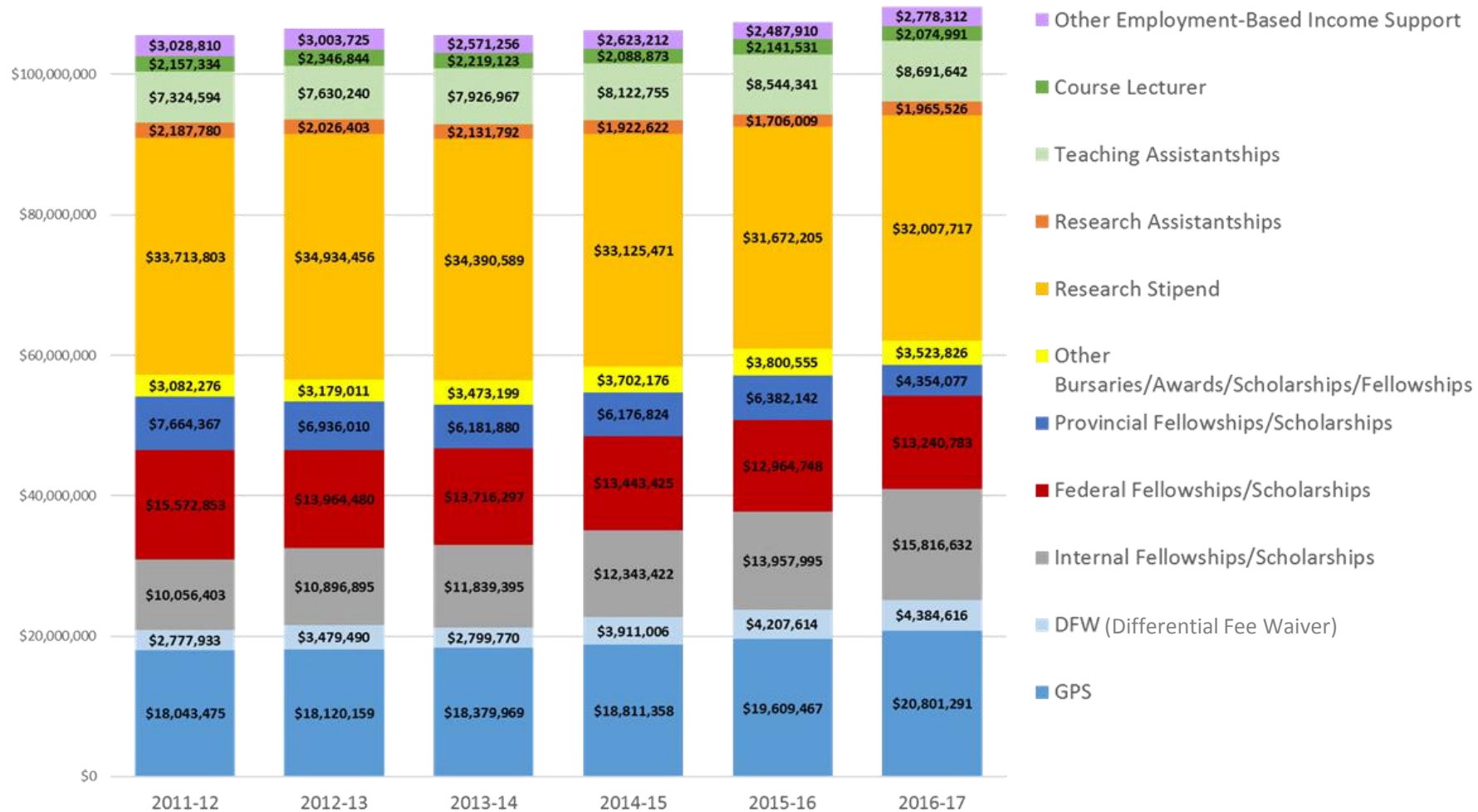
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Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies

Supporting graduate students

- GPS allocates to each Faculty, on a formula-driven basis, funds to support the recruitment and retention of graduate students in line with the university's strategic priorities. This central funding allocation (\$20.8 million per year) forms the basis of all graduate student support and is complemented by external funds.
- GPS works with the graduate units to optimize the use of the internal allocation to keep McGill's graduate financial support competitive.
- McGill is a sought-after partner for international government agencies looking for academic partnerships with top institutions (e.g. China Scholarship Council, CONACyT in Mexico, Islamic Development Bank). Such arrangements allow McGill to provide better funding for its international student cohort.

Graduate Funding by Financial Support Categories

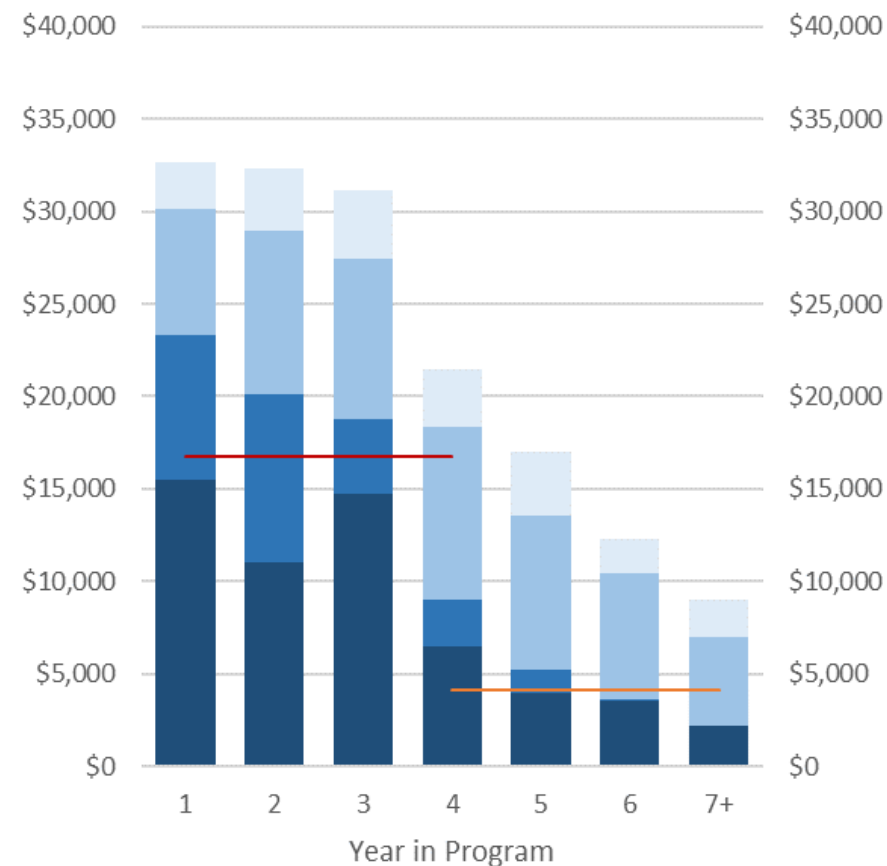


2016/17 Average PhD Financial Support

Quebec, Canadian and International Fee Exempt Students



International Non-Fee Exempt Students



Oversight for the quality of graduate education at McGill

GPS is responsible for ensuring university-wide quality assurance for graduate education through the following:

- Supervision
- Graduate policies and regulations
- Program design and approval
- Tracking of student progress during the degree and after graduation



According to professors at McGill, supervision is...



SUPERVISION

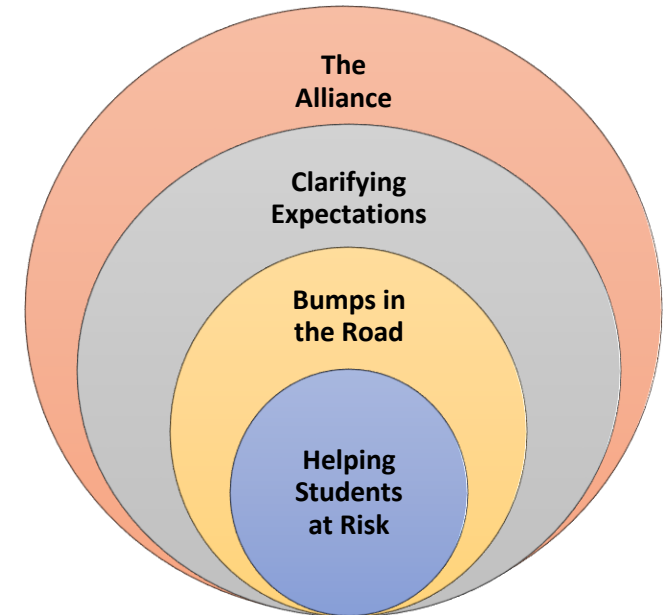
Graduate and Postdoctoral **Support**

The supervisory relationship is at the core of graduate education and postdoctoral training. In collaboration with Teaching and Learning Services (TLS), GPS provides ongoing support and training for both supervisors and supervisees. The Supervision website offers a wealth of resources with practical advice and ideas for reflection.

A university-wide Mandatory Orientation for New Supervisors is held two to three times a year. In addition, an online orientation module for graduate students includes a mandatory video on graduate supervision.

Centrally offered TLS-GPS supervision workshops are frequently tailored for specific Faculties.

Supervision workshops



New graduate programs

GPS works with academic units to design and/or revise graduate programs to meet the demands of new student populations. Recently developed new programs include the following:

- PhD in Quantitative Life Sciences (interfaculty program)
- Masters in Oncology
- PhD in Mental Health
- PhD in Urban Planning, Policy and Design

In addition, cotutelles and joint degrees provide attractive opportunities for students to pursue a PhD under joint supervision within the framework of an international research collaboration. The majority of McGill's cotutelle partners are in France. A joint PhD in Human Genetics (McGill's first) was recently launched with Kyoto University in Japan.



Tracking of students

During graduate studies

myProgress is a major initiative underway, and set to launch in Summer 2018. It is a web-based tool that allows graduate students and their supervisors to track and monitor important academic milestones towards the degree.

The logo for myProgress, featuring the word "myProgress" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a graphic of a path made of grey circles of varying sizes, receding into the distance.

Post-graduation outcomes

- An annual PhD outcomes survey was launched in 2013. Data collected from the surveys provide important information on the career pathways of McGill PhDs and serve to better align services and programs with graduate students' needs.
- The TRaCe project, led by McGill, is a collaboration of 25 Canadian universities aimed at tracking the post-PhD careers of humanities graduates, especially those outside the academia.
- Based on data gathered, GPS has launched initiatives to enhance the graduate student experience.

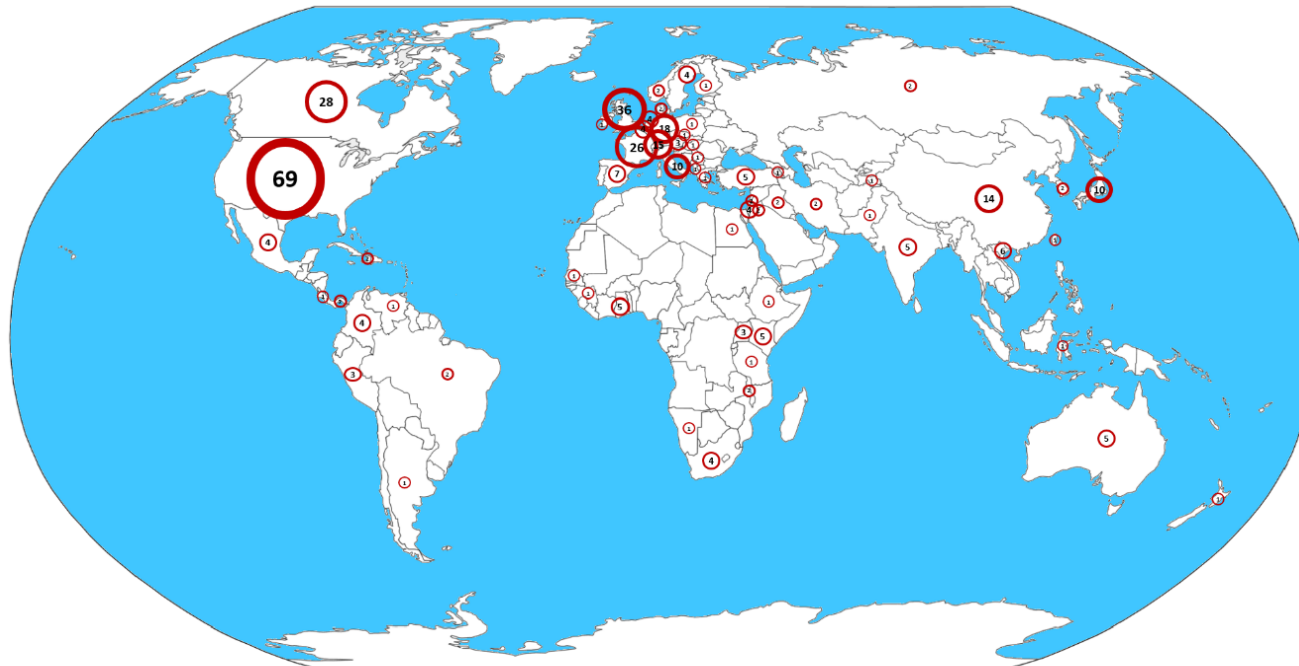


GPS initiatives to enhance the graduate student experience





The **Graduate Mobility Award** encourages graduate students to study and conduct research abroad as part of their McGill degree program by defraying part of the cost of the international experience. Since Fall 2016, 342 students have traveled to 65 countries.



*Please note that students who travelled to two or more countries are represented multiple times in this map

UPDATED: 12-April-2018

Student Testimonial:

"I have a greater understanding of research and fieldwork and this has made me more ambitious for the research I am currently doing and the projects I will partake in later in my career. In the end, this experience not only had an impact on my education and professional life but on my personal life as well. I learned about myself and what I could accomplish."



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Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies



SKILLSETS
Unlock Your Potential



- SKILLSETS is a suite of skills development offerings aimed at graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. SKILLSETS offers over 200 workshops, information sessions, and events throughout the year that are free to all McGill graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. These activities are organized into seven themes of professional development.
- myPath is an active network of self-reflection tools and resources to formulate an Individual Development Plan (IDP). Currently in development stages with a full launch planned for mid 2018, myPath will provide PhD students with various resources in strategic goal-setting to help them prepare for post-degree careers.



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Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies

Key GPS priorities: The way forward

- Attract top students globally to pursue graduate studies at McGill
- Consolidate program offering at the graduate level, with a focus on interdisciplinary programs
- Expand the number of cotuitelles and joint degrees
- Enhance the graduate student experience by offering a suite of value-added opportunities (graduate mobility awards, internships, communications training)
- Continue to support the career preparedness of Masters and PhD graduates by offering them tools for self-assessment and goal setting (Individual Development Plan) and skills development (SKILLSETS workshops)

