

Forwarded on behalf of Dr. Shannon Hagerman, Associate Professor & Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies:

Colleagues,

I hope these late summer days find you well and rested and ready for fall. As we prepare to embark on the new academic term, I wanted to take a moment to highlight some key resources related to graduate students and post-docs, as well as let you know about some new awards, processes and initiatives within the Faculty of Forestry graduate program.

*For further details on all our policies and processes please see the [GradBook](#) (via the online [Graduate Student Portal](#) (also very useful for faculty!). As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please connect with the Grad Office or myself. Similarly, please encourage your students to reach out to us if needed, we are here to help!*

### **Graduate Student Wellbeing**

First and foremost, the wellbeing of graduate students is our primary concern. If one of your students is facing difficulties or distress, please encourage them to reach out to our team. There are myriad resources and supports we can connect folks with, both within the Faculty, and across campus. Early intervention plays a key role in helping students who may be struggling to get back on track. Again, we are here to help! By way of a quick resource, hot off the press, here is the latest "[Green Folder](#)," which provides the UBC roadmap, of sorts, for what to do to support students who may be experiencing distress. Note that we will be sending a welcome letter to grads next week which, among other things, will contain a full list of health and wellbeing resources.

### **Graduate Supervision/Resources for Faculty:**

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has a wide range of resources to support you in your role as a graduate supervisor and mentor. Click [here](#) for resources on topics including: supervising graduate students, key policies and procedures and much more. Here are two items of potential interest:

- i) *Graduate Supervision Workshops:* These workshops are a great opportunity to i) promote excellence in graduate supervision and ii) learn and share ideas for dealing with some of the complex issues that can arise in graduate supervision. More information [here](#).
- ii) *Principles of Excellent Supervision:* In consultation with faculty and students across UBC, the *Graduate Supervision Learning Group* has developed a set of [principles](#) of excellent graduate supervision. A handy 2-page summary can be found [here](#).

**Awards** (highlights only! Please consult our [awards information page](#) for details of ALL upcoming opportunities, there are many):

*New award for faculty:*

I am delighted to announce the new **Faculty of Forestry Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision and Mentorship**. This award adopts the same criteria and many (though not all) of the requirements for the Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring. As such, it can be viewed as a potential stepping-stone

towards its Killam counterpart. The inaugural award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision and Mentorship will be presented spring 2023. More details [here](#).

*Graduate student awards – highlights:*

**Faculty of Forestry Indigenous and Community Engagement Research Fund (ICERF).** This new award was announced earlier in this year, but with new faculty members having joined us since then (welcome!), and the first adjudication upcoming, I've highlighted it again here. This award has, and will, continue to be advertised widely to forestry graduate students, but if your student is considering working towards new partnerships with Indigenous communities and community organizations, or continuing their work towards fulfilling responsibilities to community-defined outcomes for existing partnerships and projects, please encourage them to apply! Details on eligibility, criteria and procedures can be found [here](#). The deadline for the inaugural 2022 award cycle is **October 15, 2022**. Please contact Forestry Grad Awards [forestry.grad-awards@ubc.ca](mailto:forestry.grad-awards@ubc.ca) should you have any questions.

**Future Forests Fellowship:** Once every four years the Faculty of Forestry awards the prestigious Future Forests Fellowship to an exceptional doctoral student (value \$70,000 CAD/year for 4 years). As the flagship graduate award in our faculty, we would like to reach as diverse an applicant pool as possible. Please share this opportunity widely through your networks! Details [here](#). Deadline: November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### **Policies, Processes and Friendly Reminders!**

*MSc/MASc thesis credit options:* With mentorship and guidance from their supervisors, master's students can select one of three thesis credit options (6, 12 or 18) to complete their degree requirements (all master's students must complete a total of 30 credits with course credits making up the difference). The default for all students registering in the MSc and MASc program is the 12-credit thesis option (with 18 credits of courses). After significant feedback and subsequent consultation, we've clarified the criteria and expectations for both the 18 and 6 credit thesis options. Full details can be found [here](#) and in the GradBook. Aside: You may be interested to know that current registration for the 6cr., 12cr., and 18cr is 2%, 40%, 58%, respectively. Please don't hesitate to follow up with Julie or myself if you have any questions.

*Committee meetings:* Please remember to hold committee meetings on an annual basis (minimum)! Forms for committee meetings, and all else, can be found [here](#).

*Planning ahead:* We know how busy you all are, but please do your best not to leave requests to the grad office until the last minute. Deadline notifications sent to the students (via the GradListerv) will also be communicated to you (via the Faculty Listserv). Did you know you need approximately **4 months** of lead time for [PhD Defense Planning](#)?

### **Support for postdocs:**

For the most up-to-date information pertaining to postdoctoral fellows, please visit the PDFO website. There, you will find answers to frequently asked questions related to appointments, immigration, professional development, Tri-Agency funding, and more. At this point in time, the PDFO has transitioned all upcoming professional development events to an online format. Information about upcoming professional development sessions can be found on the [PDFO website](#).

## **Community!**

This year (pandemic willing, fingers crossed), we are planning to bring back some much beloved events and traditions (e.g. the fall Wine and Cheese, a celebration of research evening), and introduce some new ones. As for the latter, the new '**GradYourLunch**' sessions will launch at the end of September. Each of these monthly sessions will have a different theme (e.g. student wellbeing, graduation and defense procedures; fostering a productive relationship with your supervisor and committee etc.), but most importantly, will serve as an informal forum for graduate students to bring their lunch and ask questions, share concerns, ideas and strategies with members of the grad services team. You'll see posters up about this shortly.

Finally, you may have noticed on the atrium displays that we've recently launched our '**GradKudos**' series to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of all of our graduate students as they progress through their programs and enjoy various successes (e.g. advancing to candidacy, winning an award, graduating!). Please keep an eye out for highlights of many more accomplishments to come in the year ahead. We are incredibly fortunate to work and learn with such exceptional students!