

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Handbook for PhD in Natural Resources Management

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Preamble

The intent of this handbook is to provide students in the PhD in Forest Sciences program and their supervisors with comprehensive information on all aspects of the program. This handbook is an evolving document. We will continue to add and update contents as issues arise and/or the program changes. Please feel free to contact qdang@lakeheadu.ca with suggestions or comments.

The general regulations for all graduate programs in the University can be found at https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/regulations

More general information on graduate programs in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management can be found at:

 $\underline{https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/nrm/program-options/graduate-program-options}$

It is the joint responsibility of the student and the supervisor(s) to ensure that all the program requirements are met in a timely fashion.

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The PhD in Natural Resources Management is a research-based program focused on the development of researchers in the fields of forest ecology, and forest products and management. It is an interdisciplinary program and includes the participation of the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Department of Biology, School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, Department of Chemical Engineering, School of Social Work, Department of Sociology and Department of History.

To fulfill the degree requirements, students must complete a minimum 1.0 full-course equivalent of coursework, the research proposal examination, the comprehensive examination, and the preparation and oral defence of a research dissertation. Students are expected to complete within four years from entry into the PhD program. Course requirements are normally completed during the first year of the program. The residency requirement is a minimum of one academic year (three terms), of which two terms must be consecutive.

Admittance to the PhD program

Normally, an applicant to the PhD program has completed a master's degree in forestry, related science or an allied discipline; however, students lacking the appropriate background can complete additional courses (2.0 full-course equivalents) to cover deficiencies as determined by the supervisory committee and approved by the PhD program Committee.

Admission to all graduate study programs is governed by Lakehead University's general regulations. Additional requirements of PhD in Forest Sciences program include availability of a <u>supervisor</u> who is a member of the Core PhD Faculty and appropriate funding. The first step in applying is to check the regulations and send an application to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. However, most successful applicants also check our web pages for information on faculty and resources in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, resources in our collaborating academic units that may help match prospective students to potential supervisors. In the best cases, applicants have already circulated their CV, a letter of their research interests, and unofficial transcripts to potential supervisors by the time they apply. They may even receive a tentative funding commitment to assist their graduate studies before their application is received and

processed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Approval for entry into a program remains with the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Applicants whose native language is not English, and who cannot verify having studied in an English language school system for more than three years, will be required to present proof of English facility, by achieving appropriate standing on the TOEFL test (a minimum paper-based score of 550 with no component score less than 50; a computer-based score of 213 with no component score less than 17; or an internet-based score of 80 with no component score less than 19), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS, with a minimum score of 6.5 and no individual band score less than 6.0), the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB, with a minimum score of 85), or the Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL with a minimum score of 60). In lieu of a test score, students whose native language is not English may be admitted conditionally on successful completion of the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program offered jointly by Confederation College and Lakehead University.

Registration

Students must consult with the supervisor and the PhD in Natural Resources Manage Program coordinator prior to registration to discuss and have their courses of study approved. Registration can then be done online with a PIN to access WebAdvisor. A PIN is emailed to a Lakehead email account. If you have already accessed your PIN but have forgotten the number, you can have it resent to your Lakehead email account by going to the WebAdvisor log-in and clicking on "What's my PIN?" All registrations are conditional and subject to approval by the Office of the Registrar. It is always the student's responsibility to read the University Calendar and to abide by any special conditions or requisites to enrolment. Conditions, as outlined in your official Offer of Admission, or those conditions set by the Graduate Studies Committee, must be strictly followed. Students who fail to comply are subject to deregistration.

Photo ID: During the first week of September, graduate students can obtain a student photo ID in the main cafeteria. Beginning the first week of classes, photo IDs can be obtained from the Library Circulation Desk.

Continuous Enrolment

All students must be continuously enrolled in every semester of study by registering the PhD Dissertation (NRMT 9900) unless they have requested and are approved for a Leave of Absence from their studies.

Funding

Students who have been offered funding (i.e., Graduate Assistantship, scholarships, awards, bursaries, faculty support) in their first year need to obtain a Financial Support Form from the Office of Graduate Studies (RC 0009). Continuing graduate students can use a separate form. Forms must be completed and brought to the Accounts Receivable and Collections Supervisor, for payment of fees by the Monday of the second week of September at the latest. Financial Services (Accounts) is in the basement of the Agora. Ask for the supervisor of Financial Services directly and do not stand in the undergraduate line for payment of fees. Students employed as a Graduate Assistant will also need to bring their Financial Support Form to the Office of Human Resources and sign on as an employee of the University. Bring a void cheque and banking information, because the University only works with Direct Deposit.

Study Plan

A Study Plan consists of confirmation of the first-year program of study (coursework) and preliminary selection of a suitable thesis topic. It must be completed during the first six months. It is at this time that, with the assistance of the Supervisor, a supervisory committee is selected and appointed. Decisions are recorded in a Progress Report form.

Course Requirements

To fulfill the degree requirements, students must complete a total of 8.0 Full Course Equivalent (FCE) at the graduate level consisting of the following components:

- 1.0 FCE courses at the graduate level, the comprehensive examination Natural Resources Management 6701 (worth 1.0 FCE), and the preparation and oral defense of a research dissertation Natural Resources Management 6901 (worth 6.0 FCE).
- PhD students may choose graduate courses from those offered within the Faculty
 of Natural Resources Management, Department of Biology and School of Outdoor
 Recreation, Parks and Tourism, with the exception of Natural Resources
 Management 5901, Biology 5901.
- All graduate students are allowed to register in 5000-level courses, but generally PhD students register in 6000-level courses.

Note: Students are required to register for the dissertation placeholder course, Natural Resources Management 9900, for each term they are in the program.

Minimum academic requirements to remain in the PhD Program

PhD students are expected to maintain a B (70%) or better grade in every course that they take. A student who does not meet this minimum standard will be requested to withdraw from the program.

Course requirements would normally be completed during the first year of the program. Special Topics courses at the PhD level have different calendar numbers (NRMT 6610, worth 0.5 FCE; NRMT 6620, worth 1.0 FCE).

Supervisor

A Supervisor is usually chosen for having similar research interests as the graduate student. Once a faculty member and a graduate student agree to a supervisory relationship, then the Supervisor is the first contact for all concerns that may arise during a graduate student's career. In the case of co-supervision, two faculty members work mutually in the student's interest.

A Supervisor is the student's mentor, advisor, and often provides emotional support. The graduate student and Supervisor(s) work together in creating the Study Plan and the Dissertation research proposal. The student is expected to outline relevant goals to his or her academic objectives. The Supervisor(s) is then responsible for ensuring resources are provided for the graduate student to complete a program on time. The Supervisor is to ensure that the student is aware of and understands all program requirements and degree regulations and the Supervisor is directly responsible for the ethical process and outcome of the research. The Supervisor is also charged with ensuring that the student conducts research in a manner that is as effective, safe, and productive as is possible. However, it is the student's responsibility to inform the Supervisor regularly of his or her research activities and progress. Any periods of extended leave or unexpected expenses to be incurred by the student must be communicated to the Supervisor before they occur. Normally, either the student or the Supervisor calls Supervisory Committee meetings. Regular meetings and written agreements are recommended mileposts in a student's progress; each meeting is documented with a progress report. Likewise, regular attendance is expected of the graduate student at informally scheduled meetings with the Supervisor. Regular posted hours are a common courtesy by both parties for each day excluding holidays, when a student is expected to be present in the office or research lab. Students should feel comfortable initiating meetings with the Supervisor. Supervisors who may be absent from the University for an extended period of time are responsible for informing their students immediately. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to ensure that temporary supervision will be provided, so that the student will have guidance during that absence.

Good supervisory relationships rely on clear and mutually accepted expectations and terms of progress. At times, the research interests of a student may change or conflicts may arise between a student and Supervisor that require formal means to resolve. An appropriate course of action is a request for change of Supervisor submitted in writing to the Graduate Studies Coordinator.

Supervisory Committee

Students typically select their supervisory committee in consultation with their Supervisor, following the appropriate requirements listed below. The selection process is the student's opportunity to ensure that the committee comprises the highest qualified

mentors for their graduate research career. Selection of a team that works in your best interest in coaching you and understanding what your research is about is a wise decision, especially in view that the core members of the committee will also be examining your <u>Dissertation</u>. It is the graduate student's responsibility, shared with the Supervisor, to initiate meetings of the Supervisory Committee. The PhD program Coordinator maintains an honorary position on all Supervisory Committees, representing the Program Committee, but does not normally attend meetings.

The supervisory Committee will consist of at least three members of whom two are core faculty, and one or both of the core faculty will be the supervisor/co-supervisors for the student. External adjunct professors must find a co-supervisor who is a core faculty member and who is also a faculty member of the Faculty of Natural Resources Management. The Chair of the committee will be the student's supervisor or co-supervisor. Other members of the committee may include core faculty, non-core faculty who participate in the teaching of graduate courses, and collaborating adjunct professors.

The academic program for each PhD candidate will be developed by the supervisory committee, in consultation with the student. The supervisory committee for the student will recommend to the Faculty of Natural Resources Management PhD Program committee the academic program for the student for approval.

The primary responsibility of the Supervisory Committee is to provide advice to a student about the progress and direction of his or her research and professional development.

Advice is often about:

- Courses, readings or discussion groups that strengthen the student's background;
- 2. Design and execution of the thesis research;
- 3. Development of sound communication skills (speaking and writing), and;
- 4. Ethical conduct and presentation of scientific research.

Dissertation Research Proposal

Within their first academic year, all PhD students must be prepared to present a full study proposal. The proposal shall address: what your study objectives are, why your study is important, and how you will conduct your research. Study objectives lead to clear questions and hypotheses. These questions or hypotheses are supported by the research rationale, i.e., why your study is important. To articulate importance of your study, students conduct a literature review in brief or comprehensive. A comprehensive literature review can sometimes itself be published in peer-reviewed journals. To address your research questions and/or test your hypotheses, you need to describe in detail materials and methods you will use to conduct your research. In this section, it is recommended to consider where, when, and how your research activities will take place. The proposal shall also have a section describing the schedule for the remainder of the graduate student's program.

The student works closely with the Supervisor(s) on the Study Proposal. Most students are recruited to assist funded projects from granting agencies and these projects require deliverables. In this case, it is necessary that the student's proposal overlaps and improves an element of the funded project. It is advantageous for a student to join a larger project, because these projects have usually gone through a vigorous peer review process, which can improve the value of the student's effort. In an event that a student is recruited without a funded project, the student is strongly encouraged to work with the Supervisor(s) prior to or at the beginning of the graduate program to develop a focused research project proposal. Such a proposal may itself lead to an application for funding.

The presentation of the proposal will consist of at least one meeting of the Supervisory Committee, during which the student presents orally (usually for 10-15 minutes) and then takes questions and suggestions from the committee. Students are encouraged to schedule and post their proposal presentation as a public meeting open to faculty members and other students, in this arrangement usually to be followed by the Supervisory Committee meeting. In cases when significant revision to a first-draft proposal is required, a second Supervisory Committee meeting must be scheduled before a field season begins. Students are expected to adhere to their proposal and to discuss any major departure with their Supervisory Committee.

Progress Report

Graduate student details about funding, coursework, area of research, Supervisory Committee members, etc. are filed annually in progress reports. Reports are filed by May 1 each year with the secretary in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management responsible for the graduate students. The report is completed together with the Supervisory Committee and reflects mutually agreed terms around the study program. The progress report is signed by both the student and the student's Supervisor.

Research Proposal Examination

Research Proposal examinations are to be held within 12 months of the initial registration in the PhD in Natural Resources Management program.

The Research Proposal examination will confirm the student's competence in fields related to their proposed dissertation research. The examination may reveal inadequacies in the student's preparation, which may be remedied by requiring additional formal coursework at the graduate or undergraduate level. In cases of poor performance, the student will be asked to revert to a Master's program, remain in their Master's program, or will be inactivated. The passing of this exam is required for a current Master's student to transfer into the PhD program.

The student will provide the examination committee with their dissertation research proposal at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of the examination.

The examination committee for the research proposal examination is made up of the supervisory committee members. The first session of the qualifying examination will be a public presentation of the dissertation research proposal by the student, followed by a public question period. This session will be open to all students, faculty and staff members, and research partners. The second session will be an in-camera examination by the examination committee. Only examiners and the chair of the committee will be allowed to attend this session. The questions asked by the examiners should be related to the proposed research. The minimum level of expected performance is a good

understanding of basic principles, methodologies, and the current state of knowledge of the proposed research discipline

Based on the recommendation of the Examination Committee, the Faculty will require:

- 1. That the student be allowed to proceed with the PhD program unconditionally.
- 2. That the student be allowed to proceed with the PhD program with the condition that they must take one or more additional course(s). Master's students transferring into the PhD program are required to complete the course requirements (excluding their thesis) for their master's program, as well as a minimum of one FCE required for the PhD program.
- 3. That the student transfer from the PhD to an appropriate Master's program or continue in their Master's program.
- 4. That the student takes the examination again, at a time to be determined by the Supervisory Committee, but within six months following the first attempt. Only one repeat of the examination will be allowed.
- 5. That the student fails the Qualifying Examination and will be inactivated from the PhD program.

Comprehensive Examination (NRMT 6701)

The comprehensive examination is to be held within 24 months of the initial registration in the PhD in Natural Resources Management program. Only two attempts will be permitted. Students who fail the second attempt will be required to leave the PhD program or be recommended by the Examination Committee to move to the Master of Sciences in Forestry program.

The comprehensive examination will assess the student's general preparedness and competence for the PhD degree, the scope and depth of knowledge in the proposed and related research areas, and the ability to integrate materials from diverse areas, to reconcile theoretical, methodological and empirical issues, and to think critically and

creatively. The comprehensive examination will be an oral examination conducted incamera by the comprehensive examination committee.

The Comprehensive Examination Committee consists of all the members of the dissertation supervisory committee and an External Examiner, who is from outside of the Dissertation Advisory Committee. The external examiner will be appointed by the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources on the commendation of the dissertation advisory committee.

At least three months before the comprehensive examination, the examination committee will meet with the student to review the requirements for the comprehensive examination and the procedures to be followed and to set the date for the examination. Each examiner will give the student some specific materials for the student to read in preparation for the exam, such as some specific chapters of a book. Each examiner generally examines a specific area and overlap between examiners should be avoided or minimized. While some open questions are permitted, each examiner should focus on examining the student's comprehension of the reading materials that have been assigned to the student at the aforementioned pre-examination meeting. A written record of this information will be given to the student and placed in the student's file.

The Examination will be chaired and moderated by the PhD in Natural Resources Management program coordinator or designate. The Chair will only vote in cases of a tie in the committee vote. The oral examination should normally be a maximum of three hours. After the examination, the comprehensive examination committee will decide on one of the following outcomes:

- Pass will be awarded to a student who demonstrates an acceptable level of knowledge of their area of study and requires a simple majority vote by the Committee.
- 2. Re-examination will be awarded to a student who does not have an acceptable level of knowledge of their area of study and requires a simple majority vote by the Committee. The re-examination must occur no earlier than one month and no

later than six months after the first examination. The outcome of the reexamination can only be "pass" or "fail".

3. Fail will be awarded to a student who in the re-examination still cannot demonstrate an acceptable level of knowledge of their area of study and requires a simple majority vote by the Committee.

Dissertation and Defense

The dissertation research must be original and independent work that will significantly advance knowledge in Natural Resources Management. The dissertation may be of traditional format, or a compilation of normally at least three peer-reviewed journal articles of the dissertation research by the student. Review of the dissertation will be by the student's supervisory committee and an external examiner.

The dissertation, when deemed ready by the student's dissertation supervisory committee, is examined externally (administered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies). When the external examination has been satisfactorily completed, the student must successfully defend the dissertation in a public oral presentation and an in-camera examination by the dissertation examination committee. The dissertation examination committee normally consists of the student's dissertation supervisory committee and the external examiner, who may be represented by the supervisor.

External Examiner

The Supervisor, usually in consultation with the student, suggests a suitable candidate as the External Examiner. Ideally, the Supervisor will have contacted the proposed nominee and will have determined willingness to serve as Examiner.

The External Examiner must be <u>external</u> to the University and within the student's field of study. The External Examiner nomination form will be submitted by the Supervisor to the PhD program coordinator for approval and subsequent submission for the final approval by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The Dissertation must be delivered to the external examiner at least **3 months** prior to the intended date of graduation.

Normally, all members of the Examination Committee are present; *quorum* consists of 50% plus one in addition to the Chair (normally four persons). If *quorum* is not met, the Defence must be postponed. Members of the University will be invited to attend the public presentation by the student. For the in camera thesis/dissertation defence, the Chair determines the order in which Committee members ask questions, as well as the approximate time to be allotted to questions. The Committee together determines how any questions raised by the Examiners will be discussed by the candidate. The following agenda is used for the rest of the meeting:

- a. Call to order Committee Chair
- Introduction of the Candidate Supervisor
- c. Presentation of the Dissertation Candidate (no longer than 30 minutes)
- d. Open Forum for questions from the audience and the Examination Committee
- e. After the Open Forum all attendees who are not members of the Natural Resources Management Graduate Studies Committee, PhD (Forest Sciences) Core Committee or the Examination Committee are asked to leave the room (the PhD Candidate remains)
- f. The Internal and External Examiner reports are read by the Supervisor and the Committee Chair, respectively; then examination questions are asked by members of the Examining Committee and by the Chair (on behalf of the External Examiner if he/she has arranged only a written submission)
- g. After the questioning the candidate is asked to leave the room.

The Chair then moderates an *in camera* session, when the Committee members decide the outcome of the thesis/dissertation and defense. This meeting should take no more than sixty minutes. The Committee will attempt to arrive at a decision by consensus, but if consensus is not possible, a vote of a majority of members is required. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall cast the deciding vote on one of the following outcomes:

- Thesis/Dissertation and Oral Defense Accepted.
 No changes required beyond the correction of typographical errors and other minor corrections of wording. The candidate's Supervisor shall review and approve the corrections before the final copies of the dissertation are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.
- 2. Thesis/Dissertation and Oral Defense Accepted with Minor Revisions
- Minor revisions are required beyond typographical errors and minor corrections of wording. The candidate's Supervisor shall review and approve the corrections before the final copies of the dissertation are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.
- 4. Thesis/Dissertation Accepted and Oral Defense Unacceptable
 The candidate may be required to undertake a second oral defense. The
 Oral Defense Examination Committee Chair shall inform the candidate in
 writing of the deficiencies in the oral defense and the date of the second oral
 defense (normally no more than six months).

After the Committee has made its decision, the candidate re-enters the examination room and the Committee Chair conveys the Committee's decision to the candidate. If the decision is favourable, the student proceeds to follow the procedures for submitting the final thesis/dissertation copies to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Residency

The residency requirement will be a minimum of one year (three terms), of which two terms must be consecutive.

Timeline Checklist

First month

 Meet with Supervisor to discuss expectations of student and Supervisor, degree requirements, policies and timelines.

First term

- Meet with Supervisory Committee (minimum attendance: Supervisor and one other Faculty member of the PhD program core) to discuss coursework, composition of Supervisory Committee and research plan.
- Begin coursework.
- Identify research project.

First two terms

- Full Supervisory Committee established. Three faculty members including Supervisor, at least two members from PhD (Forest Sciences) program core.
- Prior to commencing research, convene a Supervisory Committee meeting to discuss proposed research.
- Complete Research Planning (NRMT 5515) course if comparable course not previously taken
- Begin proposal writing.

By end of 12 months

- Prior to Qualifying Examination complete research proposal and have it approved by Supervisory Committee; this will form the basis for the Qualifying Examination.
- Complete Qualifying Examination. Do not forget to register each term you are conducting research but not taking courses in the PhD Dissertation placeholder course (NRMT 6901/9900).

By end of 18 months

- Convene a Supervisory Committee meeting to discuss research progress and Comprehensive Examination.
- Meet with Supervisory Committee to discuss expectations for the Comprehensive Examination, and set date and time for examination at least two months prior.

By end of 24 months

- Complete coursework.
- Take comprehensive exam.
- Admission to Candidacy. Continue research.

Following years

- Convene regular committee meetings to discuss research results from first year, further research plans, and timeline to completion of a dissertation
- Complete research.
- Aim to complete writing the PhD Dissertation by the end of the third year, fourth at the latest.

Submission of Dissertation

- Submit request for External Examiner from 3 months before completing dissertation.
- Obtain approval of dissertation by Supervisor. This may be an iterative process.
- Submit dissertation to Supervisory Committee members, at least 2 weeks before approval is required.
- Obtain approval of Supervisory Committee.
- Identify members of the Examining Committee (Supervisor, External Examiner, University Examiner, 2-3 members of Supervisory Committee, and a presiding chair). Schedule Oral Defence >8 weeks after submission of PhD Dissertation to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- Oral Defence
- If this stage is not complete by the last day for registration of classes in a given semester, the Registrar will automatically register you in the PhD Dissertation placeholder course (NRMT 6901/9900) and fees will be charged for that

semester. Therefore, there is a strong incentive to begin the thesis submission process early.

Public Presentation

A public presentation of your research must be offered twice during your time as a graduate student. The first time may be scheduled during the Natural Resources Management Seminar Series in the fall or winter semesters of your second academic year. The second time is usually in association with – immediately before – the Oral Defence of the Thesis or Dissertation. In each case, the student's Supervisor will briefly introduce the student, and then the public presentation takes place, <u>limited to a 30 minute period</u>. Following the presentation, an open question period is held, during which anyone in attendance may ask questions of the student.

Leaves of absence and time extensions

A Leave of Absence is granted only with the permission of the Supervisor and only if the leave can increase rather than decrease the student's chances of completing the graduate degree. Examples of legitimate leaves of absence include a limited term of employment closely related to the student's program, enrolment in a related, one-year academic program, health problems, parenting responsibilities, compassionate grounds or other compelling circumstances. In all other cases, a student must withdraw from the program during the period of absence. A Leave of Absence is requested with the appropriate form signed by the Supervisor and the Graduate Studies Coordinator, and the request will be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval.

The maximum time to complete either of the Masters programs is <u>two years</u> (six terms) and the maximum time to complete the PhD in Forest Science is <u>four years</u> (twelve terms). In the event that a Time Extension (one or more additional terms beyond the expected time) is required to complete the degree, a student must request an extension using the appropriate form. First-semester extensions must have the support of the Supervisory Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee. Additional extensions, to a maximum of two semesters, must be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Student do not normally receive financial support during Time Extensions, but must pay full tuition each semester until their degree requirements area complete.

Students who do not complete their Thesis or Dissertation and other degree requirements within the maximum time to completion and a maximum of three semesters of Time Extension fail the program. Reversal of this decision can only be by reapplication to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for readmission to the program, and then only following an <u>absolute maximum</u> additional period of study limited to three consecutive terms. Hint: this is a situation graduate students should avoid at all costs!

Scholarships, bursaries, awards and graduate assistantships (GA)

Funding in the form of a bursary or scholarship payment from a faculty research grant is intended to assist with your living expenses and tuition fees. Pay close attention in the course calendar to bursaries and awards from endowments and other funds, for which you might also qualify, and their deadlines. Many students in our faculty receive NSERC, SSHRC and other Canadian tri-council scholarships. Others receive provincially funded scholarships and awards, like the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS). These are prestigious awards, for which applications are prepared well in advance, usually in consultation with the student's Supervisor and often with an industrial partner. Information is available on-line about these scholarships and awards.

Graduate assistantships (GAs) are different from scholarships, bursaries and awards, in that there is a work requirement – typically as a teaching assistant, but occasionally as a research assistant – in exchange for the payment. The Graduate Studies Coordinator approves the assignment of work for all students receiving GAs at the commencement of each semester. Students review their assigned duties at that time, and then at the end of each semester a performance review with your assigned GA supervisor is completed. The GA supervisor is either the Faculty member assigned to teaching the course in which the student assists, or in cases involving a research assistantship, a faculty member other than the student's Supervisor. Just as in teaching assignments, research assignments can be designed to complement your thesis research, but must be in addition to your Thesis or Dissertation research.

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Studies Coordinator to fairly assign all sources of funding and teaching and research responsibilities to all graduate students. There is some variation in the amounts of funding received by graduate students, usually as a

function of the type of research you become involved in, NSERC or other post-graduate scholarships, and the amount of funding associated with either of these awards.