

Graduate Student Day Mathematics and Statistics

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[a copy of this presentation is available at
<https://ms.mcmaster.ca/bprotas/graduate.shtml>]

Courses (I)

Mandatory training

SGS 201, SGS 201 **must be taken on-line in the first term**

M.Sc. courses

- required are 6 graduate courses, at most 2 of which are at the 600-level
- the graduate reading courses (798 and 799) can be taken for credit in special circumstances. **Need preliminary approval from Graduate Chair**
- 700-level courses from other departments are OK (up to two). **Need preliminary approval from Supervisor or Program Chair**

Ph.D. courses

required are 2 courses in addition to the M.Sc. course load.
Rules are the same

In general, discuss your course selection with your Supervisor and/or Program Chair **before** you enroll.

Courses (III)

- Courses at other universities — **Need preliminary approval from Supervisor or Program Chair**

- forms to be filled available at

<http://cou.on.ca/key-issues/education/graduate-education/ontario-visiting-grad-students/>

- Courses at **Research Institutes**: Fields, PIMS, MSRI, ...
 - May be taken for credit if equivalent to a one-term graduate course. **Make request in advance**
 - Current topic at Fields: *Homological Algebra of Mirror Symmetry*

Seminars (alas, not for credit)

- **Colloquium** on Friday afternoons
- choose from 11 **seminar** series
- look out for special events: Britton lectures, Nelson lecture, Origins lectures, etc.!

- The School of Graduate Studies and the MacPherson Institute offer a wide range of **skills training modules and workshops**
 - academic writing
 - academic job search
 - teaching
- The MacPherson Institute also offers opportunities for **community engagement**

Teaching Responsibilities

- As Teaching Assistants, you may be asked to
 - grade assignments, midterms, exams
 - help students in the Math Help Centre
 - conduct tutorials
 - invigilate
 - ...
- Teaching is very important
 - *for you, because becoming an effective instructor is an essential part of professional development and the skills you acquire are also useful outside university*
 - for the Department and the University as a whole
- Make sure to attend the **TA Training Session** at 2:30pm tomorrow (Thursday, September 5)
- Additional resources provided by the **MacPherson Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Excellence in Teaching**

- One of my responsibilities: help students with **scholarship applications**.
- Many scholarships for Canadian students (and few for non-Canadians) are available, mostly through NSERC and the Government of Ontario. See the webpage of SGS
- Deadlines are approaching quickly, so please have a look at the SGS webpage now!

All students

- Enrolment deadline: **August 27 (on-time), Sept 9 (late)**
- Deadline for submission of conditional documents to Department: **Sept 30**
- Sessional Dates 2019-2020

International students

- Deadline for submission of study permit to SGS: **Sept 30**

- Tuition is due term-by-term on Sep 1, Jan 1, and May 1.
- Interest on tuition will not begin to be collected prior to the second to last business day of those months.
- Lump sum (whole-term) scholarship payment by mid-Sep, mid-Jan, and mid-May.
- Lump sum (whole-term) research scholarship payment by mid-Sep, mid-Jan, and mid-May.
- Bi-weekly employment payments, as before.
- All money goes out to the student (as opposed to first being applied to the student account).
- Students are *solely* responsible for paying their tuition.
- Emergency advances are still possible in extreme situations (against future TA income).

Project M.Sc.

Unless stated otherwise in your offer letter, you are admitted as a **Project M.Sc.** student. This means:

- Until you find a supervisor, I am your supervisor
- In addition to the 6 regular courses, you need to **register for the project course MATH 790**
- Choose your project supervisor by **November**
- Work on your **project during Winter term**
- Most Project M.Sc. students finish **late June** (although official deadline is end of August)

Switching options

Find a faculty member **by November** willing to supervise you for Thesis M.Sc. or Transfer M.Sc. **Notify me immediately!**

Thesis M.Sc.

If you are a **Thesis M.Sc. student**, your first two terms are essentially the same as for a Project M.Sc. student. However:

- **do not** register for MATH 790. Drop it if you are switching into Thesis M.Sc.
- Choose your thesis supervisor by **December**
- You may switch supervisor; **notify me** when this happens
- Start working on your thesis in **Winter term**
- Thesis M.Sc. students finish at the end of **term 5** in May

Switching options

Find a faculty member **by November** willing to supervise you for Transfer M.Sc. **Notify me immediately!**

Transfer M.Sc.

To be a **Transfer M.Sc. student** means that you already have a prospective Ph.D. supervisor, but are admitted as a M.Sc. student. This means:

- Same course load as Project M.Sc. students
- **do not** register for MATH 790. Drop it if you are switching into Transfer M.Sc.
- prepare for and take the **Ph.D. preliminary exam**, held in **January** and **May**
- prepare a **Ph.D. research proposal**

Transfer conditions

You may transfer into our Ph.D. program after **completing M.Sc. course requirements, passing the preliminary exam** and **submitting the Ph.D. research proposal** to the Department.

Ph.D. Program

Being a **Ph.D. student** means:

- develop a **research program**
- complete the **course requirements**
- complete the comprehensive exam requirement, i.e.,
 - pass the written **preliminary exam**, and
 - pass the **oral comprehensive exam** (in this order)
- organize of the annual meetings of the **supervisory committee**
- write and defend a **thesis!**

Funding

- guaranteed for 12 terms (= 4 years)
- extension possible if funds are available (not to be taken for granted)

Additional Resources

- Graduate section at departmental website

<https://www.math.mcmaster.ca/index.php/graduate-studies.html>

- Graduate Student Handbook

<https://www.math.mcmaster.ca/index.php/graduate-studies/40-/1788-graduate-student-handbook.html>

- School of Graduate Studies

<https://graduate.mcmaster.ca/>

- Graduate Calendar

<https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/index.php?catoid=37>

I am always happy to discuss
any questions or issues you might have.
⇒ book an appointment via Email

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR STUDIES IN OUR
DEPARTMENT!