



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
UNIVERSITY

## Graduate Studies at StFX – Information Related to Covid-19

We understand that the Covid-19 pandemic is causing a lot of uncertainty. The following information has been prepared specially for graduate students at St. Francis Xavier University to answer some questions that are specific to you. For information and supports relevant to all students and the wider university community, please [see this page](#).

### Current Graduate Studies Students

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#### All students in Research-Oriented Thesis-based Programs (Masters & PhD)

##### *Research Activity*

All students are asked to work with their supervisors to explore appropriate ways to continue research and scholarly activities. Work with your supervisor to develop a personalized plan that allows you to conduct research remotely to the fullest extent possible (e.g., planning, performing data analysis, literature review, modeling and computation, writing manuscripts and applications, or writing draft sections of your thesis.). Prioritize activities, and discuss which activities can be ramped down, curtailed, or delayed and possible alternatives that can limit potential research interruptions. While library buildings are closed, library services and many of its collections are available remotely, including e-books and e-journals. Library staff are standing by to assist with research questions. They have also launched a website [on accessing library services at a distance](#).

##### *Leaves of Absence*

If you would prefer to place your studies on temporary hold, you can request a leave of absence. To explore this option, contact the graduate studies office ([gradstudies@stfx.ca](mailto:gradstudies@stfx.ca)). If you are considering a leave of absence, please discuss this option with your supervisor or graduate coordinator as soon as possible.

##### *Masters & PhD Thesis Defenses*

StFX will undertake efforts to help thesis-based graduate students hold their defense as scheduled and will continue to follow current guidelines wherever possible and practical, including protocols for length of presentation, order of questions, role of the chair, “in camera” decision-making, etc. Until further notice these defenses will be closed to audiences beyond the examining committee. We will support your thesis defense via video and teleconferencing. Please contact your supervisor or graduate studies program coordinator to make the necessary arrangements.

### ***Financial support***

StFX will continue processing graduate scholarship payments for currently enrolled graduate students. If you would prefer to place your studies on temporary hold, you can request a leave of absence. To explore this option, please contact the graduate studies office ([gradstudies@stfx.ca](mailto:gradstudies@stfx.ca)). If you are considering a leave of absence, please discuss this option with your supervisor or graduate coordinator before the next academic term.

### **Graduate Students in the Master of Applied Computer Science Program**

MACS courses originally planned for May and June have had to be cancelled. This will mean that students who were planning to complete the MACS in the accelerated 16-month pathway are no longer able to do so. Rest assured that the program will still be able to be completed in the normal timeframe (two academic years). Depending on how the Covid-19 situation evolves, the department will consider offering CSCI 521 or CSCI 527 in late summer. Please advise the department if you might be interested in this option. The faculty members are willing to work with you on an individual basis to explore all possible options that will allow you to meet the program requirements in the normal timeframe. Please contact Dr. Man Lin: [mclin@stfx.ca](mailto:mclin@stfx.ca) with any questions that you may have.

### **Graduate Students in the Master of Education Program**

As a continuing MEd graduate student, your upcoming spring courses will continue. If, however, you are feeling overwhelmed, please contact [Dr. David Young](#), Chair of the MEd program look at some options to make your workload manageable. Also, if you feel a course is too much to do at this time, you can certainly step out of the course entirely and resume your studies at a later point. We are here to support you in whatever decision you see as best for your particular situation, and rest assured, we will be accommodating and flexible in our approach. We are also planning for the summer semester with the possibility that all courses will be through a fully online mode of delivery. If the situation changes, and we are authorized to resume course delivery as usual, we will move back to a face-to-face format for those courses in which this was to be the norm.

### **Graduate Students in the Master of Adult Education Program**

As a continuing MAdEd graduate student, your upcoming spring courses will continue in an online format. If, however, you are feeling overwhelmed, please contact [Dr. Leona English](#), Chair of the MAdEd program look at some options to make your workload manageable. We are here to support you in whatever decision you see as best for your particular situation, and rest assured, we will be accommodating and flexible in our approach.

## **New and Incoming Graduate Studies Students**

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### **Master of Applied Computer Science**

Applications for this program remain open. Applications from international students are being accepted until May 30, 2020; however, this is a competitive program and applications are assessed in the order in which they are received. We encourage applicants to apply early. Currently we are planning for the term to begin on campus and on time in September. We will update this website if these plans need to change in response to the Covid-19 situation. Students who have been accepted to the program, should continue to plan for arrival. In order to guarantee a seat in the program, students should still pay program confirmation fees by the deadline in the acceptance letter. This fee will now be refundable if students need to decline their admission because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Master of Arts and Master of Science**

#### *Applications*

Applications for the MA and MSc program closed in February 2020. If you have not already sent final official transcripts and have received conditional admission based on unofficial documents, please ensure you obtain your official documents before travelling to attend StFX. These documents will be required before you begin classes. Contact the [gradstudies@stfx.ca](mailto:gradstudies@stfx.ca) email if you have any questions.

#### *Graduate Scholarships & Funding*

The decisions on some scholarships has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The StFX Office of Graduate Studies is still in the process of notifying departments, supervisors and applicants of the results of other scholarships, including Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship. If you receive an offer of a scholarship, please confirm your acceptance assuming the normal start date.

#### *September 2020 intake*

The university is adapting the delivery of its programs to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently we are assuming that the intake will begin at the normal time; however, we will update as the situation evolves. If you find you are unable to travel to StFX in September, there may be options to study online until you are able to travel to the university to study in person. Please contact your prospective department, program coordinator or prospective supervisor for more information.

### **Master of Education Program**

As a new student, your upcoming summer courses are offered face-to-face, and we remain hopeful this will be our mode of delivery. However, we are planning for the possibility that these courses will shift to a fully online format. We will communicate any developments as they become available, and will remain flexible and accommodating

as we navigate forward. Please contact [Dr. David Young](#), Chair of the MEd program if you have any questions.

### **Master of Adult Education Program**

StFX is continuing to accept applications for the 2020 Cohort of MAdEd students that will begin the program in July 2020. All upcoming summer MAdEd courses will be delivered on-line in order to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. Please contact [Dr. Leona English](#), Chair of the MAdEd program if you have any questions concerning the application process or the upcoming program.

### **All International Students**

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We are encouraging all new international students to continue to plan for arrival in September. This includes completing all the necessary student visa processes. We recognize, however, that the situation across the world is very fluid and that some students will have challenges completing the process. Please contact the StFX Director of International Affairs, [Larissa Strong](#) if you have any questions: [lstrong@stfx.ca](mailto:lstrong@stfx.ca)