

Office of the Senate Secretariat

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***The Senate of Acadia University acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.***

Dear Member of Senate:

I advise you that a meeting of the Senate of Acadia University will occur from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This will be a hybrid meeting and will take place in person in the Langley Classroom of the Divinity College and online using Zoom.

The agenda follows:

**1) Approval of Agenda**

**2) New Business (Part 1)**

a) Discussion Item: Academic Supports (*B. Thun*)

**3) Consent Calendar Items**

**a) Announcements and Communications**

- i. Chair (*A. Kiefte*)
- ii. President and Vice-Chancellor (*J. Hennessy*) ([attached, pages 3-4](#))
- iii. Vice-President Academic (*A. Cunsolo*) ([attached, pages 4-10](#))
- iv. Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies, Interim (*K. Ashley*) ([attached 10-16](#))
- v. Vice-President Student Experience (*S. Duguay*) ([attached, pages 16-20](#))
- vi. Acadia Students' Union (*S. Taylor*)
- vii. Acadia Divinity College and Faculty of Theology (*A. Robbins*) ([attached, pages 20-22](#))
- viii. Other announcements

**b) Approval of Minutes**

- i) March 11, 2024 Senate Meeting
- ii) April 8, 2024 Senate Meeting
- iii) May 8, 2024 Senate Meeting
- iv) June 19, 2024 Senate Meeting
- v) June 25, 2024 Special Senate Meeting

**c) Reports from Senate Sub-Committees**

- i) Admissions and Academic Standing (Appeals) Committee (*A. Kiefte*) ([attached, pages 23-24](#))
- ii) Research Committee (*K. Ashley*) ([attached, page 25](#))

**4) New Business (Part 2)**

- a) Discussion Item: Strategic Research Plan (*K. Ashley*)
- b) Discussion Item: Agendas and Minutes of Senate Meetings and Senate Subcommittees- Format, level of detail, and university records (*A. Kieft*)

**5) Question Period – President and Vice-President Academic**

**6) Other Business**

**7) Adjournment**

## **Announcements**

### **PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORT TO SENATE – SEPTEMBER 2024**

#### **President's Report to Senate- September 2024**

## **Provincial Government Relations**

### **Bachelor of Education Programs**

The Ministers of Advanced Education (AE) and Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) sent a joint letter to the Nova Scotia Universities that offer Bachelor of Education degrees requesting that the pathway to initial teacher certification offered through each program change to comply with the requirements prescribed in Section 37 of the [Nova Scotia Education Act](#). The Act states that the requirements for licensing are the completion of three years of undergraduate study and two years of professional study leading to the completion of a Bachelor's degree. Currently all programs require a Bachelor's degree for entry into a BEd program, and this results in a 6-year (180 credit) pathway to certification rather than the 5-year (150 credit) requirement outlined in the Act. The School of Education will determine how it can respond to this request. At present, there is no word on the progress of talks between EECD and the NSTU on the proposal to change the licensing requirement to 120-credits as proposed by the Premier last year.

### **International Student VISA cap**

The Department of Advanced Education has requested data from the universities on the impact of the federal government cap on international student VISAs and the enhanced qualification and processing requirements. They are presenting the case to the federal government of the outsized impact of this change in regulations and process on universities in Nova Scotia. I have also requested some financial relief from the provincial government for the lost revenue due to lower numbers of international students than anticipated.

### **School of Nursing Building**

As reported previously, the Province of Nova Scotia has guaranteed the funding for the capital construction of a new School of Nursing facility. To fully maximize this opportunity, we requested additional funds to expand the scope of the building to include compatible health services. As a result, the government has connected Acadia to GEM Healthcare Group for the possibility of a joint venture that would combine the nursing facility with a long-term care facility, a collaborative health clinic, a childcare centre, some short-term housing, and a health research facility. If this larger project is realized it would provide practicum and internship opportunities for students in nursing, nutrition and dietetics, psychology, kinesiology, and music therapy, allow access to more CIHR funding, and act as a source of ancillary revenue to help fund operations.

### **Leadership Team**

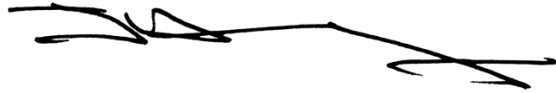
With the arrival of Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo as Acadia's new Provost and Vice-President Academic in August, the Senior Leadership team has been finalized and all have long-term contracts.

Dr. Jeff Hennessy: President and Vice Chancellor  
Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo: Provost and Vice-President Academic  
Erin Beaudin: Vice-President Finance and Administration and CFO  
Nancy Handrigan: Vice-President External Relations  
Scott Duguay: Vice-President Student Experience

I am very pleased to be working with such a positive, joyful, supportive, and capable team, and I look forward to working with them to advance Acadia's mission while championing employees and students. Each member of the team will present public town-halls on important matters in their sectors during the academic year.

Associate Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Lerato Chondoma will begin her new role on September 15, and Zabrina Whitman will be returning to Acadia in an elevated portfolio as Executive Advisor on L'nu Affairs. Finally, we have commenced the search for a Dean of Pure and Applied Science and are currently staffing the search committee to be chaired by the provost.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeffrey J. Hennessy, Ph.D.  
President and Vice Chancellor

## **VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC REPORT TO SENATE – SEPTEMBER 2024**

### **Provost & Vice-President Academic's Report to Senate September 2024**

As the new Provost and Vice-President Academic (PVPA), I am honoured to address the Senate for the first time. Thank you for your service and stepping up to this essential role in shaping and guiding academic decision-making. Your dedication to shared governance and thoughtful deliberation on matters of curriculum, research, and academic policy is essential to our university's success.

As the new PVPA, I want to express my deep commitment to working closely and collaboratively with Senate. My approach will be one of transparency, open communication, mutual trust and respect, and early and often engagement on key issues facing our academic community. We have some exciting strategic opportunities ahead for the academic portfolio, and I am looking forward to working closely with Senate to support a strong, vibrant, enriching, and healthy Acadia University.

I want to thank Dr. Kate Ashley for her work and leadership as Interim Vice-President Academic this past year, and for her assistance in supporting my transition to Acadia. And much gratitude to the President and Senior Leadership Team and staff for being so welcoming, and to the exceptional individuals on the Provost's Team and their staff for their ongoing support during my first two weeks. Finally, thank you to all the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who have been sharing their teaching, research, ideas, aspirations, and love for all things Acadia. Here's to the start of a new academic year!

## PVPA Portfolio Position Updates

- Dr. Kate Ashley was appointed Interim Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies on July 1, 2024 for a two year appointment.
- Lerato Chondoma will be starting her position as Associate Vice-President Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Accessibility on September 15, 2024. I have been working with Lerato on her transition and preparing for her arrival.
- The Dean of Pure and Applied Science search process has begun. As per the [Guidelines for the Appointment and Review of Senior Academic Officers](#), elections are currently underway and appointments are being made (see section C: Search Committee). The Griffith Group Executive Search Firm (Acadia's agency of record) will be assisting with this search. Search Committee membership, timelines, and opportunities for feedback will be shared with the university community in the coming weeks.
- Shawna Singleton, Academic Program Development, Quality Assurance, and Planning Coordinator has extended her time at Acadia for an additional two months. I will be working on an updated job description and position this position in the coming weeks.

## Academic Planning & Review Committees Updates

- The Academic Units and Faculties submitted their reports to the Academic Planning Committee (APC) summer 2024. The APC will be meeting my mid-September (date TBA at the time of this report writing).
- The Academic Program Review Committee will be meeting on September 12, 2024. Updates will be shared in the October Senate meeting.

## Academic Faculties & Units Updates

### Faculty of Professional Studies

#### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program is underway, with 71 students starting this September (46 direct entry starting in Term 1; 12 advanced standing starting at Term 3; and 13 LPN students starting at Term 3). There is also an additional 18 students (direct entry fall 2023) advancing to term 3. Thanks to Dr. Corinne Haigh and team for their tireless work on this important program, and for launching the program this Fall! Some key BScN updates:

- Welcome to Dr. Cassel Busse as the Director of the School of Nursing at Acadia University, effective September 15th, 2024. In the short-term, the new Director will be focused on developing the materials related to our stand-alone program proposal and securing the necessary approvals from Senate and MPHEC, as well as the Nova Scotia College of Nurses.
- Welcome to Kate Langman as the new administrative assistant to the School of Nursing. Kate began on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
- Welcome to the new faculty and instructors who were recently hired for the BScN. Over the summer, as per the 4-party MOA signed between AUFA, CBUFA, Acadia administration, and CBU administration, two tenure-stream faculty members (**Sarah Maddie Gallant** and **Dr. Donna Beverley McKee**) were hired, and four Nursing Practice

Educators were hired on 2-year contracts (**Tori Dawson, Laura Lowe, Kerri Mason, and Amy Rockwell**). They are all currently employees of CBU. All staff and faculty working on Nursing have offices in Emmerson Hall.

- The renovations to Emmerson Hall, the temporary location for the School of Nursing, have been completed. The clinical lab space on the 200-level has been set-up, and the set-up for the simulation spaces on the 100-level are almost complete.

### School of Music

- Two certificates are being prepared to go to MPHEC (Music Therapy and Music Education)

### SPS Welcomes

- Welcome back to returning Contractually Limited Term (CLT) appointment **Dr. Kent Williams** in the Faculty of Business.
- Welcome to **Mr. Justin Oliver**, new Instructor in Kinesiology.
- Welcome back to returning Contractually Limited Term (CLT) Instructor appointment in Kinesiology, **Ms. Chelsey Hall**.
- Welcome to **Dr. Tristan de Borba**, joining music as a new tenure-track faculty member.
- Welcome to **Dr. Steven Van Zoost**, new tenure-stream faculty member, and to **Ms. Sarah Slauenwhite**, new Contractually Limited Term (CLT) appointment in Education.
- Welcome back to returning Contractually Limited Term (CLT) appointments: **Dr. Birdie Bezanson, Ms. Natalie Dempsey, and Dr. Marie-Christina Edwards** in Education

### SPS Staffing Changes

- **Dr. Robert Pitter** retired from Kinesiology on September 1, 2024.
- A new staff member, **Kate Kirkpatrick**, joined Kinesiology permanently in the spring as an Administrative Assistant.
- Ms. **Claire Mallin** retired from the School of Music on September 1, 2024.
- **Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo**, Provost and Vice-President Academic, has her academic appointment in CODE.

## Faculty of Pure and Applied Science

### Welcomes

- The Department of Biology has appointed **Dr. Garrett Allen** to its tenure-track position in marine invertebrate biology. Dr. Allen is a specialist in the impact of climate change stressors on the physiology of crabs and lobsters, and has worked closely with many of Atlantic Canada's commercially relevant species, including the American lobster, the invasive European green shore crab, and a close relative of the Jonah crab.
- The Department of Psychology welcomed **Dr. Dawn Ryan**, a Developmental Cognitive Neuroscientist, to a new tenure-track position. Dr. Ryan's research focuses on understanding how our ability to imagine future events and solve problems changes as we age. Additionally, she looks into how stress and distractions, like daydreaming or worrying about performance, impact memory and overall performance in older adults.
- **Dr. Esteve Hassan** has taken on a joint position with the School of Computer Science and the School of Engineering. He is an expert in areas related to the Internet of Things (IoT) and to AI, including the development of the Internet of Things (IoT) and Cyber-Physical Systems, Industry Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine learning (Predictive Maintenance), the design of sensing modules with low-power Energy Harvesting, Big Data and Data analytics, and FPGA-based optimized digital prototyping. Dr. Hassan comes to

Acadia from Mohawk College, where he held the NSERC Industrial Applied Research Chair in Interoperability Sensor Systems for IIoT Applications.

- **Jennifer Kershaw** has been appointed as a Probationary Instructor in the Department of Biology. Jennifer holds an M.Sc. in Biology from Acadia Plant Ecology, as well as a B.Ed., and has additional training in supporting learners with diverse needs and exceptionalities. In addition to consulting work as a field ecologist, she has spent the past several years teaching with the AVRCE and teaching courses and labs in part-time and CLT positions for Acadia's Biology Department.
- **Danielle Quinn** has joined the Department of Mathematics & Statistics as a Probationary Instructor. Danielle holds an MSc from Acadia, is a Ph.D candidate at Memorial, and has an extensive background with the teaching of statistics, including introductory courses at Acadia and courses on data science, analytics, marketing and machine learning through the Emeritus Institute of Management. She has also developed and led more than 50 workshops to a variety of audiences on applied statistics, R coding, data science and ecology.
- Across the faculty there have been a number of appointments and re-appointments to CLT positions, including: **Dr. Wasu Fernando** and **Prof. Kendra Sampson** (Biology); **Dr. Sandra Barr** (Earth & Environmental Science); **Dr. Esmat (Sara) Maleki** (Engineering); **Dr. Nathan Grieve** (Math & Stats); **Profs. Acacia Puddester** and **Judy Lowe** (Nutrition & Dietetics); and **Drs. Zhemeng (Sunny) Wu, Ken Leslie, and Matthew Orr** (Psychology).

### FPAS Staffing Changes

July 1st saw several organizational changes within FPAS.

- **Dr. Jeff Banks** and **Dr. Richard Karsten** have begun new terms as Heads of the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, respectively
- **Dr. Liesel Carlsson** has been appointed to a 1-year position as Acting Director of the School of Nutrition & Dietetics.
- Thanks to **Dr. Vlad Zamlynny** and **Prof. Connie Foote** for their leadership during their terms.
- **Dr. Nelson O'Driscoll** has been reappointed as the Coordinator of the ENVIS program
- **Dr. Juan Carlos López** has begun his 3-year term as the Assistant Dean of FPAS, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- **Mary-Jane Sypher** has left the Department of Mathematics & Statistics to take on the role of Assistant to the Dean, and the Departments of Earth & Environmental Science and of Mathematics & Statistics are in the process of searching for replacements.
- **Dr. Danny Silver** retired on August 31st, after a successful career at Acadia. Danny holds a BSc Honours from Acadia, and spent many years working in Industry and as an entrepreneur, before completing his PhD and taking on a faculty position in the School of Computer Science. Over the past 25 years he served a term as the Director of the School and was actively involved in Computer Science externally, completing terms as a member of the Computer Science Accreditation Council of Canada and as President of the Canadian Society of Computational Studies of Intelligence (CSCSI). For the past 10 years Danny has been the Director of the Acadia Institute for Data Analytics (AIDA).
- **Patti Davis** (Assistant to the Dean) retired this summer after a 42-year career at Acadia
- **Lynn Graves** (Admin Assistant in Earth & Environmental Science) also retired after 17 years in that position.

### FPAS Renovations



A couple of significant renovation projects were completed over the summer in Huggins Science Hall.

- HSH 049 has been refreshed and repurposed as a new space for Physiology and Anatomy Laboratories to provide additional space needed to support the new Nursing program.
- A formerly dark and foreboding room, HSH 118 has been transformed into a bright, accessible multipurpose room. It will be used as part of the Math and Stats Help Centre, for faculty office hours and other events. It has now been connected directly to the Math & Stats Kitchen/Lobby, and the kitchen area has been revamped to create an open and fully accessible kitchen for student and faculty use.

### **The Library**

It has been a very busy summer in the building. The library has undergone renovations that include a new access and reference desk, new front entrance, refreshed paint, new flooring on the main and second floors, and updated table lamps. I invite everyone to drop in and see the new space. Stairwell painting is in progress, and the universal washroom on the main floor is currently under construction. The Library Team was also thrilled to welcome new students with five library orientation sessions designed to introduce library resources, services, and spaces. A wonderful opportunity to connect with them and help kickstart their academic journey at Acadia! Other key updates:

### **Welcomes**

- Welcome to new librarians **Hailey Wills** (who will replace Dean Jennifer Richard and liaise with Biology, Chemistry, and Nutrition), and **Christine LeBlanc** (who will replace Erin Patterson during her sabbatical leave and liaise with English, Theatre, Languages and Literatures, Music, and Art).

### **New Initiatives & Events at the Library**

- The launch of Borealis at Acadia University Library, in collaboration with the Research & Innovation Graduate School (RIGS) and ACENET in the spring, introduced a powerful platform for preserving and sharing research data. This initiative enhances the visibility and impact of Acadia's research, supports open access, and aligns with national data management standards. The partnership underscores the library's commitment to innovation, providing valuable tools and training to the research community. Please contact Mike Beazley to upload your data or for more information.
- During Accessibility Week and at the Festival of Teaching, Maggie Neilson and Josh d'Entremont presented sessions on creating accessible documents.
- The Acadia Archives participated in the Kings Hants Heritage Connection (KHHC) social media project throughout the summer. The theme was "Acadians in the Valley."
- Erin Patterson presented "Copyright 101: Basics for Beginners" and Deborah Hemming presented "Local Lit in the Kirkconnell Room: Fostering local literary culture within the academic library," at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association's Annual Conference in June.

### **Teaching & Learning Portfolio**

#### **Fall Kick Off Events**

Hosted by Teaching Initiatives under the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning Excellence:



## **New Faculty Orientation**

The Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Excellence partnered with HR this year to extend the New Faculty Orientation to include a "World Cafe Social" which gave new faculty the opportunity to connect directly with key team members from the following units:

- Accessible Learning
- AUFA
- Career and Experiential Learning
- Equity Office
- Learning Technologies and Instructional Design (LTID)
- Library
- Maple League Virtual Teaching and Learning Centre
- MASH
- Office of Industry and Community Engagement (ICE)
- Open Acadia
- Teaching Initiatives
- Registrar's Office
- Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies
- Student Experience Team
- Writing Centre

## **Festival of Teaching and Learning**

The second annual event took place on August 27<sup>th</sup> in KCIC Auditorium. Highlights included a Teaching Award winners panel, New Faculty Spotlight on Dr. Fikir Haile from the Department of Politics, Teaching and Learning Enhancement Award (TLEA) spotlight, and four concurrent workshops. The complete schedule is available on the website: <https://teaching.acadiau.ca/teaching-initiatives/2024-festival-of-teaching-and-learning.html>. We would like to thank the following faculty and staff members for their participation and leadership in the day, Dan Blustein, Caroline Cochran, Eva Curry, Josh d'Entremont, Chelsea Gardner, Fikir Haile, Krissy Keech, Ryan McNeil, Maggie Neilson, Amanda Peters, Danielle Pierce, Michael Shaw, and Conor Vibert.

## **Special Student Session - AI: How it works, and how to use it responsibly in University**

We would like to extend a special thank you to Dan Lametti, Department of Psychology, for his initiative and leadership in providing a thoughtful, engaging, and objective introduction to AI for incoming students. The presentation demystified how language-based AI like ChatGPT work and highlighted important academic and ethical considerations for their use in university.

## **Upcoming Initiatives**

### **TA Training and Professional Development**

Under the leadership of Ashley Parsons, Department of Chemistry, the TA Training and Professional Development Program is running again this fall. The TA Training and Professional Development Program provides the opportunity for TAs to gain professional development training by attending five hours of workshops and training sessions and completing a reflection paper. **New this year** - the University, through the Office of the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning Excellence, will cover the cost for all TAs to attend the *Intro to TAing* training session. Topics covered in the session will include:

- Rules, rights, and responsibilities of TAs
- How to be an effective TA
- Professional conduct and scenarios
- Tips from/discussion time with senior TAs

## AAU Teaching Showcase

Saturday November 2nd, Acadia has the great opportunity to host the AAU Teaching Showcase. This event will bring faculty from across Atlantic Canada together on Acadia's campus to talk about teaching. This is an exceptional opportunity to highlight our campus, our exceptional teaching, and to learn from our colleagues. Registration is now open and the schedule will be released in the coming weeks. Register through the box office: <https://acadiau.universitickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=2400>

Respectfully submitted,



Ashlee Cunsolo, PhD (she/her)  
Provost and Vice-President Academic

## ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND GRADUATE STUDIES – SEPTEMBER 2024

### Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies Report to Senate – September 2024

#### *INTERNAL GRANTS TO FACULTY*

#### 2024 Harrison McCain Foundation Awards:

##### Emerging Scholar Awards

- **Dr. Grace Au** (Divinity). *Paul and the Meals: Negotiating Boundaries in the Letters to the Romans, 1 Corinthians and Galatians* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Scott Bishop** (Engineering). *The Intelligent Hockey Stick: Automatic Damage Detection with Integrated Sensors* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Kim Borden Penney** (Women's & Gender Studies). *A Balancing Act: Black Engineers' Industry Experiences in Canada* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Lydia Bouzar-Benlabiod** (Computer Science). *Homomorphic Encryption for Privacy Preserving Deep Learning for Image and Text Data for Dementia Detection* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Andrew Daoust** (Psychology). *Disentangling the Relative Contributions of Sex Assigned at Birth and Gender to Mental Health Outcomes in Community-dwelling Youth* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Laura Ferguson** (Biology). *Why Does Infection with the Bacterium that Causes Lyme Disease Enhance Overwintering Success in Black-legged Ticks?* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Stéphanie Gauvin** (Psychology). *Diversifying Vulva Vernacular: The Feasibility of an Inclusive Genital Anatomy Exercise* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Sazia Mahfuz** (Computer Science). *Storage Reduction Approach for Human Activity Recognition from IoT Data* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Foroogh Mohammadi** (Sociology). *Race and Racialization in the Atlantic Cities: The Everyday Negotiation of Boundaries of Belonging among the Second-Generation Immigrant Youth from the Middle East* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Alicia Noreiga-Mundaroy** (Community Development). *Blurring Borders: Fostering Cultural Connections and Solidarity among Students of African Descent* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Zoe Panchen** (Biology). *Extreme Rain Event Effects on Arctic Plant Growth and Reproductive Success* – **\$10,000**

- **Dr. Shelley Price** (Business Administration). *Advancing Section 81: Trans-Turtle Island Insights to Knowledge Cross-pollination on Decarceration through Community-led Individualized and Small Group Alternatives to Prisons* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Ahlam Rahal** (Education). *Activating Social Capital: Academic and Social-emotional Mentorship for Supporting Underrepresented College Students in Canada* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Dawn Ryan** (Psychology). *An Exploration of the Impact of Familiarity on Older Adults' Means-end Problem Solving Abilities* – **\$10,000**
- **Dr. Kristin Williams** (Business Administration). *A Youth Participatory Action Research Approach to Understanding Youth Unemployment and Underemployment in Nova Scotia* – **\$10,000**

### Visitorship Awards

- **Dr. Nicoletta Faraone** (Chemistry). *Visitorship to USDA REE – ARS Lincoln, Nebraska, USA* – **\$8,720**
- **Dr. Daniel Lametti** (Psychology). *Visitorship to Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford* – **\$8,800**
- **Dr. Michael Stokesbury** (Biology). *Visitorship to 1) Hopkins Marine Lab, Stanford University, 2) School for Marine Science and Technology, U Mass.* – **\$6,452**

### Visiting Professor Awards

- **Dr. Erin Crandall** (Law & Society). *Dr. Andrea Lawlor, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Policy Digital Society, McMaster University* – **\$4,312**
- **Dr. Ryan MacNeil** (Business Administration). *Mariana I. Paludi, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Chile* – **\$7,300**
- **Dr. Ruben Sandapen** (Physics). *Professor Jeff Forshaw, The University of Manchester (UK)* – **\$6,486**
- **Dr. Todd Smith** (Biology). *Dr. Katie Marshall, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia* – **\$2,735**
- **Dr. Ian Spooner** (Earth & Environmental Science). *Dr. Tristram Irvine-Fynn, Department of Geography and Earth Science, Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK* – **\$5,194**

## *EXTERNAL GRANTS TO FACULTY*

### **SSHRC – Insight Development Grant**

- **Dr. Shelley Price** (Business Administration) received **\$74,945** in funding for her 2-year project entitled: *From Awareness to Allyship: Trauma-informed Intersectional Training on Substantive Equality in Mining.*

### **New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (NBNRED)**

- **Drs. Sandra Barr, Deanne van Rooyen and Chris White** (Earth & Environmental Science) were awarded **\$18,120** in funding from the Geological Surveys Branch of NBNRED for their project entitled: *Ongoing Investigations of Terrane Relations in Southern New Brunswick, Including Host Rocks for Carboniferous IOCG-type Mineralization in the Partridge Island Block.*

### **Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries – AtlanticOER Development Grants - \$10,500**

- **Dr. Cynthia Alexander** (Politics) received **\$7,000** in funding for her project entitled: *Public Health and Human Rights: A Decolonizing Approach and Case Study Analysis of Policy (in)Action in Canada.*

- **Dr. Mo Snyder** (Earth & Environmental Science) received **\$3,500** in funding for their project entitled: *Revising, updating, and incorporating interactive elements to “Geological Structures, a Practical Introduction”*.

#### **CPA Nova Scotia Education Foundation**

- **Dr. Ryan Stack** (Business Administration) received **\$5,500** in funding for his project entitled: *Recruitment of Post-Secondary Institution Students in Atlantic Canada*.

### ***RESEARCH & SERVICE AGREEMENTS***

#### **Research Nova Scotia - Nova Scotia Forestry Innovation Transition Trust (FITT)**

- **Dr. Kirk Hillier** (Biology) was awarded **\$502,000** in funding for his 3-year project entitled: *Development of a Biocontrol and Integrated Pest Management Strategy for Invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*.

#### **Co-operative Education and Work Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada**

- **Natalie Dempsey, M.Ed.** (Education) received **\$177,819** in funding for her project entitled: *Empowering Rural Educators: EDI Resource and Technology Support*.

#### **Department of Natural Resources and Renewables - NS Habitat Conservation Fund (NSHCF) - \$62,250**

- **Dr. Mark Mallory** (Biology) received **\$20,000** in funding for his project entitled: *Tracking Nova Scotia Black Bear to Better Inform Population Management and Wildlife Rehabilitation*.
- **Dr. Nelson O’Driscoll** (Earth & Environmental Science) received **\$15,000** in funding for his project entitled: *Water Quality Analysis of Hydrological Stations in Big Meadow Bog to Facilitate Endangered Species and Recovery Assessment of Wetland Restoration on Brier Island, Nova Scotia*.
- **Dr. Mark Mallory** (Biology) received **\$15,000** in funding for his project entitled: *Assessing Fisher Demographics and Harvest Trends in NS: Should We Start a Bag Limit?*
- **Dr. Dave Shutler** (Biology) received **\$12,250** in funding for his project entitled: *Geographic Distribution, Prevalence, and Intensity of Brain Nematodes in Nova Scotia Deer*.

#### **Department of Natural Resources and Renewables – Wildlife Division**

- **Dr. Mark Mallory** (Biology) received **\$60,000** in additional funding for his on-going project entitled: *Black Bear Management and Rehabilitation*.

#### **Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association**

- **Alain Belliveau** (K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens) received **\$30,000** in funding for the project entitled: *Propagating Plants for the Restoration of Atlantic Coastal Plain Lakeshores in Southern Nova Scotia*.

#### **University of Guelph – Research Collaboration Agreement**

- **Drs. Dave Shutler & Kirk Hillier** (Biology) received **\$17,000** in funding for the project entitled: *Surveillance for Ticks and Tick-borne Pathogens in Sentinel Regions Across Canada*.

#### **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Youth Employment and Skills Program**

- **Dr. Kirk Hillier** (Biology) received **\$13,791** in HQP funding focused on the development of novel technologies for environmentally sustainable integrated pest management (IPM).

## **Canadian Museums Association – Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations (YCWHO)**

- **Melanie Priesnitz** (K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens) received **\$7,464** in funding to support a summer student position employed as a *Living Collection Assistant*.

## **Trent University – Transfer of Funds Agreement**

- **Dr. Diane Holmberg** (Psychology) received **\$5,042** in funding to support a summer student to work on the project entitled: *To Have But Not to Hold: Same-Sex Public Displays of Affection as a Catalyst for Minority Stress*.

## **MITACS AWARDS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH INTERNS**

**Dr. Michael Stokesbury (Biology)** was awarded **\$180,000** in Mitacs Accelerate Internship funding over two years in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada (NS). Project Title: *Mitigation of Impacts on River Connectivity of Technical Fishways in Four River Systems on the Isthmus of Chignecto*.

## **OTHER AWARDS/RESEARCH FUNDING**

### **Invest Nova Scotia Productivity and Innovation (P&I) Voucher Program Awards (\$130,000)**

Nine Productivity & Innovation (P&I) Vouchers were recently awarded to industry partners collaborating with Acadia faculty members to develop innovative new products and services. Tier I projects are awarded for new industry/university collaborations, while Tier II projects build on work previously completed under a Tier I project.

#### **Tier I Projects (\$15,000 each):**

- **Dr. Sazia Mahfuz** (Computer Science) – MotionBed Inc.
- **Dr. Allison Walker** (Biology) – Mycaro
- **Dr. John Murimboh** (Chemistry) & **Hayley Craig-Barnes** (ALAB) – Annapolis Cider Company
- **Dr. Zoë Migicovsky** (Biology) – DeLong Farm Products Ltd.
- **Kendra Sampson, M.Sc.** (Biology) – Rising Tide Nursery
- **Dr. Glyn Bissix** (Community Development/ESST) – Grand Pré Wines Ltd.
- **Dr. Nicoletta Faraone** (Chemistry) – 11979787 Canada Inc. (Maskwiomin)
- **Dr. Amir Eaman** (Computer Science) – Hermetik Trading Technologies Inc.

#### **Tier II Projects (\$25,000):**

- **Dr. Matthew McSweeney** (Nutrition & Dietetics) – Annapolis Valley Luffa

### **National Research Council – Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) Projects - \$35,000**

- **Dr. Matthew McSweeney** (Nutrition & Dietetics) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with CAP Farms Inc. for the project entitled: *Consumer Evaluation of a New Apple Variety*.
- **Dr. Lydia Bouzar-Benlabiod** (Computer Science) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with Michael MacMillan Consulting Inc. for the project entitled: *Company Brand Voice Replication Using AI*.



- **Dr. Nicoletta Faraone** (Chemistry) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with 11979787 Canada Inc. (Maskwiomin) for the project entitled: *Literature Review and Preliminary Tests of the Use of Birch Bark Extract as a Tick Repellent and Acaricide*.
- **Dr. Matthew McSweeney** (Nutrition & Dietetics) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with Kenney and Ross Ltd. for the project entitled: *Sensory Properties of Hydrolyzed Collagens*.
- **Dr. Amir Eaman** (Computer Science) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with Hermetik Trading Technologies Inc. for the project entitled: *Foundational Analysis and Planning for Hermetik's Intelligent Blockchain Decision Automation System*.
- **Dr. Glyn Bissix** (Community Development) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with Grand Pré Wines Ltd. for the project entitled: *Secondary Research into Best Industry Practices for Agriproducts*.
- **Kendra Sampson, M.Sc.** (Biology) was awarded **\$5,000** to collaborate with Urban Lighthouse Farm for the project entitled: *Investigating Substrate-less Vertical Farming Practices to Eliminate Single-use Waste*.

### **Acadia Laboratory for Agri-food & Beverage (ALAB) - Update**

During June and July 2024, ALAB conducted analytical testing for 30 beverage clients in the Atlantic region (**\$4,977**). These tests are in addition to testing conducted under an annual \$200,000/yr Service Agreement with the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC).

### ***OTHER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES***

#### **Acadia's New Strategic Research Plan - Campus Engagement Activities**

Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies (RIGS) staff together with the Strategic Research Plan (SRP) Working Group held two campus engagement sessions on June 26th (in person) and June 27th (virtual) and provided a campus-wide opportunity for feedback on the SRP via an online survey. The SRP will be presented at the next Senate Research Committee meeting in early September.

#### **New Manager - Launchbox**

Acadia's Office of Industry & Community Engagement is pleased to announce that Kirsten Lawrence ('24) is the new Manager, Launchbox. Kirsten is the former President of Enactus and recipient of the prestigious Frank H. Sobey Award for Excellence in Business Studies. Kirsten takes over from Brendan MacNeil ('21) who is now focusing full-time on his start-up company, Hermetik Trading Technologies Inc. Stay tuned for all the exciting student entrepreneurship events Kirsten and her team have planned for this upcoming year!

### ***RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMS – UPCOMING APPLICATION INTERNAL SUBMISSION DATES***

#### **Internal Funding**

- University Research Fund (Article 25.55) – October 15, 2024 & February 15, 2025
- Harrison McCain Foundation Grants – Spring 2025
- SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG) – Summer 2025
- Summer undergraduate student research awards (HSRA, USRA, Donor) – February 2025

#### **External Funding**

- [SSHRC Insight Grants](#) – September 24
- [SSHRC Connection Grants](#) – October 30, January 29, April 29, July 30
- [SSHRC Partnership Development Grants](#) - November 8
- [SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants](#) - June 13, September 13, December 13, March 13

- [NSERC Research Tools and Instruments](#) - October 18
- [NSERC Discovery Grant](#) - October 25
- [NSERC Alliance \(partnership\) Grants](#) – Open Call
- [Canadian Foundation for Innovation \(CFI-JELF\)](#) - October 8, February 8, June 8
- [NS Habitat Conservation Fund](#) - October 13
- [MITACS](#) (student and post-doc internships; various programs) – Open
- [CLARI \(Change Lab Action Research Initiative\)](#) – Open Call
- [Research NS](#) – “Intentional” Research Funding - Open Call (contact RIGS for additional information)

### *Graduate Studies*

#### **External Scholarship Awardees**

- Alexa Arnyek, MSC.BIOL – NSERC CGS Masters - \$27,000
- Lindsay Heyland, MSC.PSYC – NSERC CGS Masters - \$27,000
- Shasta Grant, MCD – SSHRC CGS Masters - \$23,834
- Marcus Cormier, MSC.PSYC – SSHRC CGS Masters - \$27,000 & researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$3,000
- Courtney Strugnell, MSC.BIOL – CIHR CGS Masters - \$27,000
- Muskan Manhas, MSC.PSYC – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$12,500
- Kaylee Dyall, MSC.PSYC – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$12,500 & NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Amber Myatt, MSC.PSYC – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$12,500 & NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Mia Lauzon, MSC.BIOL – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$12,500
- Nikki Matthews, MAK – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$12,500 & NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Emily Pico, MSC.PSYC – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$12,500 & NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Hannah Frail, MSC.PSYC – researchNS Scotia Scholars Award - \$8,250 & NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Mikayla Bottomley-Hubbard, MAK - NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Clara Ryan, MSC.BIOL - NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Jacob Mercer, MSC.BIOL - NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000
- Juliana LeBlanc, MAK - & NS Provincial Scholarship - \$10,000

Acadia graduate students are also **supported internally** with Acadia Graduate Scholarship/Acadia Graduate Teaching Assistantship (AGS/AGTA) through funds provided by the Provost/Vice-President Academic. These funds (\$258,600) are distributed among 12 graduate programs.

#### **Graduate Studies Review – Support Services**

Graduate Studies will begin a unit review process in mid-September. The first requirement, the *Self-Study* component, is anticipated to be completed by mid-October.

#### **Graduate Student Orientation Events**

- A campus tour will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for new students.
- Graduate Studies, in collaboration with the Wong International Centre, will host a graduate student luncheon for all returning and new students on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- On September 20<sup>th</sup>, all graduate students are invited to attend TGIF at the University Club.



## **Admission Season 2025/26**

The 2025/26 admission season begins on September 17th. We anticipate an increase in application numbers with the new streams available for MSC.COMP applicants (project and course route).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kate Ashley, Associate VP Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies (Interim)

## **VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT EXPERIENCE REPORT TO SENATE – SEPTEMBER 2024**

### **Enrolment Update August 29, 2024**

#### Summary

The 2023-2024 recruitment campaign generated the most applications in years, totalling over 5,400 by summer 2024. Nova Scotia (56%), followed by Ontario (12%) and New Brunswick (11%), represent our largest application pools.

After a dip in Nova Scotia applications in Fall 2023, Acadia received over 2,000 applications for this Fall, a 18.8% increase year-over-year. While our new Nursing program contributed to this increase, Admitted & Paid numbers are also following suit at 18.9% over this time last year.

Domestic Admitted & Paid students reached 1,198 by August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12.9% higher than last year.

However, international recruitment challenges have been well documented. With the Federal announcement in January that capped international enrolment and saw a long pause in application assessments, and the more recent efforts to reduce immigration opportunities for international graduates, international numbers are down and will impact the university's financial position significantly. While international applications to Acadia were up 48% by January, they reached 1,743 on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, a 9.4% drop from this time last year with many of those applications coming before the announcements and the decline of Canada's brand internationally. Only 141 international students have made a deposit to attend Acadia this fall, which is a 50% drop from the same time last year.

Overall, 1,339 students are Admitted & Paid on August 23, 6 fewer in total in comparison to last year, with the domestic and international mix having changed significantly.

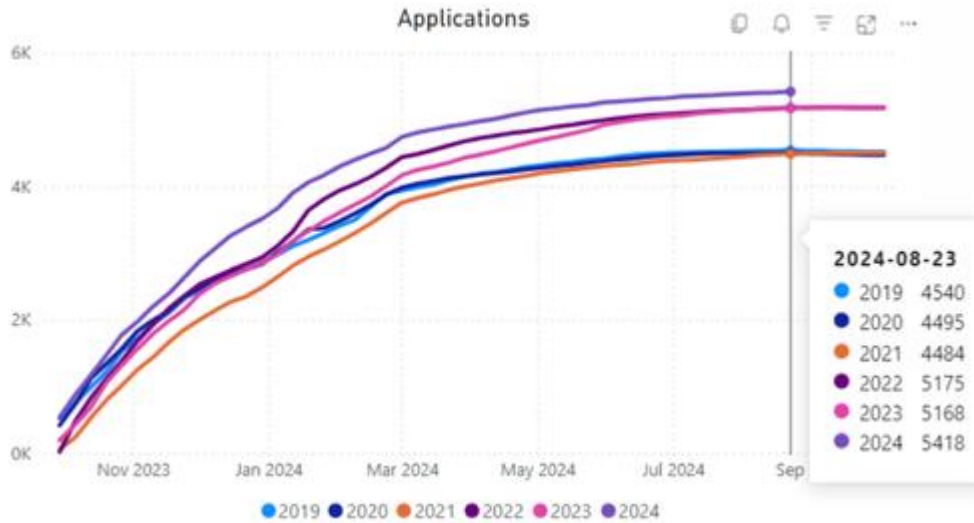
Registrations on August 23 reached 3,541, 87 more than this time last year.

**Applications – Fall 2024**

Total undergraduate applications for Fall 2024 have reached 5,418, exceeding all previous application high marks and nearing 900 more than pre-pandemic levels.

**TOTAL APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2024**

As of August 23, 2024



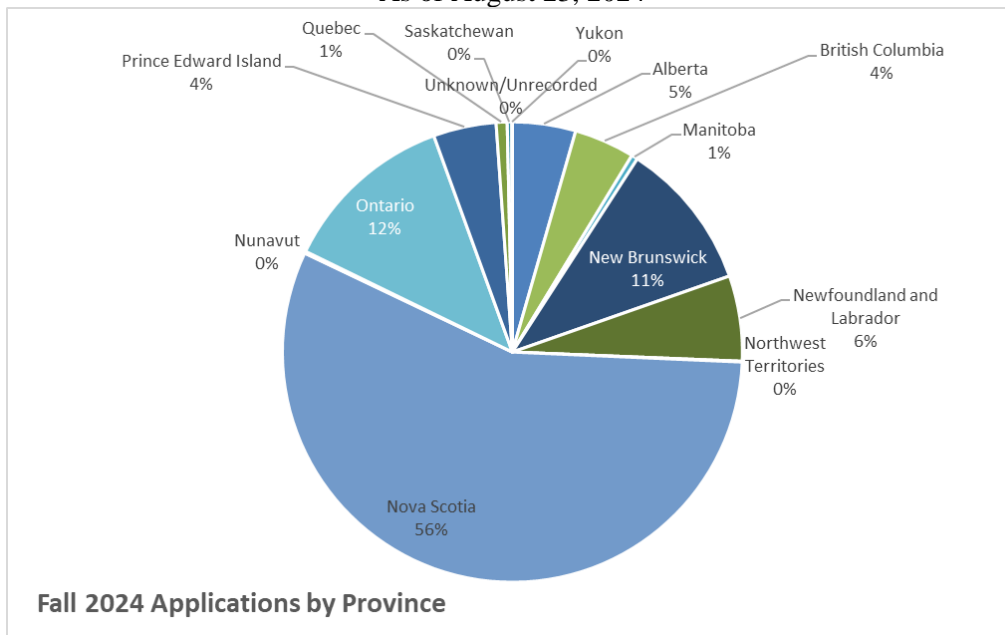
**Applications By Province**

After Acadia’s home market of Nova Scotia, Ontario & New Brunswick combine to generate almost a quarter of total applications.

A marked increase in applications has been noted in all Atlantic provinces year on year since 2020, with 2024 gaining the highest number of applications.

**FALL 2024 APPLICATIONS BY PROVINCE**

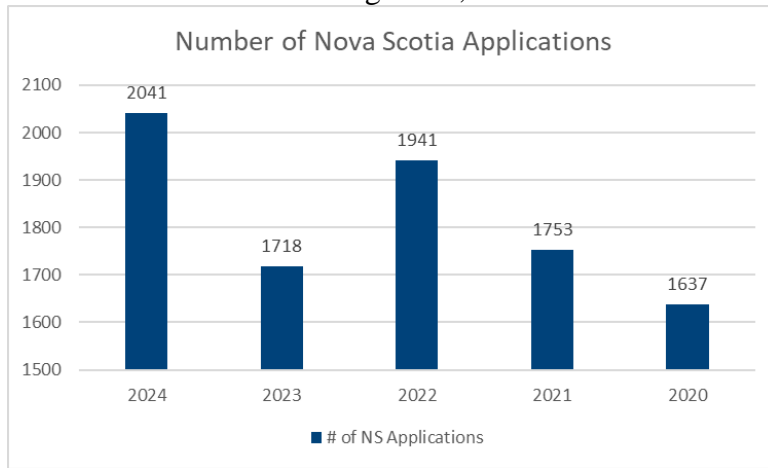
As of August 23, 2024



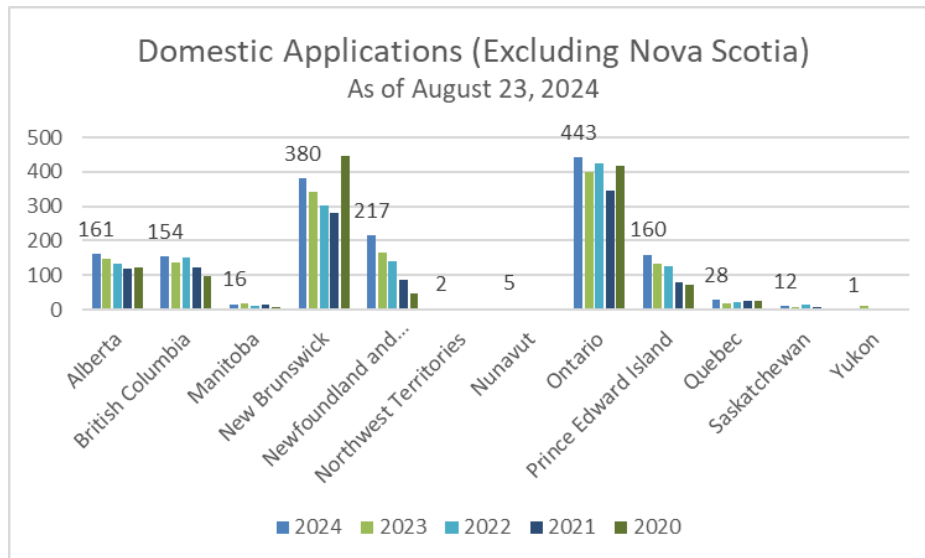
Applications from Nova Scotia are the highest seen since the pandemic. Offers are also up from 2023 to 2024 by 7.4%.

## FALL 2024 APPLICATIONS – NOVA SCOTIA

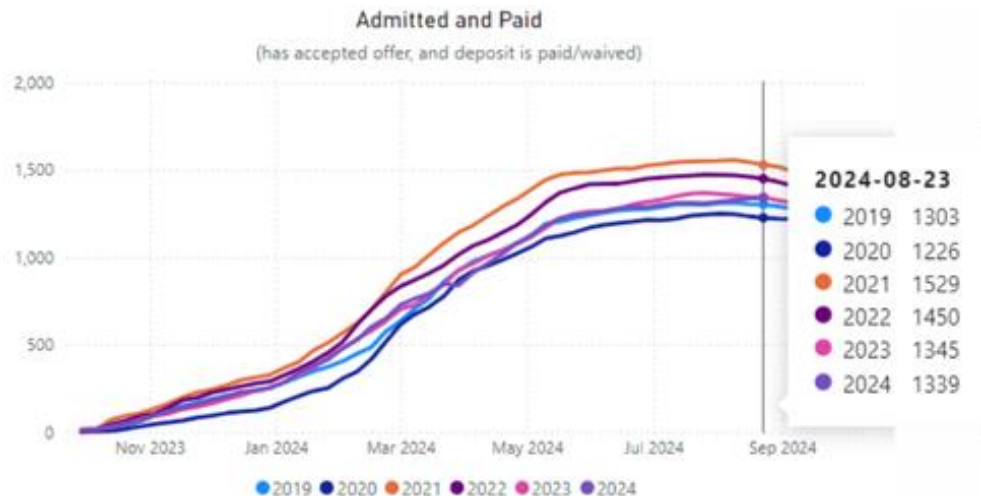
As of August 23, 2024



Domestic applications from outside Nova Scotia are up 13.8% over last year, with notable increases in AB, BC, NB, NL, ON & PEI.

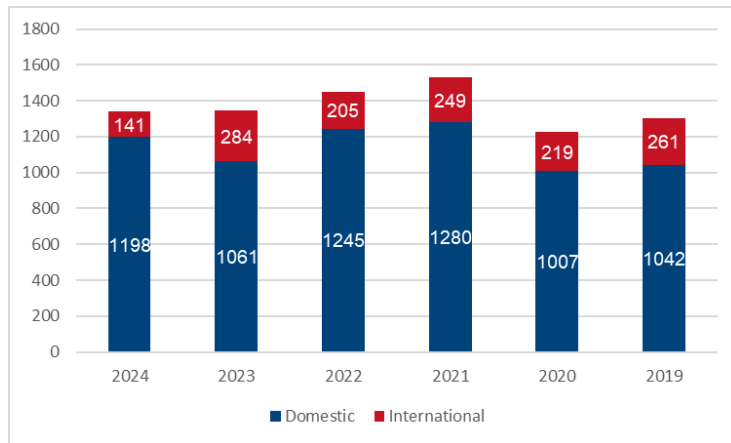


### **Total Admitted & Paid**



While applications were very healthy, total Admitted & Paid undergraduate student numbers are at 1,339 as of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, keeping pace with last year, due almost entirely to the decrease in international interest.

## International v Domestic Admitted & Paid



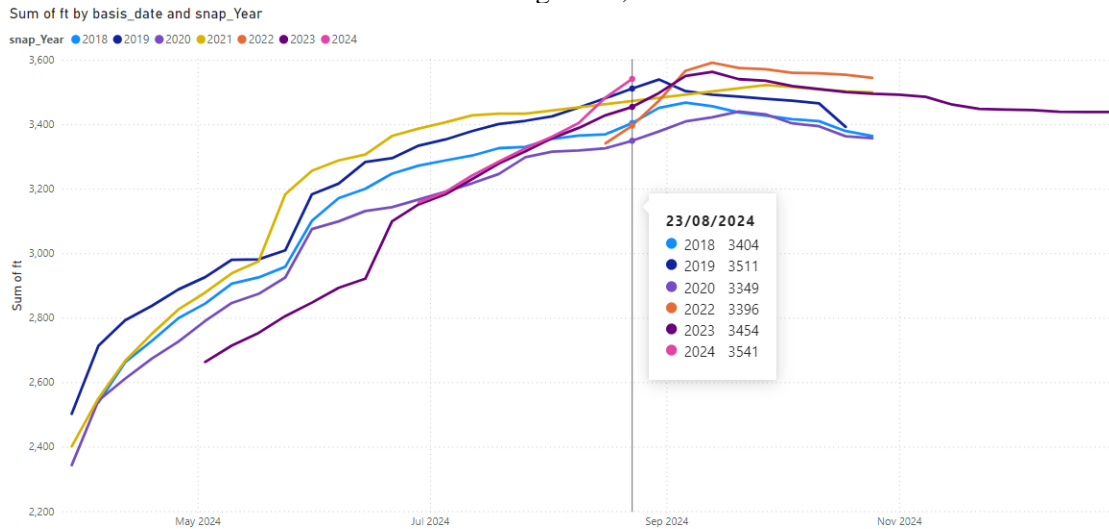
There has been a significant 12.9% increase in new domestic students. On the contrary, there has been a significant 50.4% decrease in new international students.

## Total Students Registrations

As of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Acadia has 3,541 full-time undergraduate students registered, 87 (2.5%) more than this time last year and the highest recorded since 2018 for this time of year. This is largely due to a 132 (4.4%) domestic student increase. International students are however down by 45 (-9.3%). This is a direct reflection of the federal government's policy changes announced in January 2024 as well as the growing perception that studying in Canada is [no longer a clear pathway to immigration](#).

## TOTAL FULL-TIME STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

As of August 23, 2024



## Scholarships & Financial Aid

	Incoming Students with a Scholarship	Entrance Scholarship Offers
2024	791	2,479
2023	737	2,612

There has been a 7.3% increase in incoming students (for a total increase of 54 students) who have received scholarships. This increase over last year is especially notable because fewer students received entrance scholarship offers.

Residence & Student Life

Currently, we are at 1,396 active bookings for the Fall 2024 term, which is a 4% increase on Day 1 bookings when comparing to last year. Based on historical data, we can make a rough projection that 1,392 (out of a possible 1,506 beds) will be booked come the Fall 2024 add/drop deadline.

	<b>Day 1 Active Bookings</b>	<b>Final # of Bookings (after add/drop)</b>
2024	1,396	-
2023	1,342	1,332
2022	1,426	1,413
2021	1,335	1,349

**ACADIA STUDENTS’ UNION REPORT TO SENATE – SEPTEMBER 2024**

No announcements received as of September 5, 2024.

**ACADIA DIVINITY COLLEGE AND FACULTY OF THEOLOGY REPORT TO SENATE – SEPTEMBER 2024**

This summer was a busy and productive time for the faculty of Acadia Divinity College. We appointed Rev. Tim McCoy as Interim Director of the Mentored Ministry Program. Tim comes to us from Toronto as former Executive Minister of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Québec, and brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and skills to the College. We have struck a search committee to find a new occupant of the fully funded John Gladstone Chair of Preaching and Worship. Our Futuring Lab continues to be busy with trend research and experiments in teaching and learning including AI.

The following represents some of the work completed over summer months:

**Publications:**

Boersma, Spencer. “Defending Jesus: Learning how to React in a Post-Christendom Culture.” *Baptist News Global*, July 2024.

Boersma, Spencer. Book review of Vincent Gil, *A Christian’s Guide through the Gender Revolution*, *JAAR Reading Religion*, August 23, 2024.

Boersma, Spencer. “Mary and Equality”, *Tidings Magazine*, October 2024.

Maxwell, Melody. “‘I Thoroughly, Entirely and Heartily Disapprove’: Annie Armstrong and the Woman’s Missionary Training School.” *Baptist History and Heritage* LVIII, no. 2 (2024): 22-36.

Robbins, Anna, “More Buddhists than Baptists? A Call to Reframe Baptist Discourse for Mission in Canada,” *Post Christian Studies* 8 (2024): 21-26.

Walsh, Matthew L. and H. Daniel Zacharias. "Little Ones, Angels, and the Face of the Father: Matthew 18:10 in the Context of Second Temple Period Judaism." Pages 219–35 in *The Cradle of Christianity: Judaism, Jesus, and the New Testament: Essays in Honor of Craig A. Evans*. Edited by Thomas R. Hatina and Stanley E. Porter. Texts and Editions for New Testament Study 18. Leiden: Brill, 2024.

Zacharias, H. Daniel. "The Throne and the Round Dance: An Ethno-Musicological and Intercultural Look at Revelation 4–5." *Journal of NAIITS* 21 (2023): 146–57.

Zacharias, H. Daniel and T. Christopher Hoklotubbe. "Turtle Island Biblical Interpretation." In *The New Testament in Color: A Multiethnic Bible Commentary*, edited by Esau McCaulley, Janette H. Ok, Osvaldo Padilla, and Amy L. B. Peeler, 25–34. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2024.

Zacharias, H. Daniel. "Gospel of Matthew." In *The New Testament in Color: A Multiethnic Bible Commentary*, edited by Esau McCaulley, Janette H. Ok, Osvaldo Padilla, and Amy L. B. Peeler, 43–94. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2024.

### **Presentations:**

Au, Grace: "The incomprehensible mystery and richness of God (Romans 11:25-36)", European Association of Biblical Studies, Biblical Theology Investigations into the Attributes of God, Annual Conference, 2024, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Boersma, Spencer: "Reading for the Light of Christ: A Phenomenology of Re-Reading Scripture in the Memoirs of William Newton Clarke." National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR); Denver, CO; May 2024.

Maxwell, Melody: "Faithfully Feminist? Ordained Baptist Women in Atlantic Canada," National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion Annual Meeting; Raleigh, North Carolina; May 21, 2024.

Maxwell, Melody: "'I Thoroughly, Entirely and Heartily Disapprove': Annie Armstrong and the Woman's Missionary Training School." Baptist History and Heritage Society Meeting; Raleigh, North Carolina; May 21, 2024.

Maxwell, Melody: "Faithfully Feminist? Ordained Baptist Women in Atlantic Canada," Canadian Society of Church History Annual Meeting; Montreal, Quebec; June 18, 2024.

Maxwell, Melody: "Called To Learn: Educational Experiences among Atlantic Baptist Women in Ministry, 1970-2020." International Conference on Baptist Studies X; Cambridge, UK; August 8, 2024.

Murphy, Joel: "Explore the Intersection: AI and the Church" presented at the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Québec Annual Gathering (online), June 14, 2024.

Murphy, Joel: "Looking Over the Horizon: An Introduction to the Theo-Futures Foresight Approach" Presented at the annual conference of Canadian Society for Study of Religion (CSSR) in Montréal, Canada, June 15, 2024.

Murphy, Joel: “Charting New Horizons: A Framework for Future-Ready Christian Clergy and Religious Leaders” panel presentation at the Religious Research Association (RRA) / Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) in Pittsburgh, USA, October 18, 2024.

Porter, Jodi: “For the Future of Our Work: The Two AIs. Heutagogy in Higher Education: Indigenous Appreciative Inquiry and Generative AI,” presented for the Maple League Micro-Learning Certificate in Teaching & Learning, 2023-2024 Cohort in Wolfville, June 4, 2024.

Porter, Jodi and Joel Murphy: “Futures Unveiled: Transforming Theological Education and Ecclesial Trajectories with Theo-Futures Research,” Co-presented at the ATS Pathways 2024 Gathering in Atlanta, GA, June 2024.

Porter, Jodi and Joel Murphy: “The Future: Navigating Possible Futures of the Church with Faith and Wisdom,” co-presented at the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC) Annual Gathering in Moncton, NB, August 2024.

Porter, Steven: “Contextual Evangelism.” Baptist World Alliance; Lagos, Nigeria; July 7–12, 2024.

Robbins, Anna: “Theological Education in Contexts of Violence and Conflict.” A conversation hosted online for the Baptist International Conference on Theological Education, Lagos, Nigeria, July 5-7, 2024.

Robbins, Anna: “Making God Laugh: Strategic Planning When You Have No Idea What’s Coming Next.” Association of Theological Schools Biennial Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, June 19-20, 2024.

### **Leadership:**

Anderson, Lennett continued to provide leadership in the community including speaking in schools, participating in the commissioning for the HMSC William Hall, and involvement in community social justice issues.

Au, Grace: Elected associated member of *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (SNTS).

Au, Grace: awarded Emerging Scholar Award by Harrison McCain Foundation, 2024.

Maxwell, Melody: Elected vice-president / program chair of Canadian Society of Church History and selected as director of International Conference on Baptist Studies.

Porter, Steven. Chaired the Commission on Evangelism, Annual Gathering of the Baptist World Alliance; Lagos, Nigeria; July 7–12, 2024.

Robbins, Anna: Elected Secretary of the Board of Directors and to the Officers’ Committee of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, June 2024.



**Admissions and Academic Standing (Appeals) Committee  
Report to Acadia University Senate  
September 2024**

The Admissions and Academic Standing (Appeals) Committee met in June and August to adjudicate student academic appeals of dismissal and probation academic standing. Work was also carried out electronically when necessary. There was a quorum of voting members present at all meetings.

The appeal process is carried out through Moodle submission “courses”, within which the students submit responses to the self-reflection questionnaire, submit a person letter written by them, and submit any other supporting documents. Student transcripts and other supporting documents received are also provided on the ACORN pages for committee review.

There were two appeal deadlines:

June 14, 2024- for students who received notification of dismissal or probation by May 24  
July 26, 2024- for students who received notification of dismissal or probation after May 24 (due to grade changes, etc)

*Considered during the June meetings (received by the June 14<sup>th</sup> deadline):*

**75 students with Dismissal academic standing**

- 29 students appealed
- 16 appeals granted (academic standing changed from Dismissal to Probation)

**86 students with Probation academic standing**

- 12 students appealed
- 2 appeals granted (academic standing changed from Probation to Good Standing)

*Considered in August:*

**15 additional students with Dismissal academic standing after May 19**

- 11 students appealed
- 8 appeals granted (academic standing changed from Dismissal to Probation)

**7 additional students with Probation academic standing**

- 3 students appealed
- 1 appeal granted

The committee for 2023-2024 was:

Chair (Chair of Senate): Anna Kiefte - ex-officio

Registrar or Delegate (non voting): Mark Bishop - ex-officio (*Mark Bishop, Peggy Jolley, Haley van Kroonenburg attended as Registrar's Office representatives*)

Executive Director of Student Services or Delegate (non voting): James Sanford - ex-officio (*Adam Detienne and Bally Thun attended as Student Services representatives*)

1 Arts faculty member: Jessica Slights (until June 2024), Jamie Sedgwick (beginning July 2024)

1 Arts faculty member: Christian Thomas  
1 Prof. St. faculty member: Ashley Doyle (until June 2024), Jeff Torbert (beginning July 2024)  
1 Prof. St. faculty member: Birdie Bezanson  
1 P&A Sc. faculty member: Emma Connon  
1 P&A Sc. faculty member: John Murimboh  
1 Theology faculty member: Anna Robbins  
1 Student: Sam Taylor (ASU VP Academic/External)

The Chair wishes to express her gratitude and appreciation to the committee for their work and careful deliberations. In addition, the Chair wishes to thank the Registrar's Office team for receiving documents and correspondence from students and communicating decisions on behalf of the Committee, the Student Services representatives for their valuable input and participation, and Terry Aulenbach for his careful work in creating the secure Moodle "courses" for this process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Kiefte  
Chair

**Senate Research Committee  
Transition Report  
September 2024**

Members:

Can Mutlu (Arts) René Murphy (Professional Studies)  
Iain Beaton (Pure and Applied Science) Theology (Spencer Boersma)  
Ann Smith (Librarian) Canada Research Chair: vacant  
Director of a Research Centre: vacant Graduate Student: vacant  
Honours Student: vacant

The Senate Research Committee (SRC) met on September 3, 2024, to review the tasks assigned to it by the Senate of Acadia University.

Chair: Kate Ashley, AVP-RIGS

Secretary: Jessica Bradley

Meeting dates for the upcoming year: The SRC will meet twice a year and as needed.

Meeting modalities for the upcoming year: Hybrid meetings held via MS Teams.

The SRC's mandate is:

1. To develop policies and programs that encourage and support faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research at Acadia University.
2. To establish and oversee the adjudication process for Acadia University's internal research funds, excluding the University Research Fund (Article 25.55).
3. To establish, propose to Senate for approval and subsequently to implement a consultative process for regular reviews of the Acadia University Strategic Research Plan.
4. To encourage and facilitate interaction among Acadia's researchers, community members, community organizations, government and industry in order to expand and enhance research collaboration and dissemination.
5. To consider and respond to research matters referred to it by graduate students, faculty members, Departments, Schools, Faculties, the VP Academic or by the Senate of Acadia University.
6. To receive the annual reports of Research Centres for submission to Senate.
7. To consider any other matters of policy relating to research, and any other matters referred to it by Faculty, Vice-President (Academic), Senate, or Board of Governors.

The SRC's goals for the coming year are:

1. To finalize, present, and guide the implementation of the 2024-2030 Strategic Research Plan.
2. To develop an annual reporting process for Research Centres.
3. To raise the profile of campus research through the development of a communication strategy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Ashley, Chair