



Bringing  
**WORLDS**  
Together



Dalhousie's campaign for transformational change

**Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders**

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Graduate Student Professional Development (GradPD) — \$2.1M

BIPOC Graduate Student Mentoring Academy — \$4M

PhD scholarships for international students — \$4M



# Making a difference starts here

## Our campaign for transformational change

At Dalhousie's Faculty of Graduate Studies, we equate our students' success with innovation, economic growth and solutions to significant global challenges. Our holistic, student-centric approach enables our vibrant and diverse graduate student community to work toward a better world. This approach is part of what makes their graduate studies experience so special, and it attracts students from across Canada and around the world.

Our vision is to enable research, develop leaders and drive innovation by growing our world-class graduate student community. We will do this by providing access to a welcoming academic environment and the most comprehensive set of support programs in Canada. We want to ensure that our students have the skills, networks and knowledge to be successful no matter what career path they take.

Through the **Bringing Worlds Together** campaign, we will expand and elevate our efforts to ensure our students' success. We will deliver enhanced programs and supports that further diversify Dalhousie's graduate student community and fuel Canada's innovation workforce. We will create funding options that give us a competitive advantage in attracting outstanding international graduate students who contribute to Dalhousie's research and to our region's economy. And we will equip our students with professional skills that open career doors and set them on a path of innovation and achievement that has wide-ranging and long-lasting benefits for us all.

# Enhancing our impact

## Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders

We want to ensure that our graduate students have the supports, professional skills and funding to be leaders who drive innovation and economic growth. This means ensuring that every graduate student has a barrier-free path to success. When students have these supports, they become future-ready leaders. They graduate with the connections, perspectives and skills to drive growth for their employers and in their communities.

### 1. Graduate Student Professional Development (GradPD) — \$2.1M

Advanced degree holders have invaluable expertise that organizations can draw on to innovate, solve complex issues and grow. To fully realize the benefits of their highly specialized knowledge, it is crucial that graduate students gain professional development skills that prepare them for future careers.

Through partnerships across the university and with external organizations, the GradPD program has been successful in helping graduate students build communication, career intelligence, health & well-being and leadership skills to accelerate their entry into private and public sector careers. Building on the program's success, we will expand GradPD to better serve our students and enable them to realize both the full benefits of their learning investment and their potential in the workforce.



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**WE ARE DELIGHTED BY THE RESULTS WE'VE SEEN SO FAR. AND WE WANT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING [OPENTHINK]...**

— JACK DUFFY

### Where support meets impact

Dalhousie Professor Emeritus Jack Duffy knows that access to professional skills training enables graduate students to thrive in the workforce. He and his partner, Corinne, support OpenThink, a program that helps PhD students build their communications skills.

“OpenThink shows students how to present their research findings in a way that creates positive change—to shape public policy, influence decision-makers and guide practice. We are delighted by the results we've seen so far. And we want to continue supporting this program so that more students go on to have a positive impact on the world.”

# Where skill development meets opportunity

**Ceilidh Bray** (MASC'22) was excited. She had just completed the GradPD certificate, which offers graduate students at Dalhousie professional development opportunities to help launch their careers, when she received an invite from Colliers to interview for a job. She aced that interview and has been promoted twice since joining the company.

"It's been steady improvement and progress for me here," says Bray, senior associate, infrastructure advisory. "In this role, I'm using more of the skills that I learned in my engineering degree, which I am really happy about and GradPD helped make that possible."

Bray is the first graduate of the GradPD certificate program. She heard about it during the COVID pandemic when few companies were hiring. She was struggling to land a job and was looking to gain a competitive edge. "I wanted to be more prepared when I graduated because I thought the industry would be more settled by then," Bray says. "This program seemed like the perfect way to do that."

The comprehensive program made all the difference for Bray, with workshops, experiential learning and reflection exercises across four pillars — communication, career intelligence, health & well-being and leadership. Overall, she found the leadership-related learning particularly beneficial.

"I didn't have a lot of experience in industry, so it covered areas I was a little iffy on, such as business etiquette and projecting yourself," Bray says. "I also learned tools like time management, goal setting and how to do job interviews, which gave me more confidence in myself."

Thanks to GradPD, Bray is ready for whatever comes next. "It helped me better understand what I want in terms of goals and now I can look at the leadership roles I want to achieve on my career path," Bray says.



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**IN THIS ROLE, I'M USING MORE OF THE SKILLS THAT I LEARNED IN MY ENGINEERING DEGREE.**

— CEILIDH BRAY

## **2. BIPOC Graduate Student Mentoring Academy — \$4M**

Racialized communities, in particular those of Indigenous and African descent, continue to face significant barriers in accessing higher education and training that expands their career options. Our program will provide Black, Indigenous and other people of colour (BIPOC) graduate students with mentorship and professional development from people of colour. This is an anti-racist initiative that will address the isolation, invisibility and lack of guidance students of colour often experience because of systemic underrepresentation at Dalhousie and beyond.

The program will support the recruitment, retention and success of equity-deserving groups. It will enable them to achieve their academic and career goals, resulting in increased diversity at Dalhousie and in the workforce. These outcomes will help erode systemic racism, remove professional barriers for equity-deserving communities and redress historic inequalities.

## **3. PhD scholarships for international students — \$4M**

PhD students are the engine of research and discovery for universities like Dalhousie. The more exceptional graduate students we attract, the more life and planet-changing breakthroughs we can achieve.

We will offer 25 prestigious four-year scholarships to outstanding international doctoral students that enable them to focus their undivided attention on research. Such scholarships are relatively rare for international students in Canada and will give Dalhousie an advantage in attracting top talent. The graduate students who come here through these scholarships will supercharge our researchers' efforts to address issues such as sustainable ocean, climate technology solutions, health outcomes, food security, social innovation and AI & digital innovation. These highly skilled researchers will help drive innovation and economic development locally, nationally and internationally.



# Help make lasting, positive change possible

**Bringing Worlds Together** will enhance the Faculty of Graduate Studies' ability to deliver student-centric programs that facilitate research, develop leaders and drive innovation – all in a supportive environment.

It will amplify our efforts to diversify our graduate student community, bringing new perspectives and expertise both to Dalhousie and to the workforce. It will enable us to equip more students with the networks, skills and knowledge to thrive professionally and contribute to organizational and economic growth. And it will strengthen our ability to attract exceptional international graduate students, resulting in groundbreaking research and solutions for complex societal challenges.

The possibilities are limitless, and so are the positive outcomes. It all starts with you. Your support will make it possible for us to achieve our goals and so much more. Together, we will create a path for Dalhousie's graduate students to not just succeed, but also be a force for positive change in the world.

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