School of Graduate Studies Strategic Framework 2025-2030

Mission: The School of Graduate Studies supports the excellence of academic programs and the success of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows through all phases of their academic, professional and personal journey.

Core Values: Service Culture, Academic and Research Excellence, Innovation and Learning, Community of Belonging, Inclusivity and Accessibility

Indigenous Reconciliation: graduate studies committed to reconciliation
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility: included in all aspects of academic, professional and personal development

Operational Excellence	Holistic Student and Postdoctoral Experiences	World-Class Academic and Research Environments
Leaders in Operational Efficiencies: Enhance technology platforms and streamline processes; accessible operations; policy development and implementation; data collection to inform continuous improvement of graduate and postdoctoral education	**McMaster Graduate Education Culture:** Foster a thriving and connected culture within SGS and across McMaster academic and administrative units that values and builds understanding of the unique needs of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows	**Community of Learning:** Identify and share learning environment best practices across McMaster; share innovations beyond McMaster to impact the graduate student and postdoctoral fellow learning environment
Strategic Communications: Engagement with the community; enhance SGS/university brand; service culture focused on consistent communication with students & postdocs	**Community Building and Belonging:** Partner across McMaster to build a sense of inclusive community across programs for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows	**Program Innovation:** Pioneer innovative graduate education modalities, program delivery and pedagogies; expand reach and accessibility of graduate education
Recruitment and Alumni Engagement: Support in the recruitment process for domestic and international students; facilitate connection with alumni	**Durable, Lifelong Skills Development for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows:** Coordinate programming for the development of durable, lifelong skills including leadership, entrepreneurship, effective communications and collaboration, career advisement and readiness, co-op, mental health and wellbeing	**Excellence in Graduate Supervision and Mentorship:** Embed training of supervisors, staff and administrators as a core part of the community
Faculty and Unit Partnerships: Coordinate and leverage efficiencies across faculties and units in the delivery of graduate and postdoctoral services, supports and programming	**Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Guidance and Retention:** Provide proactive advisement, guidance, and support in navigating the services, supports, policies, procedures and resources across McMaster	**Research Training:** Support researchers, faculties and the research mission of university by coordinating research training for graduate students & postdoctoral researchers; knowledge translation and mobilization skills as pathways to impact

Vision: The School of Graduate Studies guides, facilitates and nurtures world-class academic and research environments as well as holistic student experiences for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows across McMaster.