# DalForward

## PROJECT CHARTER

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY

2.0 Research

### SUB-PRIORITY

2.3 Attract and support excellent graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to strengthen the impact of research

### EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

Alice Aiken  
VP, Research

### PROJECT LEADS

Martha Leonard  
Dean, Graduate Studies

### SECONDARY SPONSOR

Teresa Balser  
Provost & VP, Academic

### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2.1, 2.5, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 5.6

### DESCRIPTION

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are a core component of the university's mission. Graduate students are critical to the quality and volume of research undertaken at a university. They are instrumental in the performance of research, in innovation and in scientific and scholarly publishing as well as creative performance. They also help to improve the undergraduate experience.

The funding of graduate students across a range of disciplines is key to attracting and supporting excellent students. In turn, an appropriate number of graduate students is key to research productivity and obtaining ample competitive research funding and is important in maintaining the university's competitiveness.

Postdoctoral fellows play a significant role at Dalhousie, as they do at all research intensive universities, contributing in various ways to teaching and research, while furthering their own development as newly qualified academics.

### SPECIFIC GOALS

1. Provide competitive funding for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
2. Increase the percentage of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows relative to the number of Dalhousie undergraduate students and professors to the U15 average by 2018.
3. Enhance the graduate student experience at Dalhousie as measured by national survey results.
4. Increase the percentage of graduate students who are funded through external competitive scholarships.