Handbook for Graduate Studies in Microbiology & Immunology

1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in pursuing graduate studies in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Saskatchewan. Within this manual, you will find information about our Department and all materials needed to apply to a M.Sc. or Ph.D. program in Microbiology and Immunology, through the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) at our University.

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact the Graduate Secretary at anat.micro.physiology@usask.ca. If you have questions regarding research program of individual faculty in our department, please contact those individuals directly by email.

2. Research Interests

Research interests of faculty in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology fall into four general areas; Diagnosis, Epidemiology and Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease, Tumor Biology/Immuno- onology, Molecular Genetics/Microbial Physiology and Immunology/Virology. Individual researchers and contact information are listed in Appendix A.

3. Application Procedures

3A. General Requirements for all Students

General admission requirements for all students at the University of Saskatchewan can be found at http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/. Please ensure that your admission qualifications and degree requirements meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the program, PRIOR to your application.

For general applications to the graduate program in the department, please consult the website http://www.medicine.usask.ca/microbiologyandimmunology/graduate/apply-now/index.php or contact the Graduate Secretary or Graduate Chair as listed on the website.

Although students may apply to enter our graduate program on September 1, January 1 or May 1 each year, university calendar year beings in September and graduate classes are offered either in September (Term 1) or in January (Term 2). Complete applications must be received by February 1 in order to be considered for scholarship funding beginning the following September. North American applicants should apply a minimum of 4 months prior to anticipated start date, while due to visa processing, international applicants should apply a minimum of 6 months prior to your anticipated start date.

You must apply on-line to: http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/applying/index.php. Application fees can be paid online along with submission of 3 email addresses for those who are willing to provide recommendation letters in a timely manner. English testing requirements can be found at this website http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/admission/language.php
Once you have completed the online application, you must then forward electronic COPIES of the following, by e-mailing to: anat.micro.physiology@usask.ca

- Cover letter with a 200-word description (in your own handwriting) of the area of microbiology in which you wish to do graduate work, explaining why this is your choice.
- Curriculum vitae (resume)
- Transcripts and Degree certificates

You must arrange to have the following ORIGINAL and OFFICIAL documents mailed to the address at the bottom of this notice:

1. Official transcripts from ALL institutions attended
2. Official/Original English language proficiency score (send directly to the University, code 0980, Department code 07)

Once your application package is complete, it is then reviewed by the Graduate Affairs Committee. If it is found potentially acceptable, your file will be circulated among faculty members who are recruiting graduate students. Alternatively, you are encouraged to directly contact faculty members you are interested in working with and have him/her to recommend your case to the Graduate Affairs Committee for review. Please be aware that neither the Graduate Affairs Committee, nor a committed supervisor could unilaterally admit a graduate student. Only if an applicant was found acceptable by the Graduate Affairs Committee and a faculty member is committed to supervise the applicant, plus the financial support is in place, will the application be forwarded to the Studies and Research for a final approval on admission to the University of Saskatchewan.

The Microbiology and Immunology graduate program at the University of Saskatchewan typically has a large number of acceptable candidates, but the number of students admitted into the program each year is primarily restricted by financial aids and available supervisors. Hence, if you have an external source of funding, please indicate in your application, which may increase your chance for admission. Nevertheless, all students admitted to a graduate program in Microbiology and Immunology will automatically be considered for financial support, which is competitively awarded.

3B. International Students

International students studying in Canada must have a valid Student Authorization. Current information on obtaining student authorization as well as general information for the international community at the University of Saskatchewan can be found at [http://www.usask.ca/sas/isao/handbook/handbook.html](http://www.usask.ca/sas/isao/handbook/handbook.html). For visa application, a Canadian overseas embassy will require the following two documents from you:

1. An official acceptance letter from the College of Graduate Studies and Research.
2. An official letter from the Department stating that you have been provided with a financial aid sufficient to cover your study and living expenses in Saskatoon. Alternatively, if the financial support is arranged by yourself (e.g. a scholarship from your home country or from your family), a document that can satisfy the Canadian visa officer is needed.

University of Saskatchewan entrance degree qualifications from individual countries can be found at [http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/admission/index.php](http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/admission/index.php)
If English is not your native language, you must arrange for a certified result of the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) or International English Learning Test Score (IELTS) to be sent directly to us. Note that our department requires a minimum TOEFL score of 90 (TOEFL) and 7.0 (IELTS). For those who are unable to get access to TOEFL exams, alternative English language exams recognized by the CGSR are acceptable. Please visit the above web site for more information [http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/admission/language.php](http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/admission/language.php)

4. Funding

It is the generally policy that all graduate students admitted into the Microbiology and Immunology graduate program receive a standard amount of funding deemed sufficient for living and studies. The yearly stipends are currently $16,000 for a M.Sc. and $20,000 for a Ph.D. student. Funding can be provided by:

2. Devolved University and College of Medicine Scholarship fund administered through the Department.
3. Fellowships and scholarships from granting agencies (e.g., NSERC – Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, CIHR – Canadian Institutes of Health Research).
4. University Graduate Teaching Fellowship (GTF).
5. College of Graduate Studies and Research Dean’s scholarship.
6. University Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA).
7. Graduate Student Association Bursaries.
8. Financial aids from other sources.
9. Scholarships or stipends from home country for some international students.

Information on applying for scholarships can be obtained from the Graduate Secretary at [anat.micro.physiology@usask.ca](mailto:anat.micro.physiology@usask.ca). Additional graduate scholarships and bursaries can be found in the 'Graduate Awards Guide' at [http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/financial_aid/index.php](http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/financial_aid/index.php).

5. Committees and Organizations

5A. College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR)

Within the University of Saskatchewan, all graduate students are registered in the CGSR. General information about the college can be found on its website at [http://www.usask.ca/cgsr](http://www.usask.ca/cgsr).

5B. Graduate Affairs Committee and Graduate Chair

A Graduate Affairs Committee is composed of 3-4 faculty members appointed by the Department Head to deal with issues concerning graduate studies in the department. The Chair of this committee is in charge of the committee meeting and primarily responsible for graduate affairs within the department. The Graduate Chair is also a member of the Council of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The Graduate Affairs Committee is responsible for the following:

1. Appoint and approve the Advisory Committee for each student.
2. Review applications for graduate studies in the department and make recommendations.
3. Oversee graduate courses offered by the department.
4. Review and recommend scholarship and fellowship applications.
5. Review interim reports and monitor graduate student progression.
6. Review and recommend program and policy changes to the Department.
7. Serve as a liaison between CGSR and the Department.
8. Serve as a liaison between the student body and the Department.
9. Serve as a liaison between the student and supervisor.

Graduate Affairs Committee meetings are held regularly and on Ad Hoc basis. Graduate student representatives are invited, as observers, whenever appropriate.

5C. Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee is formed for each student, consisting of at least three members, including the Graduate Chair or designate who acts as chairperson, the research supervisor and at least one faculty member. If the student's work for the degree involves other departments, the Advisory Committee may include the student's research supervisor and representatives of the departments concerned. An Advisory Committee for a Ph.D. student must consist of at least five members, with at least one member from another department to serve as a cognate member. The Committee is responsible for periodic reviews of the candidate's progress toward the degree and must meet at least annually for this purpose. The Chair of the Advisory Committee will report on the progress of the student to the Dean of CGSR once annually. A report indicating unsatisfactory progress will result in further action being taken by the Dean.

5D. Supervisor

The supervisor is the faculty member directly responsible for overseeing your research. The selection of a supervisor should be completed by mutual agreement among student, supervisor and the Department. The supervisor must be a faculty member of the CGSR and should be familiar with the rules and procedures of the department, the College of Graduate Studies and Research and those of the university. Both student and supervisor are responsible for ensuring that all College of Graduate Studies and Research and departmental regulations and requirements are observed and met.

5E. Graduate Student Association

As the official voice of graduate students, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) represents your interests within the university, locally, provincially and nationally, by lobbying the Faculty, university administration and many levels of governments with respect to funding, representation and academic affairs. Currently, the GSA holds two seats on the University Council, one seat on Senate, seven seats on Graduate Council and is represented on most of the committees and subcommittees of University Council and Graduate Council.

All Graduate students registered in the College of Graduate Studies and Research are members of the GSA. Members pay a fee upon registration, which is used by the GSA to achieve its stated goals. The Association maintains health and dental plans that all graduate students are automatically enrolled in. If the student is already receiving extended health and/or dental benefits, she/he is able to opt out of these plans, and will be reimbursed. To opt out of these plans, the student must notify the GSA before the deadline, which is usually at the end of September.

Additional information can be found on the GSA website at [http://www.usask.ca/gsa/](http://www.usask.ca/gsa/).

Students registered in the Department elect two student representatives who will represent the students to attend GSA meetings and the Graduate Affairs Committee meetings.
6. Student Public Presentations

6A. Annual Research Presentation

All graduate students in the program are required to participate and give a 20-minute presentation during a departmental Research Day dedicated to graduate students. All the departmental members and Advisory Committee members are invited to attend. The Research Day is scheduled in early May, before annual Advisory Committee meetings take place.

6B. Departmental Seminar

All graduate students in the program are required to give a departmental seminar once in their graduate program, on the topic of their research projects. This seminar is often scheduled towards the end of the program and is required for graduation.

6C. Other Presentations

Graduate students may wish to organize their own presentations in the form of journal club and/or data presentation based on different disciplines. Registered graduate students are required to participate in these activities.

7. Advisory Committee Meetings and Reports

7A. Committee Meetings

A new graduate student should have the first Advisory Committee meeting within four months after registration to establish a Program of Studies (POS) outlining the research, ethics requirements, course work, and committee members. Other students will have at least one meeting per year. This regular meeting is currently scheduled in early to middle May, shortly after graduate student presentation takes place. Additional meetings may be held on special occasions (e.g., to discuss program transfer, qualifying and comprehensive exams, and permission to write thesis), or upon requests from the student, the supervisor, the chair and/or any Advisory Committee members.

Meetings should provide a forum for the student to summarize new results and directions in the project, and to ask for assistance.

Before each meeting, the student should provide a written report with brief overview of relevant background, hypotheses, experimental methods, results and future plans. A list of references is required. The report should also include a list of courses completed and those remained to be taken, and achievements (e.g., publications, conferences and awards) during the past year. It is required that the report be sent to each Committee member at least one week prior to the meeting.

Student progress with respect to course requirements and other exams will be discussed during the meeting. The student may be asked to present a verbal report. A visual presentation is often found helpful. At the end of the meeting, the student MAY be asked to leave the room for the Committee to discuss relevant issues. The designated minute taker should provide a written report of the meeting to be sent to the Committee members for review, then the Graduate Secretary for data entry, submission to CGSR or filing. If
necessary, the Chair may delegate a Committee member to take scientific minutes to be communicated to both Committee members and the student.

7B. Interim Report

The report is to be submitted at least once a year, and/or by end of November, outlining the following:

1. the experimental goals, objectives and rationale for the dissertation research,
2. the research accomplishments to date;
3. the experiments currently being undertaking and those being pursued during the reporting period;
4. an estimate of when solutions toward the experimental objectives will be forthcoming; and
5. any successes (publications, conferences, etc.)

Copies of all these Reports and Comments will be submitted to the Graduate Chair, Committee Members and the Graduate Secretary. These documents are limited to two pages.

7C. CGSR Annual Progress Report

An annual Progress Report is required by the College of Graduate Studies and Research for each graduate student in the month of May. This report will be prepared in the form of ‘minutes’ by the Advisory Committee Chair, submitted to the Committee for review, then forwarded to the Graduate Secretary for submission to the online system (CGSR). The Progress Report will be made available to the Supervisor, Grad Chair and the graduate student through PAWS (online).

8. Class Requirements

M.Sc. students are required to take a minimum of 9 credit units of graduate level classes. Ph.D. students are required to take a minimum of 9 credit units of graduate level classes.

It is expected that each graduate student take MCIM860.3 (Seminar in Immunology) or MCIM861.3 (Seminar in Molecular Biology and Microbiology).

Depending on their background training, students may be required to take more than the minimum number of credit units, if deemed necessary by the Advisory Committee.

All graduate students must register each year in the seminar course (numbered 990) associated with their program, and they must attend and participate in the course regularly. The seminar course 990 is not available during the spring/summer session.

9. Transferring from M.Sc. to Ph.D. Program

Students must satisfy the department by written or oral examination, or by both, that they have the potential to obtain sufficient knowledge of their chosen general field of study to proceed toward candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Responsibility for this examination may be assigned to the Advisory Committee in cases where several departments are involved. Normally, this examination is administered preferably within the first year, but no later than
the end of the second year, of the student's program. The student needs to complete the course requirements at the M.Sc. level at the time of the qualifying examination. The results of this examination are likely to have a significant impact on the Program of Study developed for the student. The standard by which a student must obtain to pass the qualifying examination is at the discretion of the department or the Advisory Committee, as the case may be. A student failing an examination for the first time is permitted a second qualifying examination. A second failure automatically disqualifies the student from further work for the Ph.D. degree. This failure may be appealed to the Ph.D. Committee on substantive or procedural grounds. The results of all qualifying examinations must be reported to the Graduate Secretary for data entry and submission to the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

The qualifying examination format in this Department is an oral examination in two of the five pre-selected subjects. The five subjects are:

1. Bacterial genetics and physiology  
2. Eukaryotic molecular and cellular biology  
3. Immunology  
4. Medical bacteriology and Infectious diseases  
5. Virology

The examiners of each subject are appointed by the Graduate Affairs Committee each year. The two examiners of the subjects selected by the student will provide a short list, often 2-3, references (research article and/or review article) related to the subject, with a few sample questions, for students to prepare for the oral examination. The examination will take place three weeks after the student receives all references. The examination questions will be related, but not limited, to the references provided. The purpose of the examination is to assess the student’s ability to synthesize scientific knowledge, to analyze the experimental data, and to apply the knowledge to critical thinking. The examination takes about 3 hours.

The examination Committee consists of two subject examiners and the Chair. After the oral examination is complete, the Committee will discuss and vote Pass or Fail on each subject. If a student fails one or both subjects, she/he may request a second examination and elect with either the original examiner or an alternative examiner appointed by the Graduate Affairs Committee. In the case of failing one subject, both original and newly appointed examiners of the subject will serve as examiners. The examination will take the same format.

The thesis examination for the award of Master's degree at this or other recognized universities may be, at the discretion of the department and the College of Graduate Studies and Research, accepted in lieu of the Ph.D. qualifying examination.

The Ph.D qualifying examination must already have been passed at a suitable level before consideration will be given to recommendations for transfer from a Master's to a Ph.D program. Other requirements for the transfer and registration include:

- Satisfaction of courses taken and grade (80% average) at M.Sc. level,
- A Ph.D. proposal,
- The approval of the proposal by the student’s Ph.D. Advisory Committee.

**Transfer from M.Sc. program to Ph.D. program**
A committee must take place to determine and outline the student’s Program of Study (POS) new research, course work and new committee.

A transfer form (GSR 206) must be completed and signed by the student and Department Head, along with the committee minutes, and given to the Graduate Secretary for submission to the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

10. Requirements to Graduate

10A. General Course Requirements for Graduate Degrees

- Master’s: 9 credit units, plus MCIM 990 (Seminar) and MCIM 994 (Research)
- Ph.D.: minimum of 3 credit units of graduate courses if the student entered the Ph.D. program directly from another institution plus MCIM 990 (Seminar) and MCIM 996 (Research)
- Transfer from Master’s to Ph.D.: minimum of 9 credit units of graduate courses including any such courses taken at the M.Sc. level plus MCIM 990 and MCIM 996
- Core Courses: MCIM 990, MCIM994 (M.Sc.), MCIM 996 (Ph.D.)

10B. General Requirements for Thesis and Project

A thesis or project is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree. It is expected that the student will follow the departmental regulations and the advice of the Supervisor and the Advisory Committee in developing the thesis or project proposal and in establishing whether the thesis or project is ready for examination.

Every thesis must be defended orally. The adequacy of the thesis is decided by an examining committee, consisting of the Graduate Chair or designate, who chairs the examination, the supervisor, at least one member who served on the Advisory Committee, and the external examiner who has not been a member of the student’s Advisory Committee. The Department requires that the external examiner for a M.Sc. thesis must be a graduate faculty member outside of the Department, and that for a Ph.D. thesis must come from another institute. The external examiner shall not be a collaborator of the co-supervisor for the research project taken by the student under examination and must fall within the criteria of selection as determined by the CGSR Policy and Procedures http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/policy-and-procedure/defence.php#2. The department may recommend the appointment of additional examiners. The thesis supervisor may not serve as the chair of the thesis oral examination. The character of the oral examination is decided upon by the Committee, but in general the examination is limited to work done by the candidate for the thesis and to knowledge of matters directly related to it. At the conclusion of the examination, the Committee decides whether the thesis work of the candidate and the subsequent defense of it meet the requirements for the degree. The Committee’s decision is documented by signature on forms (GSR 300.1 and 300.2). These forms are withheld for submission to CGSR until the graduate student has completed all the corrections, as determined by the Supervisor.

Expected thesis draft timelines:

When the student has finished or nearly finishes his or her research, an Advisory Committee meeting will be held at which the student will present major experimental data to be included in the thesis along with a draft Abstract and Table of Contents to the
committee members. The committee members will discuss the proposed thesis content and indicate their approval for the preparation of the thesis. This committee meeting will be independent of the student’s mandatory annual committee meeting, although it may take place concurrently. Three possible outcomes may arise from this meeting:

- The student is given unconditional permission to write thesis.
- The student is given permission to write thesis pending completion of certain set(s) of experimental data.
- The content is deemed insufficient for writing thesis and additional experimental data are required for the Committee to review the progress.

Once a student has begun writing the thesis, it is in the student’s as well as the department’s interest that the writing and defence proceed efficiently. Recognizing that the mode of interactions between supervisors and students varies considerably, the following guidelines are expected to be adhered to once a complete draft of the thesis is in the hands of the supervisor.

- Review of a first complete draft by the supervisor; four weeks.
- Review of a second complete draft by the Advisory Committee; three weeks.
- Review of a third draft by the Advisory Committee; two weeks (optional)
- Review by the External examiner; three weeks (M.Sc.) or four weeks (Ph.D.)

Students should take account of these timelines when planning the final preparation and defence of their thesis. For example, once the thesis draft is ready for submission to the Advisory Committee, the student can expect a time lag of a minimum of 3 + 2 + 3 (or 4) weeks before the date of the defence, the last three or four weeks being required for the reading of the thesis by the external examiner for M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses respectively.

10C. M.Sc. Requirements

Candidates for Master’s degrees are expected to complete their work with reasonable continuity over a period not exceeding five years. This time is measured from the date of first registration in a course credited toward the program. A typical time required for the completion of a Master’s degree is between two and three years.

Comprehensive examination is not required for the M.Sc. degree.

10D. Ph.D. Requirements

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree is expected to complete the work with reasonable continuity over a period not exceeding six years. This time is measured from the date of first registration in the first course work credited toward the program.

Students are expected to complete all courses with distinction in their program of studies. Any grade below 70% is unsatisfactory. An average grade of graduate courses below 80% causes concern. The Advisory Committee will review such grades and make a recommendation to the College of Graduate Studies and Research concerning the action to be taken. The Advisory Committee will also recommend appropriate actions to be taken regarding any student whose progress in the research project or in any other components of the Ph.D. program is deemed unsatisfactory. Academic standards applied will be those prevailing in the national and international academic community. Upon recommendation by the Advisory Committee and with approval from the Dean of CGSR, a student may be
required to discontinue at any time from the program, for failure to achieve and maintain satisfactory progress. A Required to Discontinue (RTD) notice may be provided (by the Department or CGSR) or the student may wish to voluntarily withdraw from the program by submitting a GSR 203 form (Withdrawal Form).

**Comprehensive Examination**

The comprehensive examination covers broad aspects of the appropriate discipline and may be in written and/or oral form. This examination is usually on topics cognate to the candidate's field of research and is used as a means of judging whether the individual has a mature and substantive grasp of the discipline as a whole. A comprehensive knowledge of the subject will not only help to validate the Ph.D. student as an expert in the general field of choice, but will also complement research activity in the specific area under investigation. Normally, this examination is scheduled after the student has completed all requirements except the doctoral thesis. The following criteria are to be considered for the comprehensive examination:

1. Deal with a specific topic related to the major field.
2. Demonstrate ability on the part of the candidate to do independent study and investigation.
3. Be written in good scholarly style and conform to the requirements of a style manual approved by the department.

The comprehensive examination committee is composed of all members of the student’s Ph.D. Advisory Committee. The student can choose one of two formats for the comprehensive examination:

One is question based, in which each Advisory Committee member will provide two questions related to the student’s research interest to the Committee Chair, who will assemble them into 6-8 questions and pass them on to the student. The student’s written response to each question will be submitted to all the Committee members two weeks after receiving the questions and the oral examination will then take place one further week later.

The other is based upon a grant proposal. The Advisory Committee will decide a subject area related to the student’s research interest in consultation with the student. Once the subject has been approved, the student will have up to four weeks to prepare the proposal and distribute it to the Advisory Committee. The format of the grant proposal will be that required for CIHR as found on the current CIHR website, and comprised of the Summary of Research Proposal and Research Proposal sections. The oral examination of the proposal will take place one week after it has been submitted to the Advisory Committee.

The oral examination involves all the Advisory Committee members and questions will be related, but not limited, to the written response. After oral examination, the student will be asked to leave the room and the Advisory Committee members will discuss and vote for both written and oral components of the examination. Written comments on the examination may be provided to the student by the Chair.
Only upon successful completion of the comprehensive examination at an appropriate time during the program is a student permitted to continue scholarly activity towards the Ph.D. degree. The comprehensive examination may be repeated once with the permission of the Dean of CGSR. The results of all comprehensive examinations must be reported to the CGSR. A second failure will result in the student being required to withdraw from the program. This failure may be appealed to the Ph.D. Committee on substantive or procedural grounds.

11. Dealing with Problems in a Research Program

When a student’s program is felt to be running into problems, as perceived by the student, the supervisor or the Advisory Committee, it will be essential for the GAC to make an assessment of why this is so, in order to help overcome the problems. However most difficulties can and should be dealt with by the Advisory Committee. Overcoming the problems could involve a modification in the composition of the Advisory Committee to make it more effective, or to recommend that it meet much more frequently than usual. This might be helpful when a student has problems in research, or if tension has developed between student and supervisor. These possibilities occur rarely, but are mentioned here so that students in problematical situations know that constructive options are available. Informal discussion between student and supervisor should always be the method of choice to resolve any problems/conflicts that arise during the course of one’s programme, and if appropriate, should involve the student’s Advisory Committee. Students who feel they are still facing problems following these efforts can confidentially discuss them, either in person or by letter, with the Chair of the GAC, or the Department Head if the GAC Chair is the supervisor or in conflict of interest. Past practice has shown that more frequent meetings of the Advisory Committee can often resolve the problem. If no solution can be arrived at through such meetings, specifically trained third party mediators such as the personnel in the department of Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Services will be enlisted. If the conflict remains unresolved following these efforts, the issue will be submitted in writing to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, who will decide the next course of action.

Required to Discontinue (RTD) or Withdrawal

Academic standards applied will be those prevailing in the national and international academic community. Upon recommendation by the Advisory Committee and with approval from the Dean of CGSR, a student may be Required to Discontinue (RTD) at any time from the program, for failure to achieve and maintain satisfactory progress. A RTD notice may be provided by the department, to the CGSR, for a following Registered Letter. Or, the student may wish to voluntarily withdraw from the program by submitting a GSR 203 form (Withdrawal Form).

12. APPENDIX A

12A. Research Interests of Faculty in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Faculty, Areas of Expertise and Research Interests can be found on the website http://www.medicine.usask.ca/microbiologyandimmunology/graduate/faculty%20research%20interests.php
12B. Application Procedures

Please submit all parts of your application either online or in hard copy. This includes your application, 3 email addresses, application fee payment, a CV, transcripts and English test scores. Also provide an approximately 200 word description (in your own handwriting) of the area of microbiology in which you wish to do graduate work, explaining why this is your choice (Statement of Intent or Purpose). If you have any research experience, briefly describe this as well. A check-list of the items making up your application is provided for your convenience.

Microbiology & Immunology Graduate Application Checklist

___ Application Form Online at http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/applying/index.php
___ Three Recommenders - provide 3 email addresses into the online application
___ Curriculum vitae/résumé
___ Handwritten statement of research interest/research experience
___ $90 Canadian application fee paid on line

Required, but sent separately

___ Sealed, Official versions of all transcripts
___ Official English Test score (GSR English Language Requirement Information)

Please mail the completed application package to:

Graduate Programs
Biomedical Sciences
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
2D01 HLTH, 107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

NOTE: All materials to be received by MARCH 1 or application may be deferred to the following term.

The earlier the application, the more likely the applicant is to find a suitable supervisor for their graduate studies beginning in the fall of the year.

If you have questions or need clarification regarding admission procedures, please e-mail the Graduate Programs Secretary at anat.micro.physiology@usask.ca