

Strategic Plan
2015–2019

Momentum

Yeates School of
Graduate Studies

RYERSON
UNIVERSITY



Continuing Our Journey

Since our modest beginnings in 2000, the Yeates School of Graduate Studies (YSGS) has expanded to serve 2,400 students in 35 master's and 13 PhD programs at Ryerson University.





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Having completed this period of exponential growth, we now have a strong foundation for strategically advancing our future.

Recently, the Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education called for an organizational paradigm shift that makes graduate education a core priority and shared responsibility for the university. *Our Time to Lead*, the university's academic plan, also urges all campus units to develop corresponding strategic plans.

Momentum is the result of consultations with members of our community — students, graduate program directors, faculty and staff. Over the next five years, we will use our distinctive characteristics to: build a community and culture of inquiry, elevate excellence in graduate education, attract and retain outstanding student talent, and deliver leading academic and administrative supports and services. Above all, we will continue to champion our shared commitment to outstanding graduate education at Ryerson.

Vision

To be the first choice for graduate students with the passion and energy to be the next generation of creative leaders, intellectual explorers and purposeful changemakers.



Create space. Give voice. Connect our community. Support the unfolding story of graduate education at Ryerson.



Mission

Graduate education embodies the intersection of mind and action, equipping our community with the knowledge and experiences that empower individuals to positively and meaningfully transform themselves, our culture, economy, environment and society.

YSGS is fostering a student-centric culture that promotes success, experience and opportunities for transformational learning. We honour this with our breadth of programs, research, creative pursuits and experiences distinguished by excellence rooted in relevance.

Purpose

YSGS champions the integral role that graduate education plays in advancing Ryerson's reputation as a comprehensive university. We are in a unique position to:

Create space. Give voice. Connect our community. Support the unfolding story of graduate education at Ryerson.

What Makes Us Different

YSGS is unique in that we unite all graduate program offerings across the university. This allows us to speak as one, while also recognizing the distinctive qualities of each program.

Like Ryerson as a whole, we exemplify five distinguishing characteristics in all that we do.

01.

We are enterprising

We get things done with the smarts, expertise and drive to improve our collective causes, our world and ourselves.

- Psychology Professor **Colleen Carney** is investigating the links between insomnia and depression.
- **Immigration and Settlement Studies** is the first and only graduate program of its kind in Canada.
- **Kahoots** is an online platform for cross-disciplinary student collaboration created by Master of Digital Media (MDM) students Kaylie Greaves and Allison Rhodes, winners of the 2014 Slight Business Plan Competition.
- Early Childhood Studies master's student **Rubina Quadri** is helping autistic children communicate with a wearable, customizable device called Talking Buttons.

02.

We are city builders

Our graduate learning environments maximize connections, partnerships and creativity. We are shaping great people, a great urban university and a great city.

- DMZ Research and Innovation Director **Hossein Rahnama**, named among the Top 35 Innovators Under 35 by MIT, conducts research that combines context-aware computing, artificial intelligence and opportunistic social networking.
- **In the Air, Tonight** is a reactive architecture installation by Communication and Culture PhD students Dave Colangelo and Patricio Davila, aimed at raising awareness about homelessness.
- Students and faculty partner with **leading aerospace companies**.
- Urban Development master's alumna **Lisa Ward Mather** received a Ryerson Gold Medal for community outreach in Regent Park.

03.

We are connected by our diversity

Our various cultures, perspectives, ways of knowing and programs make us more connected and creative in solving complex local and global challenges.

- Initiatives like the **GRAD Snapshot and Video Blogger Contests** encourage student engagement, creativity and community.
- Tecla, a product by DMZ startup **Komodo OpenLab**, enables persons with disabilities to operate mobile devices using familiar methods.
- Math Professor **Pawel Pralat** is undertaking leading-edge research on big data.
- The **Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement** is a leader in the interdisciplinary exploration of international migration, integration, and diaspora and refugee studies.

04.

We are creators

We develop new knowledge, practices, ventures and cultural works. We believe that challenging convention creates new possibilities.

- MBA students **Angela Holzer** and **Kate French** won Banana Republic's 2014 Grad Student Challenge for their digital strategy to help disadvantaged youth find employment.
- Physics Professor **Michael Kolios** is partnering with Sunnybrook Hospital on cancer research using high-frequency ultrasound imaging.
- **Raymond Phan**, Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD and Vanier scholar, is collaborating with IMAX to convert 2D video into 3D more efficiently.
- DMZ startup **Voovo** provides a unique crowdsourcing marketplace for buyers and sellers of 3D printing services.

05.

We stay relevant

As the world continuously evolves so do our programs. We equip our students with the knowledge and experience essential for leading in a constantly changing environment.

- The **Film + Photography Preservation and Collections Management** program reflects the ongoing advances in digital technology.
- **GRADCafé** events engage graduate students in fostering a community of inquiry and sense of belonging.
- **MDM** is the first graduate program to be fully embedded in an incubator (DMZ, ranked #1 in Canada and #5 in the world by the University Business Incubator Index).
- The **Professional Master's Diploma (PMDip) in Dietetics**, in partnership with St. Michael's Hospital, is addressing Ontario's imminent shortage of dietitians.
- The **PMDip in Enterprise Information Security, Privacy and Data Protection** provides the latest skills required for this increasingly important field.



Our Goals

These are our key aspirations over the next five years.



01.

Building a community and culture of inquiry

With graduate students as our top priority, we will continue to foster an engaged and interconnected community that reflects our diverse spectrum of people, programs and ways of knowing. We will facilitate and support collaborative activities that promote graduate education as a core and shared responsibility among students, programs, faculty, staff and alumni.

02.

Elevating excellence in graduate education

Thriving graduate cultures are built by faculty and programs committed to challenging the status quo by thoughtfully and creatively pushing the limits of knowledge, discovery and teaching in the pursuit of excellence. We must continue our efforts in this regard as the quality of our programs directly affects our ability to attract and retain top students and faculty members. This not only ensures that our graduates are equipped for personal and professional success, but also furthers Ryerson's reputation and aspirations for the future.



We challenge the status quo by thoughtfully and creatively pushing the limits of knowledge, discovery and teaching.

03.

Attracting and retaining outstanding graduate student talent

Exceptional students are the lifeblood that fuels graduate education. The reputation of our university, the quality of our programs and supervisors, and strength of our culture of inquiry are all critical to attracting and retaining outstanding graduate students. Our increasingly competitive landscape demands that we do more to distinguish ourselves with highly strategic, co-ordinated, multi-modal recruitment, retention and communication plans, as well as stronger ties with alumni.

04.

Leading academic and administrative supports and services

Efficient and effective delivery of high-quality graduate education is essential for Ryerson's evolution as a comprehensive university. We will continue to be innovative and collaborative leaders committed to evidence-based decision-making, best practices, first-rate service standards and building structures that support graduate education.

A vibrant campus scene with students walking and sitting under trees, with a modern building in the background. The image is split into a yellow triangle on the left and a blue rectangle on the top right. The background shows a sunny day with green trees, a modern brick and glass building, and students in a courtyard. Some students are sitting at tables under umbrellas, while others are walking. One student in the foreground is wearing a red backpack with 'GoodLife FITNESS' written on it.

Join us on this exciting journey.

Our Momentum

The goals outlined here illustrate our central role and shared commitment to advancing graduate education at Ryerson, in line with the priorities of *Our Time to Lead*.



Collaborative support from all stakeholders is essential not only for our goals but also for the university’s long-term prosperity.

Our strategic plan for community engagement, excellence in education and recruitment, and academic and administrative leadership will fuel Ryerson’s momentum in becoming Canada’s leading comprehensive university.

Join us on this exciting journey.

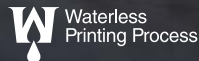
Photography

Darren Calabrese: p. 2, 5, 6, 9 (top)
Mark Blinch: all others

ryerson.ca/graduate

This Strategic Plan is a collaborative effort between YSGS and the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Communication & Design, Faculty of Community Services, Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, Faculty of Science and Ted Rogers School of Management.

Yeates School of Graduate Studies



RYERSON UNIVERSITY