

Multiple degrees the norm for Maritimers

East coast undergrads leave region for second degrees

ANGELA WILSON
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

WOLFVILLE, NS (CUP)—Postsecondary education is rarely a one-degree commitment anymore, according to a survey of graduating students in the Maritime provinces.

The study, conducted by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), revealed that over three-quarters of graduates from liberal arts universities plan to continue their education past a bachelor's degree.

The majority of those students, however, said that they would leave the Maritimes to do so. Of the students who don't plan to continue their education in the Maritimes, 38 per cent said it was because their program wasn't available in the region, while 29 per cent responded that the program they sought outside of the region had an excellent reputation.

Mireille Duguay, chief executive officer for MPHEC, explained that this isn't a surprising trend, considering most universities in the Maritimes are primarily undergraduate institutions.

"We cannot be all things to all people," she said, adding that students are often encouraged to study outside of their home region in order to experience living elsewhere.

Although most Maritime universities may not be known for their

graduate and research programs, postsecondary institutions across the country are benefiting from a boost in graduate enrolment.

A 2007 study by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) revealed that full-time master's and PhD enrolment has risen rapidly in the last decade, from 65 000 students in 1996 to 102 000 students

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EDUCATION COMMISSION

in 2006—a 57 per cent increase.

Meanwhile, preliminary figures for the Atlantic provinces in 2007/08 indicate that graduate enrolment in the region is up by 2.9 per cent over the previous year.

This boost in graduate enrolment is also reflected in the labour market.

Over the last 16 years, the number of full-time jobs filled by graduate degree holders has grown from 550 000 in 1990 to more than 1 million in 2006.

Despite the fact that most students will seek to continue their postsecondary education outside of the Maritime provinces, the survey revealed that a majority of them (73 per cent) and about one quarter of students from out of province indicated that they would like to stay in the region to live and work.

Quebec may sacrifice student grants to maintain autonomy

JENNIFER FREITAS
BEN NGAI
The Concordian (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—As the Millennium Scholarship Foundation expires at the end of 2009, the Conservative government's new permanent grants program will leap into action—but Quebec students could find themselves out in the cold.

According to the Educational Policy Institute (EPI), a non-profit research centre, Quebec has historically opted out of such federal programs and chosen to create its own programs in their place.

"We must be mindful that the province of Quebec may choose to apply their envelope of funding for this program differently, as they have done with the Millennium funding," said Laura Stanbra, Concordia University's director of financial aids and awards.

According to the EPI, however, the new system will only transfer funds to provinces with comparable grant and bursaries programs. Whether or not Quebec students will benefit from \$80 million worth of available funding will depend on the province's willingness to switch to the new model of deciding who gets funding.

It could also depend on the province's willingness to cede some provincial power to the federal government.

"The biggest potential loser of this proposal in financial terms [...] is Quebec," reads the study, which predicts that the province will refuse to accept federal standards in order to

maintain provincial jurisdiction.

But despite the ambiguous status of Quebec students vis-à-vis the new program, Concordia Student Union President Angelica Novoa said that the end of the MSF bodes well for students.

"[Now] we're going to see more investments into helping students in postsecondary education," she said. "The most positive feature of this [new] program is that all the money will be allocated to the students as opposed to being used for bureaucratic and PR objectives like the MSF used to do."

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LAURA STANBRA
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Brent Farrington, deputy national chairperson at the Canadian Federation of Students, echoed Novoa's criticisms.

"We've been advocating for a changeover to a needs-based system for a long time now. Under the [MSF], there was no accountability—no way to track where the funding was going

through the organization. At the same time, they were trying to work towards a merit-based system of grants, which was totally unacceptable."

Under the needs-based formula used by the MSF, students' eligibility was calculated based on both their income and that of their guardians. The new grants, by comparison, will take only the students' income into account when assessing need.

Not all student groups are in favour of the new system, and the changeover concerns Zach Churchill, national director for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), which had lobbied in favour of renewing the MSF.

"Low-income students will definitely receive less money from this new program than they did from [the MSF] because its target audience is bigger," he said.

However, as pointed out by the EPI, a more pertinent problem with the new system may be that the shift to income-contingent bursaries leaves it open to uncontrolled cost increases.

The Institute's analysis concluded that the Canada Student Loans Program, which will administer the new program, may have to accommodate up to 500 000 students—more than twice the government's projected number.

"Since all independent students are effectively 'low-income,' presumably all independent students will be eligible," wrote the authors, who noted that the switch could "blow an enormous hole in the budget, [with annual costs inflating to] well over \$1 billion."

"There's no money in poetry, but then there's no poetry in money, either."

—Robert Graves, 1895–1985

100!
YEARS
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Student Poetry Contest

(with apologies to Mr. Graves)

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2nd prize: \$500
3rd prize: \$250

In honour of the University's centenary, the University of Alberta Alumni Association invites students in their graduating year to submit poems inspired by the

University's motto, and centenary theme,

"Quaecumque vera — whatsoever things are true."



Contest Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2008

For a complete list of rules visit
www.ualberta.ca/alumni/poetry
or call 492-7726

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2008/2009 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009 and pays \$1950.51/mo*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2008/2009 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 7 March 2008**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
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All terms run from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1625.43* per month, Web will receive \$1000.00* per month, all other line editors will receive \$1281.88* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 14 March 2008**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.

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