*The first ever*

# Graduate Studies Info Session

SEPTEMBER 25 2020

# What we'll cover

1. Admission requirements and timeline
2. Grad school timeline
3. How research works
4. Money
5. Finding and contacting professors
6. How we benefit from grad school
7. Q&A

*Type your questions in the chat! We'll address them in the Q&A at the end.*

# Course-based Masters

You *can* get a course-based (no thesis) Master's degree in some fields, for example environmental science, math, or statistics. Could be a good option if you are not interested in research!

Apply to the program similar to undergrad - no need to find a supervisor ahead of time. Unlike research-based Masters degrees, you **normally are not paid** a stipend (other than any scholarships you get).

Often involve a shorter independent project that culminates in a major research paper.

**This info session focuses only on research-based grad programs**

# Let us introduce ourselves...

Math

Maiko

Jane

Chemistry

Jacky

Biology

Lydia

Susan

Chris

Olga

# Admission requirements & timeline

MSc Adm. Requirements: **(CHECK ONLINE: https://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/)**

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**Very important = START NOW!**

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*NOTE: This is for research-based MSc degrees (course-based degrees might have different reqs.)

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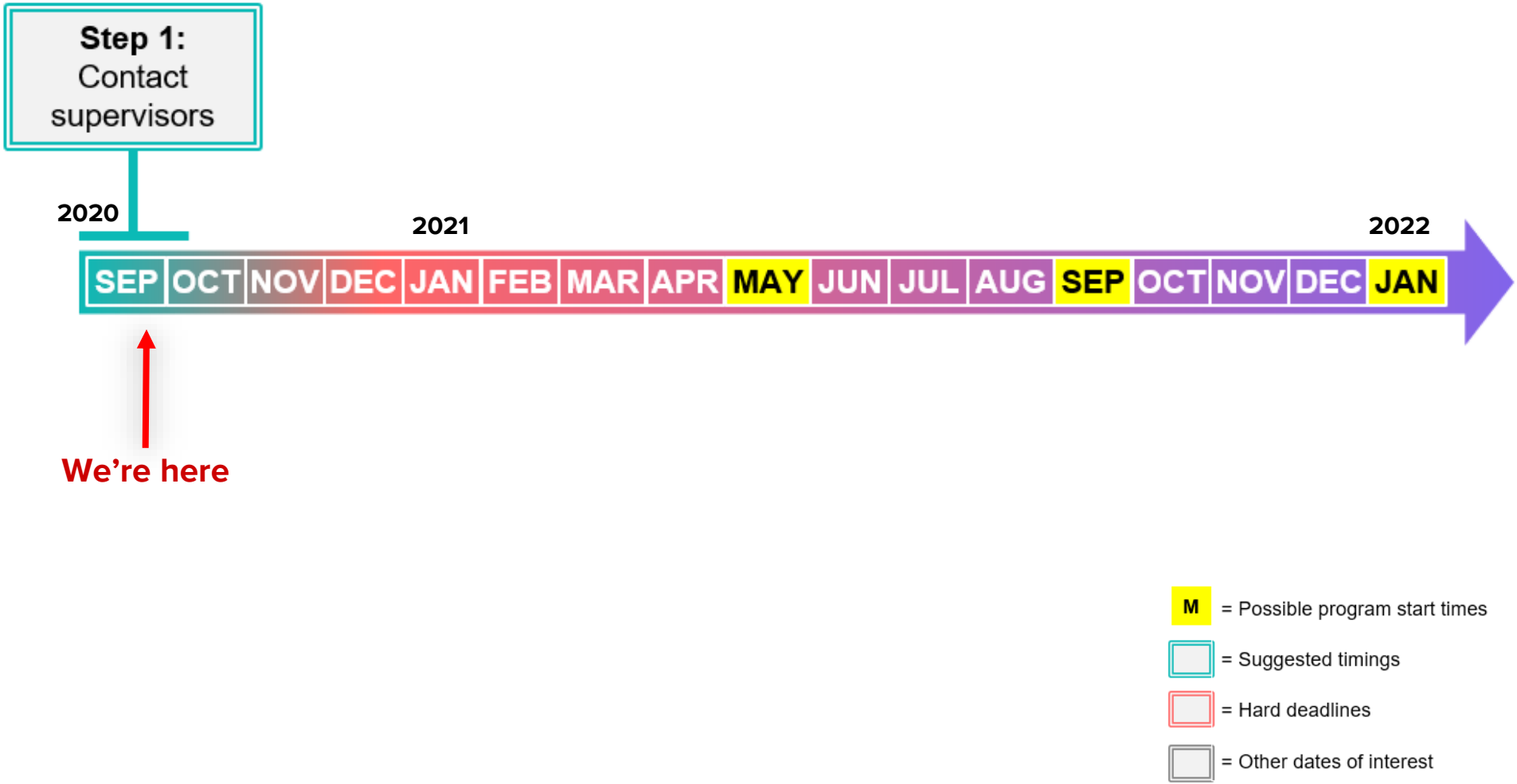
Step 1:
Contact
supervisors
2020
2021
2022
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
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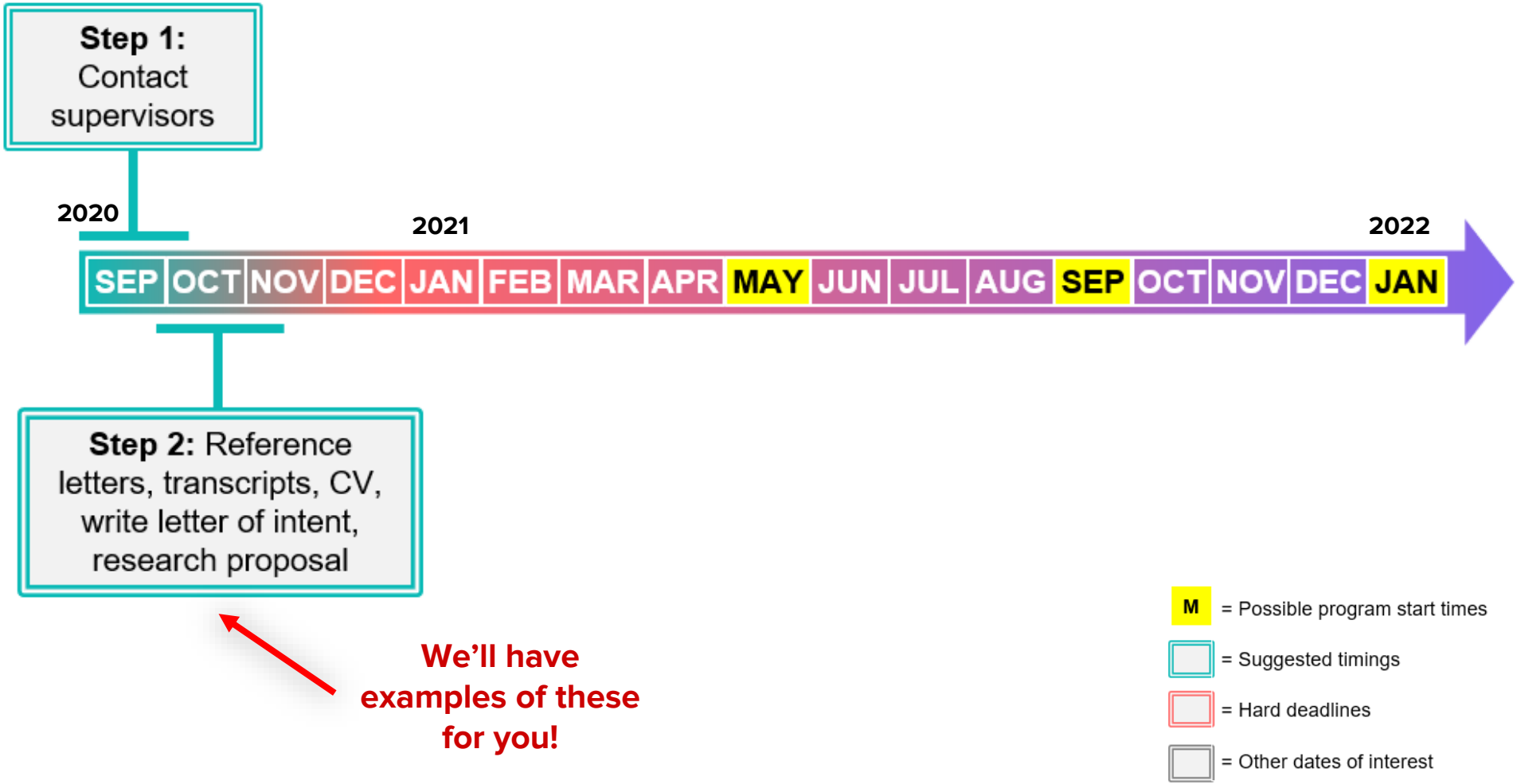
We're here
M = Possible program start times
= Suggested timings
= Hard deadlines
= Other dates of interest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We'll have examples of these for you!
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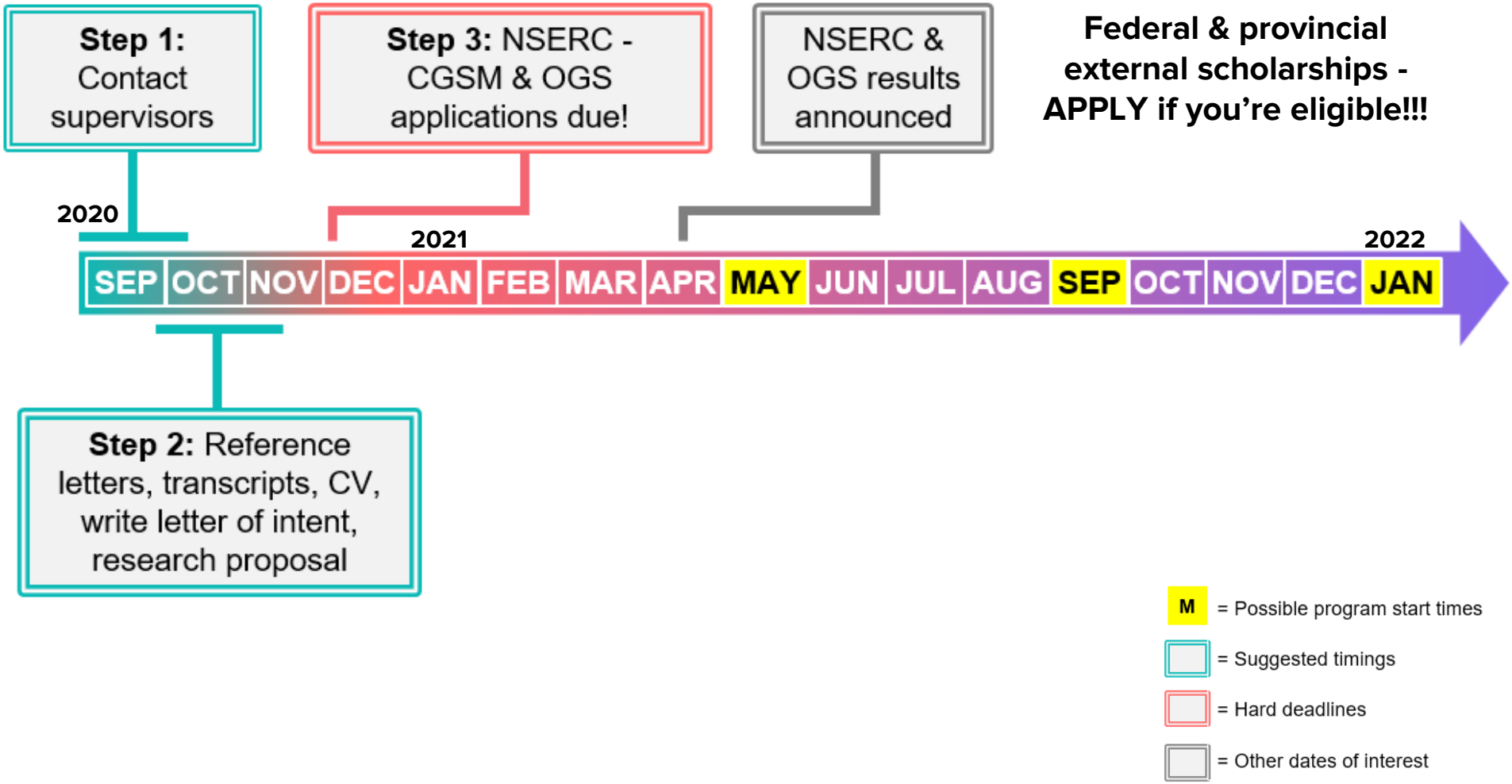
Step 1: Contact supervisors
Step 3: NSERC - CGSM & OGS applications due!
NSERC & OGS results announced
Federal & provincial external scholarships - APPLY if you're eligible!!!
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2021
2022
SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN
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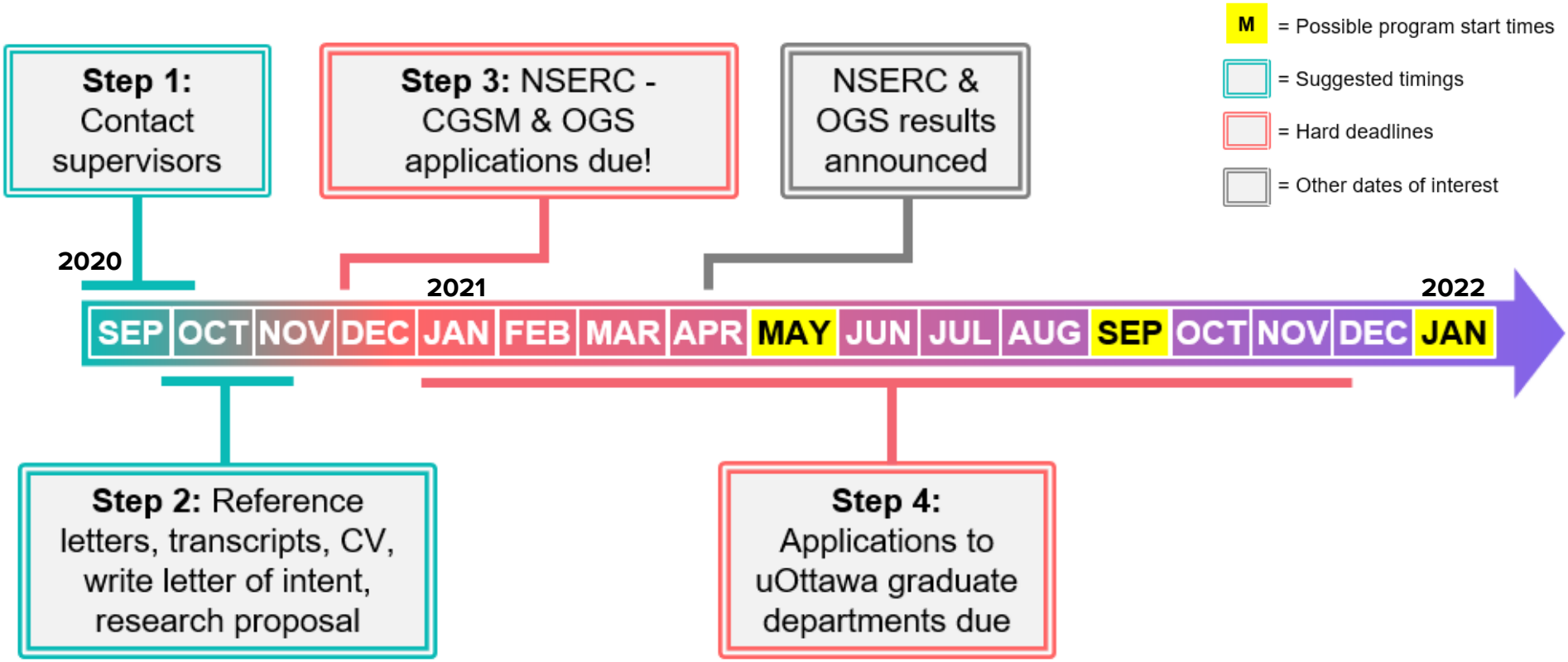


Depends on:

1. When you want to start
2. Your department of interest
3. Whether or not you're an international student

# Timeline: how do I read this?

https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/specific-requirements

## Biology, Master's

Degree Offered: **MSc**

| Application Deadline | Fall | Winter | Summer |
|---|---|---|---|
| Canadian Students: | 1 March | 1 December | 1 January |
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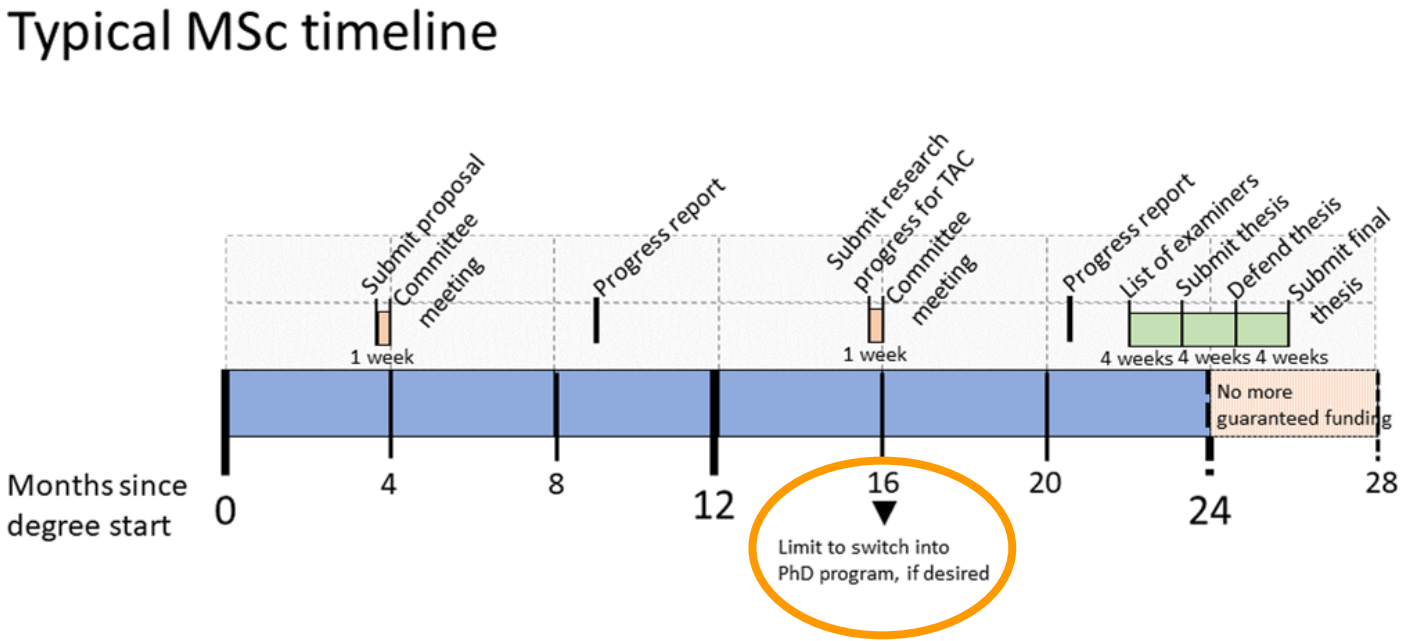
If you want to start next September, your application is due March 1st

# Typical graduate school timelines

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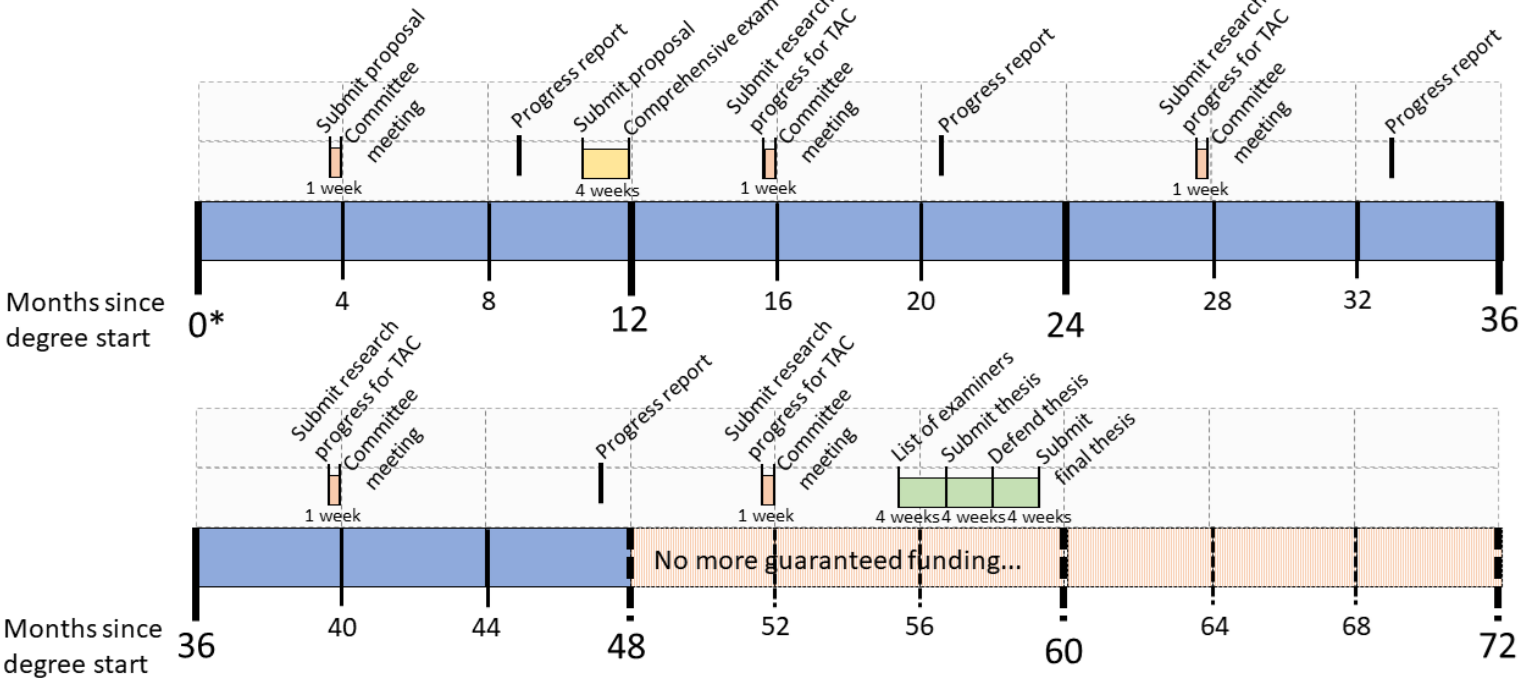
# Typical graduate school timelines

## Typical PhD timeline

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# How research works

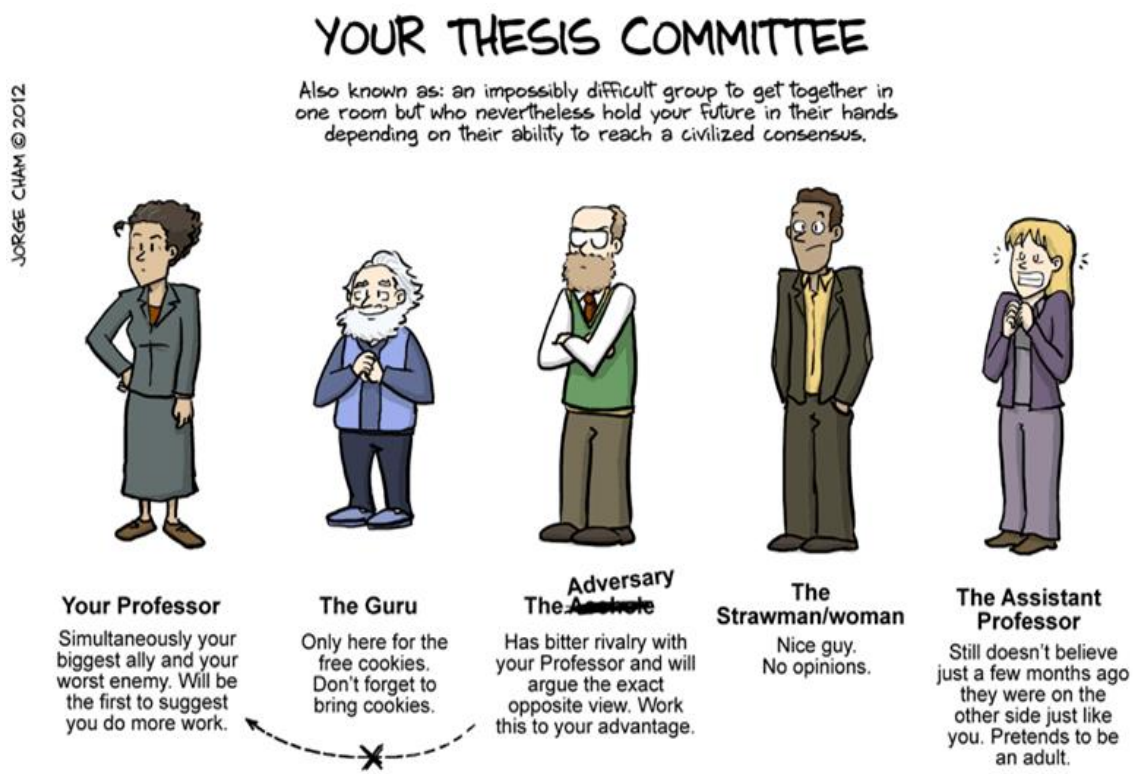
**Research topic! -** You develop this with your supervisor at the beginning of the degree
*Some profs propose fully developed project ideas to their students, others expect you to come up with it on your own. Most are somewhere in the middle.*

Grad projects could include lab work, clinical work, field work, mathematical modelling, literature review, meta-analysis, big data, *etc.*! Every thesis is different.

# How research works

**Thesis advisory committee (TAC) -** A group of 3 or more profs (including your supervisor/s) who help you develop your project and evaluate your progress. They can be a valuable resource to you!

The committee's role differs among programs: in math, only PhD students have a committee, and they do not meet regularly.



# Sharing your research

**Going to conferences (talks & posters)**

**Publishing papers (and your thesis)**

**Social media (Twitter, Instagram, TikTok)**

**Other informal ways (conversations with students, elevator pitches, *etc*.)**

# Money: Stipends and Tuition

**Get paid to do research!**

- Master's stipend $19,500 per year (Biology)
- Paid by supervisor and TAships (or scholarships)

**But you also pay to do research!**

- Tuition and fees approx. $9,000
- Deducted from your stipend

# Money: Scholarships


## Admissions Award

- Admissions average 8.0/10 (+)
- Covers tuition and fees

## Major Awards

| Award | Value | Gov. Source | Max. Duration | Deadline |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NSERC** | $17,500 | Canada | 1 year | Due Dec. 1 |
| **OGS** | $15,000 | Ontario | 2 years | Due Dec. 1 |
| **FRQNT** | $17,500 | Québec | 2 years | Due Oct. 6 |

# Money: Scholarships

**Start Soon!**

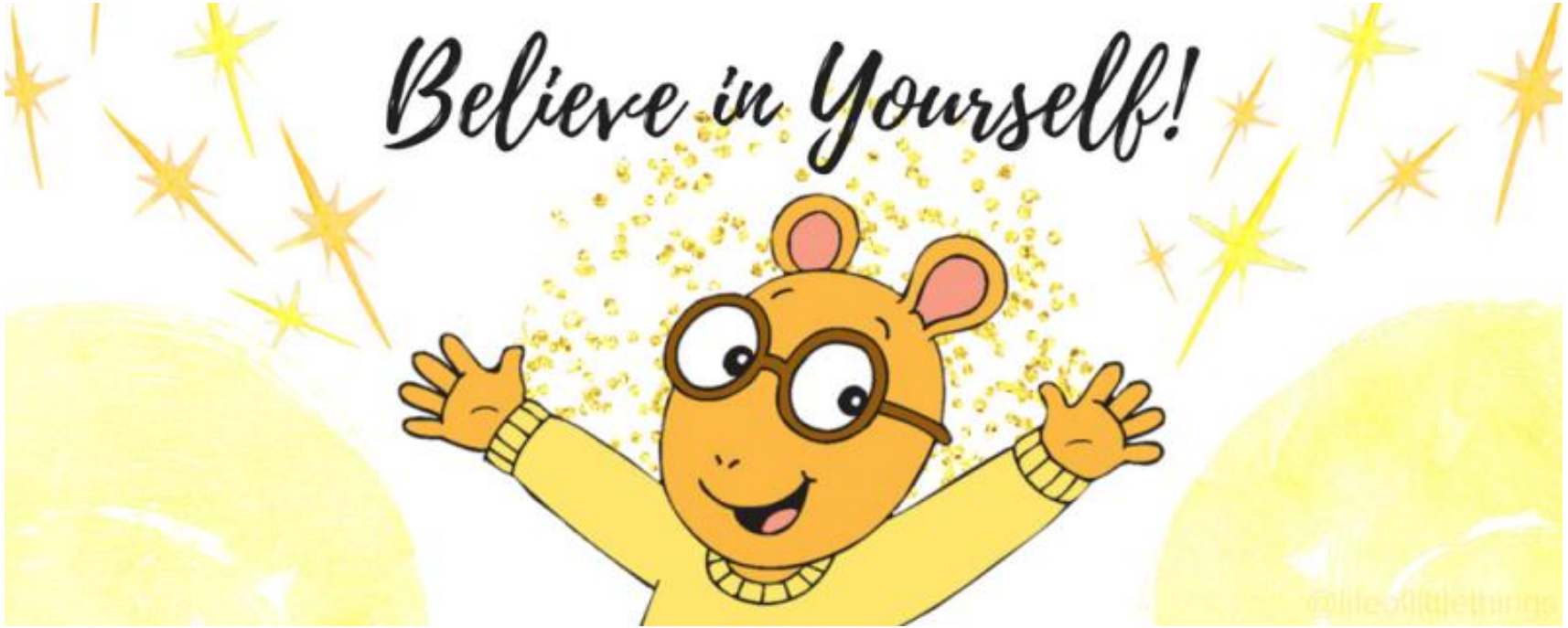
- Need research proposal, reference letters, transcripts

**Research Proposal**

- Brainstorm with supervisor/referees
- Ask for final proposal edits
- Ask for examples of successful proposals

**Can Reapply for Future Years**

# Money: Scholarships




**Believe in yourself-apply!**

# Money: For more information...

**Check department websites**

**Ask your potential supervisor**

**Look into other grants/loans (OSAP)**

**Resources for Scholarship apps:**

https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/awards-and-funding/external-awards/ogs/

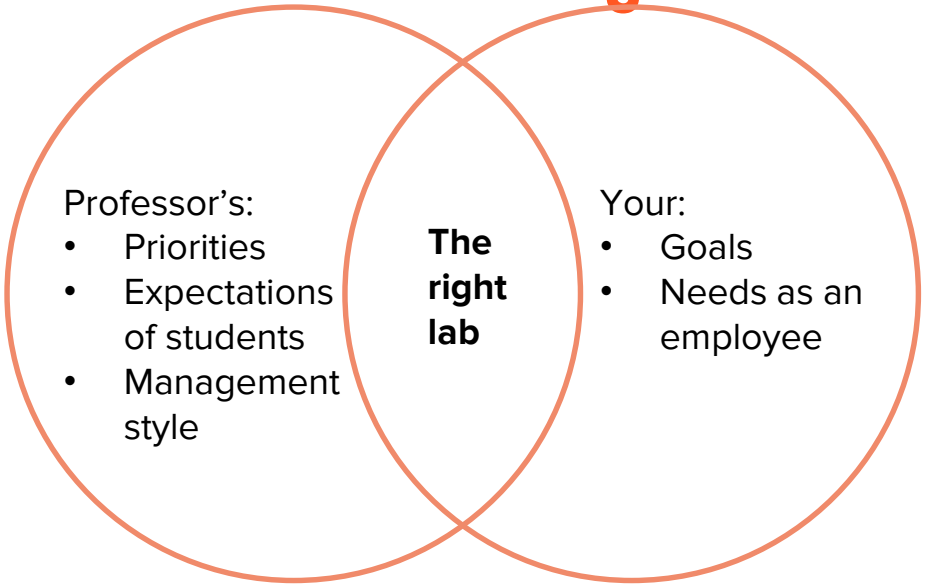
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1echiOj5ML01IHUFi9n9DNvzwFEc-AkHz/view

# Find a research lab: Contact Professors

Identify multiple research labs of interest. Send a **short** (1-2 paragraph) email:

- ❑ Are they taking new students?
- ❑ What part of their research topic/publications interests you?
- ❑ Your intended start date (Jan/May/Sept)
- ❑ What experience do you have and hope to gain?
- ❑ Attach your CV
- ❑ No reply? Follow-up in a couple weeks

# Find a research lab: Is it the right 'fit'?




- ❏ Speak with former and current students *in a setting where the supervisor is not present*

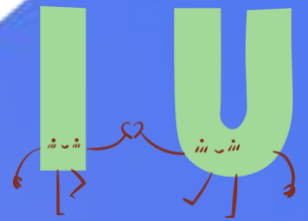
# Advice on doing research

**Messing up -** In research, things rarely work out “right” the first time. This sucks, but don’t get discouraged! It’s normal, and you will learn a lot by messing up.

**Ask for help -** Your supervisor, your labmates, and other grad students and profs can help you out if you are having trouble with something. You are here to learn!

**Mental health -** Grad school can be stressful and it’s important to take care of yourself. Remember that ***you are more than your research***, and seek help if you need it.

**Imposter syndrome** - If you feel unqualified or like you don’t belong, this is something many people go through. Believe me, you have what it takes!



# How do I benefit from graduate studies?

- Access to jobs (Susan)
- Learning to learn & troubleshoot a project (Chris)
- Got to live in the mountains for a summer (Lydia)
- Networking opportunities (Jacky)
- Professional development (public speaking, sci comm, mentorship, collaborative work, *etc*.) (Jacky)
- Freedom to be creative, explore fun ideas, and do science :) (Jacky)
- Being surrounded by some innovative and inspiring people (Olga)
- Maximum independence in time and project management (Olga)

# All this and more...

...in Lydia's *Grad School 101 Guide!*

# Any Questions?


*All of you in the future*

# Additional Resources

- **Office of Graduate Studies in Science:** gradsci@uottawa.ca
- **Super useful advice for scholarship applications:**
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NuOZOj3gsUjWFyb_pAt0sa_YbbPga_xD_IZdu1D5rzI/edit?usp=sharing
- **Guidelines on supervisor and student relations** (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/theses/supervision)
- **Modest Advice for Graduate Students**: https://stearnslab.yale.edu/some-modest-advice-graduate-students
- **Secrets to thriving in graduate school** (https://tinyurl.com/y4mc3xsg)
- **Should I Get a PhD?** https://shouldigetaphd.com/
- **Grad Studies Guidebook for the uOttawa Department of Biology** https://www.uottawabgsa.ca/docs--files.html
- **Graduate Student Handbook for the uOttawa Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences** https://uottawacgsa.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/2020-cbs-grad_guide_handbook-2020-09-12-20_24_59.pdf