

**SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF
DOCTORAL TRAINING:
CRITERIA AND CONSEQUENCES OF
ADMISSION**

**David Leyton-Brown
Executive Director OCGS**

**FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION:
COMPARING DOCTORAL TRAINING IN EUROPE
AND NORTH AMERICA
FRANKFURT November 8-10, 2006**

Canadian constitution – (higher) education is exclusive provincial responsibility

- Provincial governments:
 - Authorize universities to award degrees
 - Academic autonomy
 - Provide operating funding
 - Establish regulatory requirements
- No institutional accreditation
 - Ontario has OCGS program appraisal process

ADMISSION

- Basis of admission (criteria)
 - Academic performance in master's (GPA)
 - Reference letters
 - Research experience/potential
 - “Fit” with program/faculty strengths
 - Willingness of a supervisor (some programs)
 - Usually not GRE
 - English language fluency

RELATIONSHIP TO MASTER'S

- Route to doctorate is via master's
 - Admission on basis of prior master's degree
 - Transfer from master's
 - Not direct entry from bachelor's degree
 - Except in exceptional cases
 - But competitive pressures

DOCTORAL STUDENT POPULATION 1

- International students
 - Complications:
 - Possibly no provincial operating funding
 - Inadequate domestic applicant pool (some disciplines)
 - Numbers
 - Approx 1/3 doctoral enrolment (1990-present)
 - 20-25% Humanities, Social Sciences, Education
 - Over 50% Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering

DOCTORAL STUDENT POPULATION 2

- Gender
 - Increasing female enrolment
 - Majority undergraduate, master's
 - Increasing doctoral (1990 35.5%; 2001 46%)
 - Disciplines
 - Majority female in Education, Social Sciences
 - Parity in Humanities
 - Minority in sciences, engineering (but increasing)
 - Doctoral degrees awarded
 - Increasing % female (1990 30%, 2001 45%)

DOCTORAL STUDENT POPULATION 3

- Full time/ Part time
 - Overwhelmingly full time
 - No more than 10% except in Education

DOCTORAL STUDENT POPULATION 4

- Socio-economic status
 - Public education policy re development, social mobility
 - 4 designated groups
 - Family income
 - Lowest participation rate in bottom quartile
 - Related to tuition (increasing % revenue) and debt

TUITION FEES

- Varies by province, university
- Domestic students
 - Most about \$5000 (range 2000-6000)
 - Plus ancillary fees (most \$400-600) (some 1000-1200)
- International students
 - Some provinces same as domestic
 - Most \$10,000 - \$15,000
 - (plus same ancillary fees)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Package includes:
 - Internal/external scholarships
 - Domestic; international
 - Teaching assistantship (TA)
 - Stipend from research grants (RA)
- Minimum guaranteed funding (e.g. tuition + \$1000 per month)
- Competitive recruitment

SOCIO-LEGAL STATUS 1

- Transition from student to independent researcher/colleague
- Doctoral student is mature adult

SOLIO-LEGAL STATUS 2

- Student v employee - TA
 - Unionization
 - Adversarial collective bargaining v academic collegiality

LEGAL RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- No particular legal status apart from student
- Public health insurance (provincial)
 - Domestic – international
 - Supplementary benefits from employment or group
- Unemployment insurance (federal) – n.a.
- Parental/medical leave
 - Employment
 - Student status
- Academic rights/responsibilities

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS

- Formal – principal supervisor + committee
 - Sometimes in admission process
 - Sometimes after 1-2 years (after coursework + comprehensive examinations)
- Dissertation proposal – approved by supervisor and graduate dean
- Intellectual property policies (inventor owned)
 - Student-supervisor agreement re ownership
- Intellectual community