

Request for Calendar Change Form

Tracking No:
(Senate Secretary's Office
use only)
Date:

To From	Secretary of Senate Name(Dean): Dr. Andrew Dean Department the change relates to Geology Contact Person Dr. Andrew Conly	Faculty Science and Environmental Studies
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Is the proposed calendar change Graduate

Instructions:

1. In all cases please complete and attach sections 1 and 2
2. If the calendar change affects other departments/schools/faculties complete and attach section 3
3. If the answer to any of the questions below is yes, please explain. Attach separate sheets with reference to the question

1. Do the proposed calendar entry affect other departments/schools/faculties in terms of their calendar?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is a transition plan needed for student in progress?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Are the proposed changes likely to affect student enrollment in your department/school/faculty?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are the proposed changes likely to affect student enrollment in other departments/schools/faculties at Lakehead University?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed changes require additional teaching space and/or teaching staff and/or equipment and/or other resources?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Will the proposed changes affect existing teaching loads within your department/school/faculty?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Will the proposed changes increase demand for teaching support services such as the library, computing services and technical staff ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the proposed change require direct or in-kind support from outside the academic unit?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Do the proposed changes include a course(s) which is/are required core course(s) for a major in your, or another, department?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. Do the proposed changes include a course(s) which is/are a service course(s) in your, or another, department? Yes No

11. Do the proposed changes include a course(s) which is/are an open elective available to any student in any program? Yes No

12. Do the proposed changes include a course(s) which is/are an elective in your major that is restricted to students in your major? Yes No

Signatures:

Date approved by faculty council

April 16, 2013

Section 1

Description of the Proposed Calendar Change:

1. Allowance for leave of absence for the purpose of gaining practical experience related to the field of study in the MSc in Geology.

Rationale of the Proposed Calendar Change(s):

(Corresponding to Section 2 where required)

1

Pending changes (currently under Senate review) to the leave of absence policy for the Faculty of Graduate Studies are resulting in the removal of the statement indicating that students may obtain leaves for the purpose of gaining practical experience related to the field of study. Making it more difficult to obtain leaves will negatively impact student enrollment in the Geology MSc program. Of the ~25-30 graduate geology/earth science programs in the country nearly all have an allowance for leaves related to gaining practical experience. By not allowing students in the Geology MSc program this option will put the program at a competitive disadvantage on a national scale. Competition for graduate students is high amongst the nation's geology programs. Overall Lakehead is at a competitive disadvantage owing to many of these schools having the ability to provide increased institutional funding (i.e., \$10,000 top-up for NSERC or OGS award holders at the University of Waterloo) or marginally to substantially cheaper tuition at other institutions (i.e., Memorial University where the total degree costs is \$4,398 for domestic students and \$5,718 for international students). Not allowing leaves for the purpose of gaining practical experience related to the field of study will only put the MSc program in Geology at a greater disadvantage in terms of student recruitment. Training of students is a major goal of the newly formed Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration and challenges in recruiting students will likely have a negative impact on the success of CESME.

Practical experience leaves provide MSc candidates with work experience that future employers prefer. A geology graduate student with a MSc degree and several summers work experience from their undergraduate and graduate degrees will be substantially more marketable than a student with none or only undergraduate work experience. All of our past graduate students who have taken practical experience leaves have received long-term contract or permanent employment prior to or immediately following completion of the program. For most of these students, their employer is the company or organization that they were employed with or volunteered for while on leave.

Practical experience leaves also contribute to the work experience requirement our graduates require for professional registration as a geoscientist (P.Ge) with any of the provincial associations of professional geoscientists, as work experienced gained on a leave of absence can be credited to the four-year requirement, rather than having to complete all work requirements upon graduation. Because P.Ge certification is required in all Canadian jurisdictions, students are eager to attain their professional status as quickly as possible upon graduation as it puts them at a competitive advantage in the job market and provides them more opportunities for advancement within a company.

Section 2

Existing Calendar Entries:
(Page reference based on hard copy or URL based on electronic version of calendar)

Proposed Calendar Entries/Addition/ Deletion
-If only addition, specify page number and placement in university calendar
-If only deletion, write Deleted

1

Not applicable

To be inserted at the end of the Program section on URL page

<http://mycoursecalendar.lakeheadu.ca/pg344.html>

A leave of absence from the MSc program in Geology may be requested for the purpose gaining practical experience related to the field of study, in addition to leaves for exceptional circumstances (e.g., health problems, gaining practical experience, and compassionate grounds) and maternal/parental leaves.

The leave of absence for the purpose gaining practical experience related to the field of study is governed by the same request procedures and conditions as all other types of leaves. Students should reference the Graduate Calendar for additional details.

Section 3

The Faculty(ies) affected by the proposed calendar change

Sciences and Environmental Studies, Graduate Studies

I have been consulted regarding the attached calendar change and understand the academic and budgetary implication on my Faculty.

I agree to this calendar change proposal Yes No

If you choose "No" please explain why in the box below

Name: *Andrew P. Deen*

Faculty: *Admin D*

Date: *Apr 16 113*

Signature of Dean

Andrew P. Deen