



Media Release

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Enrolments continue to rise at NSCAD University

(Halifax, NS) - The number of full-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at NSCAD University increased again this year by 8.9 percent over last year, higher than the Maritime region's overall rise of 2.8 percent as released by the Association of Atlantic Universities.

"This is very good news for NSCAD University, and just another signpost that we are delivering on our plans and moving towards an exciting future as a centre for innovation, research and scholarship in the visual arts, crafts and design – a global destination with a long-term, sustainable future," says NSCAD University President Professor Dianne Taylor-Gearing.

"NSCAD University's enrolment increase is the result of strategic activity focused on our enrolment growth goals and our international reputation for academic excellence. I am delighted more Nova Scotia students decided to study at NSCAD, an increase of 19 percent over last year" according to President Taylor-Gearing.

Dr. James Barmby, Associate Vice-President, Office of Student Experience adds, "NSCAD University's engagement strategy also involved inviting alumni and faculty to join recruitment visits. Alumni are happy to help as a way of giving back, and also helping potential students make some very important decisions about their future. Faculty and alumni also convincingly dispel the 'starving artist' myth – we are a community of creative arts professionals." Dr. Barmby says.

International recognition of a NSCAD University degree is apparent; international student enrolment grew 35.6 percent over last year, also ahead of the regional average of 15.5 percent.

"Our faculty travel overseas to meet with students, engage with them in helping with their career decisions, and help them better understand and anticipate the NSCAD University learning and teaching environment," says Dr. Barmby. NSCAD University international students come from China, US, Bermuda and 17 other countries.

NSCAD University also experienced growth in full-time first-year students – a 9.8 percent increase indicating an increase in students coming directly from high schools across Canada despite a continued drop in senior high enrolments in the Nova Scotia (about one-third less than 20 years ago).

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“We have a high level of engagement with high school students,” Dr. Barmby says, “Approximately 50 percent of our applications come from Nova Scotia, and we intend to maintain that level by working with Nova Scotia high school students and art teachers whenever possible.”

Another area of growth for NSCAD University is in its prestigious graduate program. The number of graduate students in the Master of Design and Master of Fine Arts programs increased by 40 percent since last year. “NSCAD has expanded the Master of Design and Master of Fine Arts programs and has a leading reputation for graduate education in the arts and design,” says President Taylor-Gearing. “We are also very proud to be offering a new Master of Arts in Art Education commencing fall 2019.”

Halifax-based NSCAD University is Canada’s premier school of the visual arts, crafts and design – a national treasure for over 130 years.