




# Report on ACCUTE-GSC Survey Data 2015-2016



Graduate Caucus Lunch, **29 May 2016**  
Prepared by Elizabeth Bernath, VP ACCUTE-GSC

# 18 Schools Returned Surveys

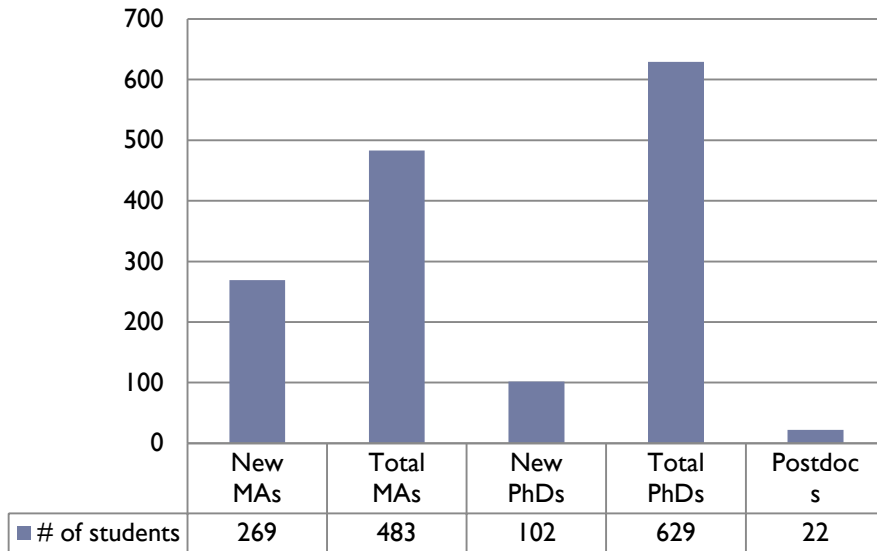
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1. Alberta
2. British Columbia, Okanagan
3. Calgary
4. Dalhousie
5. Guelph
6. Laurier
7. Manitoba
8. McGill
9. McMaster
10. Memorial
11. Regina
12. Saskatchewan
13. Simon Fraser
14. Toronto
15. Waterloo
16. Western
17. Windsor
18. York

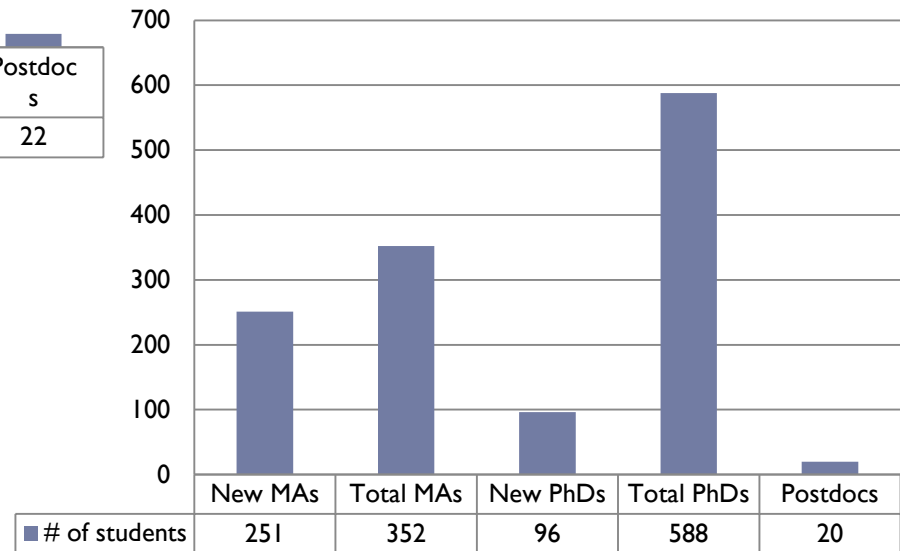


# General Statistics

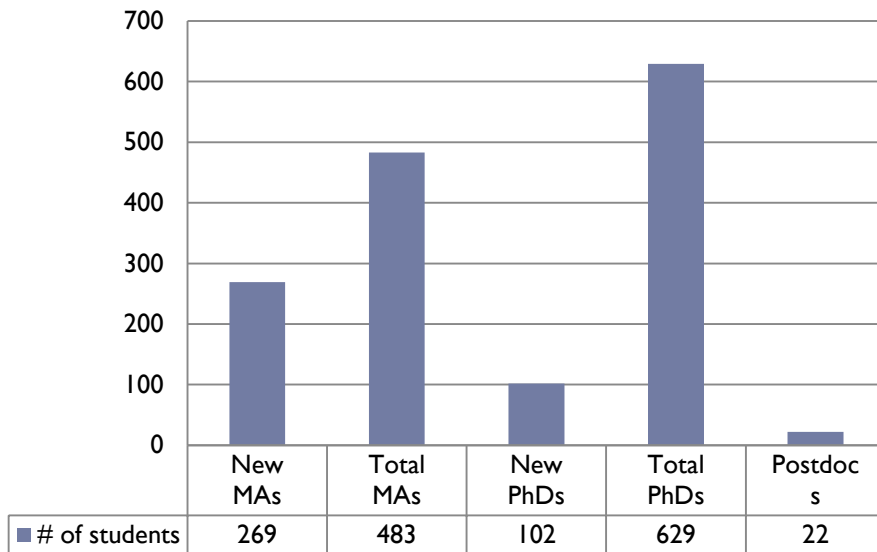
2015-2016, 18 schools



2013-2014, 15 schools



# General Statistics



Many departments still running multi-year Master's programs (5 departs are running 12 month programs).

Universities	New MAs	Total MAs	New PhDs	Total PhDs	Postdocs
Alberta	7	15	15	75	5
Calgary	6	21	6	37	2
Dalhousie	5	16	2	15	1
Guelph	14	16	2	12	1
Laurier	12	12	3	22	0
Manitoba	1	10	3	17	0
McGill	23	59	5	32	4
McMaster	40	40	12	45	3
Memorial	10	11	1	9	1
Regina	5	17	0	0	1
Saskatchewan	7	9	4	23	0
Simon Fraser	11	17	3	20	1
Toronto	46	56	12	130	1
UBC Okanagan	3	68	3	13	0
Waterloo	30	57	7	53	2
Western	13	14	10	68	0
Windsor	11	18	0	0	0
York	25	27	14	58	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>22</b>

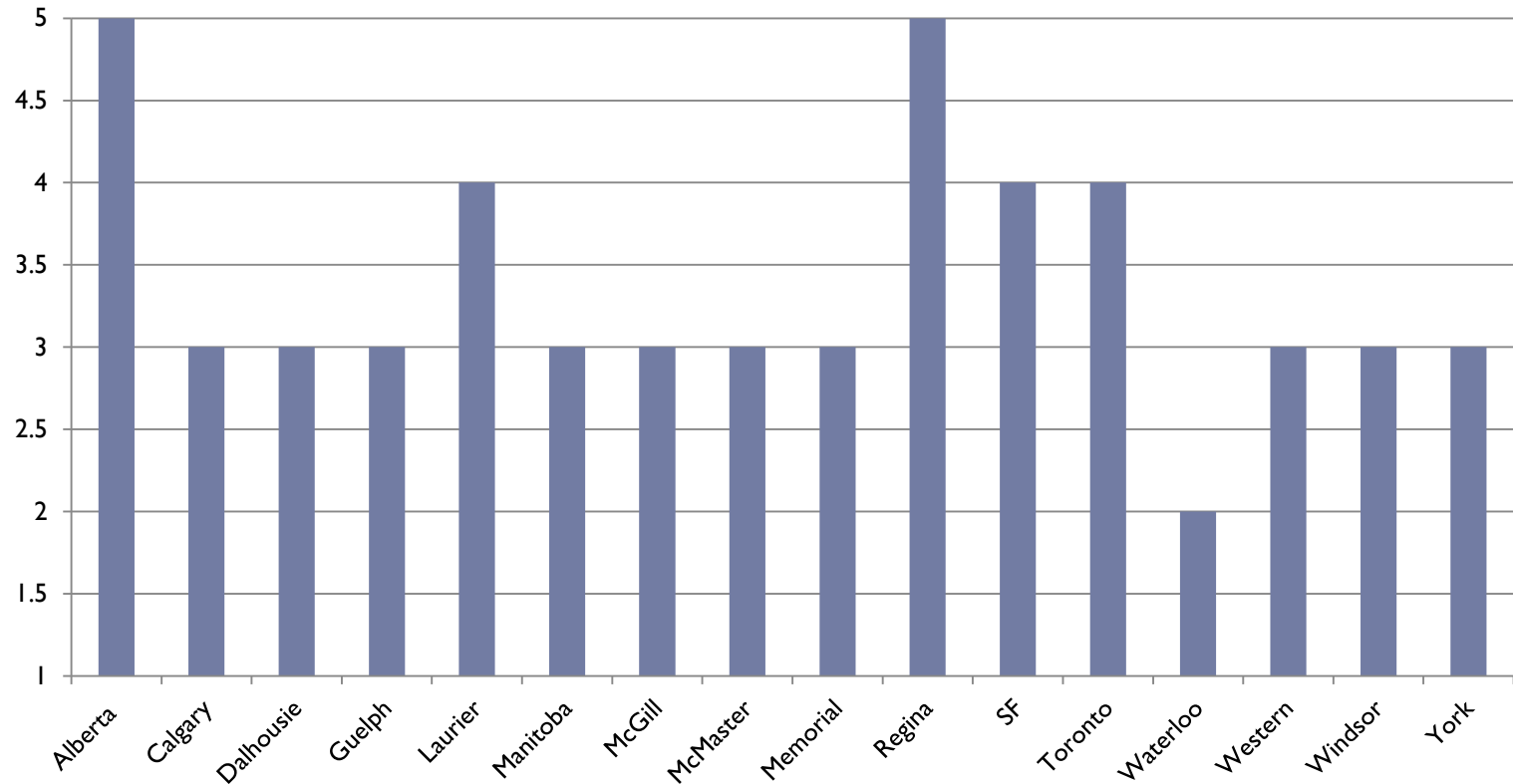
# Program Requirements

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- ▶ **Master's program options:**
  - ▶ Coursework: 16/18
  - ▶ Thesis: 16/18
- ▶ **Comprehensive exams are still the norm.**
  - ▶ Only one school reported a PhD program with alternative forms of assessment for candidacy.
- ▶ **Language requirements:**
  - ▶ MA: 5/18 require some sort of proficiency in a second language
  - ▶ PhD: 14/15 reported (the exception being McGill)



# Overall Professionalization Satisfaction



Schools Excluded for not  
Providing Full Data:  
Saskatchewan, UBC-O,



# Professionalization Satisfaction

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- a) Department offer a course that includes professionalization as a main component?
  - 9 schools reported YES
  - 8 schools reported NO
  - 1 N/A
- b) Department offer occasional professionalization workshops or training?
  - 14 schools reported YES
  - 3 schools reported NO
  - 1 N/A
- c) The faculty of graduate studies or some other body at your institution offer occasional professionalization workshops or training?
  - 15 schools reported YES
  - 2 schools reported NO
  - 1 N/A
- d) Alt-ac addressed in these forms of professionalization?
  - 11 schools reported YES
  - 5 schools reported NO
  - 2 N/A
- e) Graduate placement officer?
  - 6 schools reported YES
  - 10 schools reported NO
  - 2 N/A



# Professionalization Satisfaction

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f) Grad students are made aware that the department is hiring someone?

16 schools reported YES

1 school reported NO

1 N/A

g) Grad students are encouraged to be involved in the hiring process (e.g. to attend presentations/meetings, to submit comments to faculty, etc.)?

13 schools reported YES

2 schools reported NO

3 N/A

h) Grad students are involved in the hiring decision (i.e. given a vote)?

7 schools reported YES

9 schools reported NO

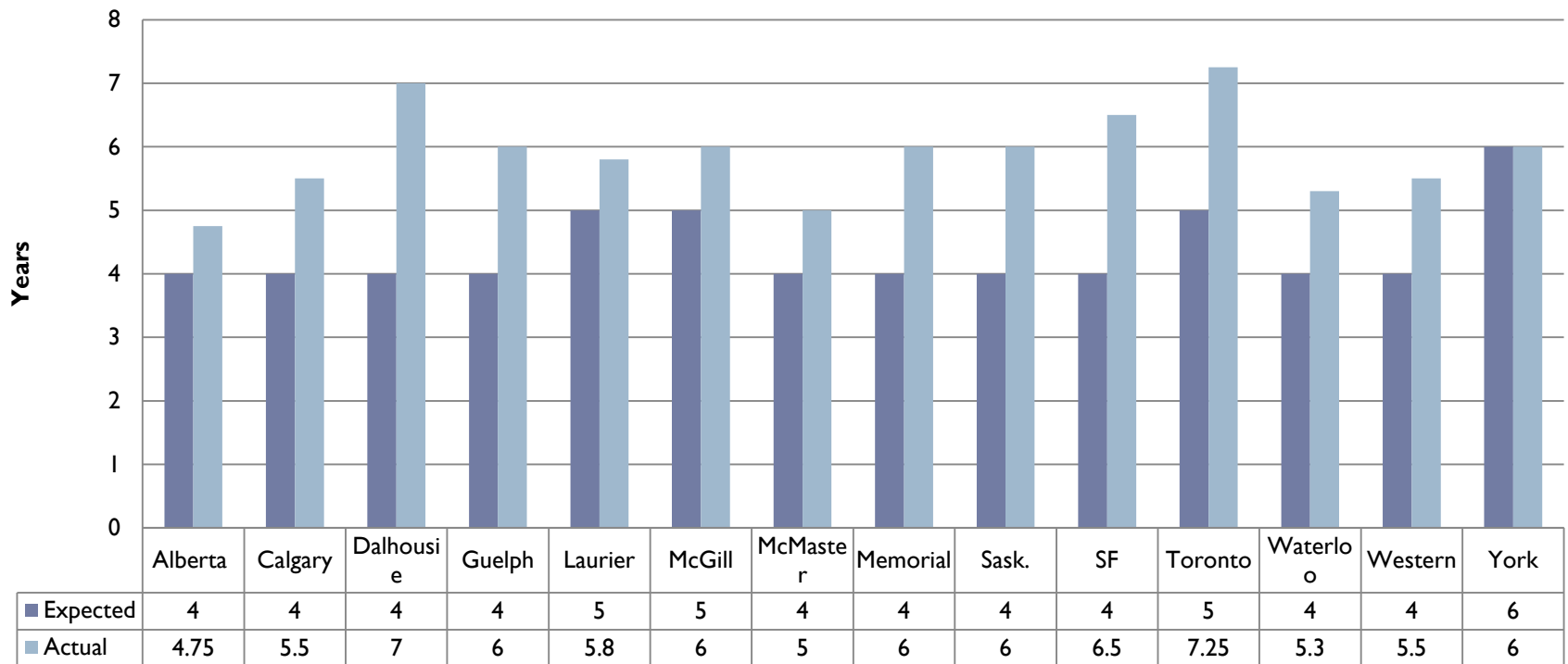
2 N/A

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# Ideal v. Actual Years for PhD Completion



Schools Excluded for not  
Providing Full Data:  
Manitoba, Regina,

Only York has matching expected and ideal and only  
Alberta and McMaster have an actual completion of  
5 years or less.

# Tuition Costs Per Term

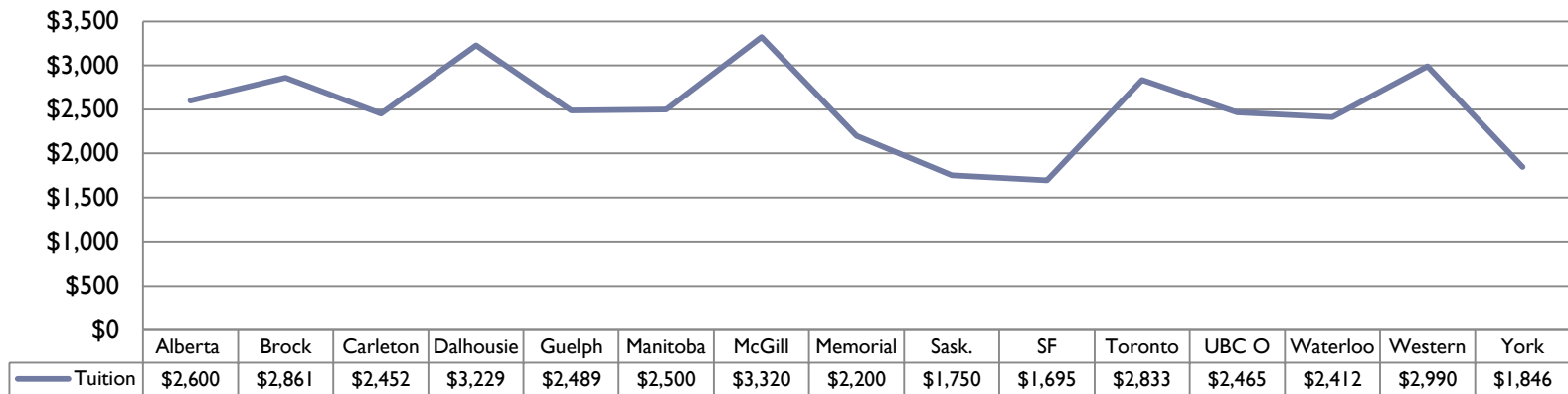
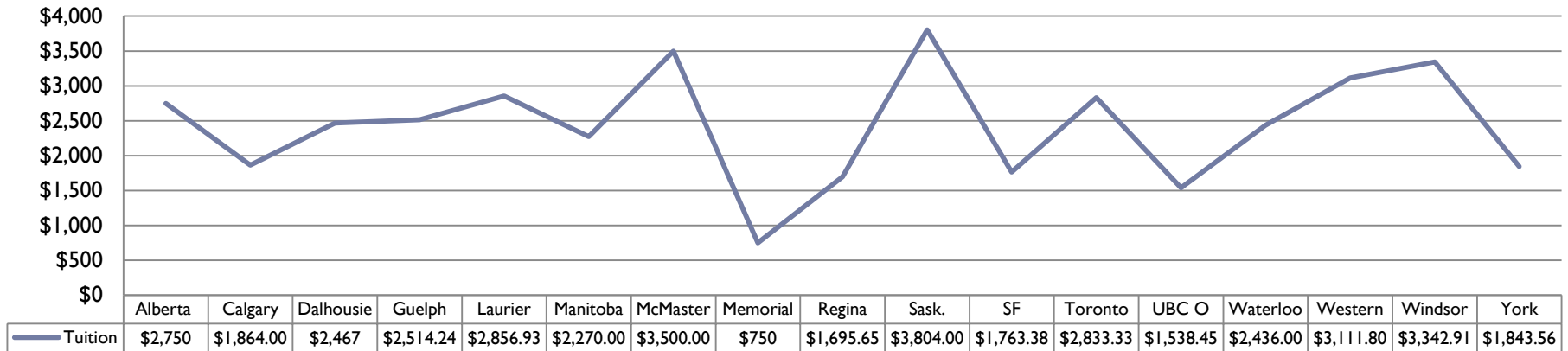


Tuition appears to be significantly higher in Ontario compared to other parts of the country.

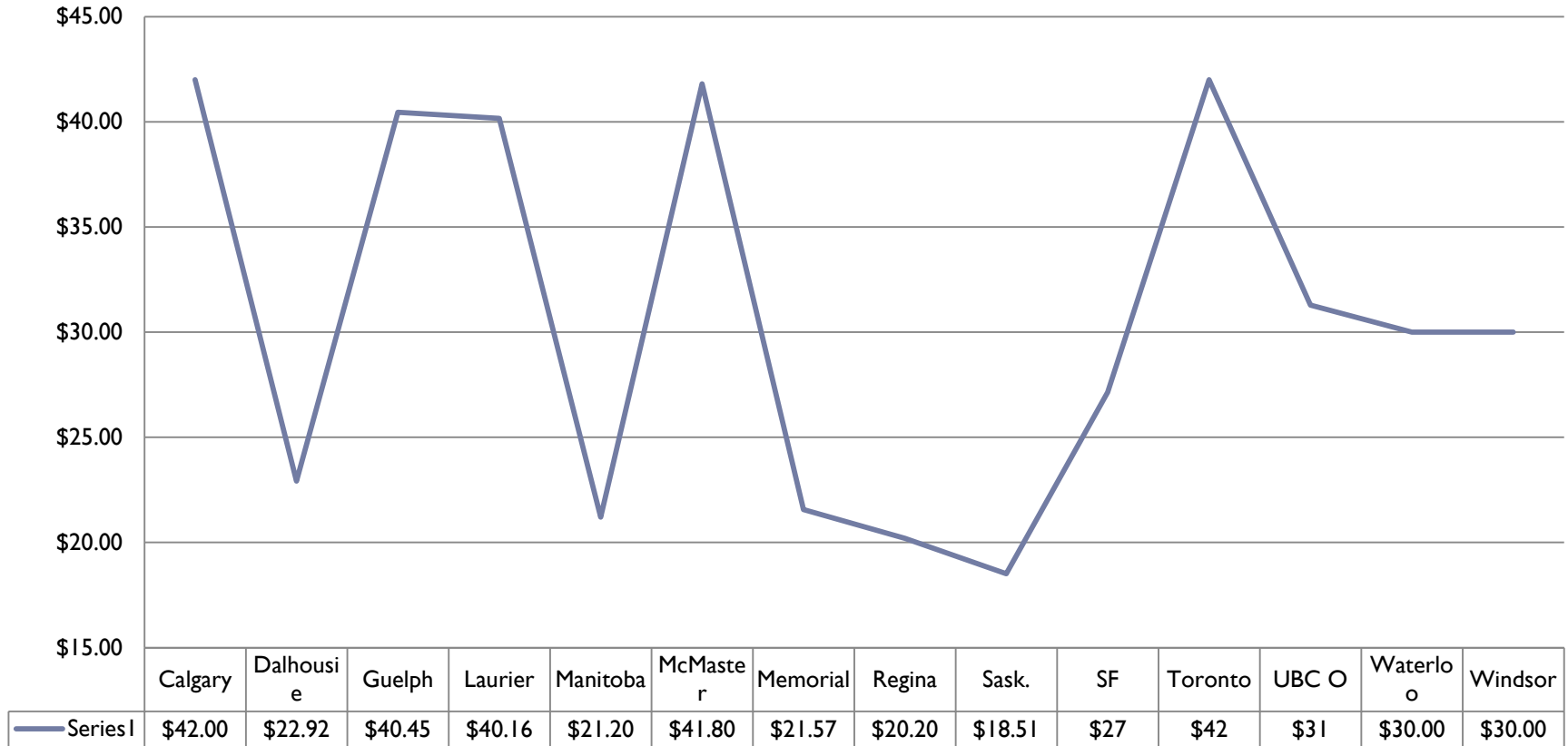
Only 3 universities reported some form of reduced tuition during the later years of

▶ PhD candidacy.

# Tuition Costs Per Term



# Rate of T.A. Pay



# Funding Concerns

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- ▶ Reduced tuition for PhD candidates is far from standard.
- ▶ At least 4 schools reported no period of guaranteed funding.
- ▶ 12 schools reported some sort of reduction to internal funding with the reception of external awards.
- ▶ Difficult to discern a pattern or standard for top-up awards.
- ▶ Although every school reported some form of travel funding, it is sometimes inadequate and usually far from complete.



# Other Areas of Concern

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- ▶ The sizeable gap between how long universities say it takes to complete a PhD ... **and how long it actually does.**
- ▶ 4 schools reported no guaranteed opportunity for teaching during the supposed time it takes to complete (4 years)
- ▶ Office space is often limited.
- ▶ Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Waterloo do not have TA/RA unions!



# Issues with the Survey

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- ▶ Need to ask for guaranteed funding amounts per year, especially since this has been an area of public concern lately.
- ▶ Revised & shortened for 2016-2017, but perhaps switch to online survey (Survey Monkey?).
- ▶ Not fully representative. Every school not surveyed is a gap in the whole picture!
- ▶ To this end, we need to secure representation in every department.



# Representation to the GSC of ACCUTE

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- ▶ Happy to report all 18 schools have some form of departmental grad student society.
- ▶ All 18 have elections, but only 9 stated that the ACCUTE grad rep is elected.
  - ▶ We would like election to be the norm not the exception.

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