

8888 University Drive
Maggie Benston Centre, RM 1100
Burnaby B.C. Canada V5A 1S6

TEL +1 778 782 3042
SFU.CA/GRADUATE-STUDIES

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** August 21, 2025
FROM Mary O'Brien,
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies
Committee (SGSC)
RE: Graduate General Regulation 1.11 Publication of Thesis

**For Approval:**

At its meeting on June 3, 2025, SGSC reviewed and approved the revision Graduate General Regulation 1.11 Publication of Thesis. This gives rise to the following motion, effective Summer 2026:

Motion:

That Senate approve the revisions to Graduate General Regulation 1.11 Publication of Thesis effective Summer 2026.

Simon Fraser University Maggie Benston Centre
1100 8888 University Drive Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3042
FAX 778.782.3080

gradstudies@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/grad

MEMORANDUM —

ATTENTION Mary O'Brien, Chair of Senate

DATE 16 May 2025

FROM Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Pamela Stern, Graduate Studies Associate Dean, Curriculum and Policy

RE: Graduate General Regulation Change:
GGR 1.11 Publication of Thesis



Motion:

That SGSC approve the proposed changes to GGR 1.11 Publication of Thesis

Summary and Rationale:

The proposed changes were developed by a Working Group convened to review the processes and procedures relevant to theses at SFU. Once the Working Group completed its work, their proposed changes were reviewed by 6 faculty-level graduate program committees.

The proposed changes clarify the composition and responsibilities of examining committees. They also provide students and their supervisory committees to invite a non-academic specialist to participate in the examination and to act as an advisor to the committee. There is no requirement that such a specialist be included.

Recommendations:

That SGSC approve the proposed changes to GGR 1.11 Publication of Thesis

1.11 Publication of Thesis

When the thesis **or research project** is submitted to the library, the student shall authorize the copying and publication of the thesis as follows.

1.11.1 Partial **Non-Exclusive** Copyright License

~~Except as noted in 1.11.3, the~~ The student shall sign a **non-exclusive partial** copyright license which grants to the university **for the full term of copyright, without payment of royalties**, a non-exclusive ~~worldwide, irrevocable, royalty free~~ license to **electronically, in print, or in other formats, archive, preserve, produce, reproduce, convert, publish, archive, and communicate and distribute the thesis or research project to the public for accessibility, research, education, and scholarly purposes**. ~~Multiple copying is not permitted without written permission from the author except that, if the author is unobtainable, the dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies may give this permission.~~

1.11.2 Reproduction

~~Except as noted in 1.11.3, the student shall sign an agreement form authorizing Library and Archives Canada to reproduce the thesis and to sell microfilm copies on request. SFU may grant to Library and Archives Canada a sub-license to do any of the acts referenced in 1.11.1 and, specifically, to make the work available to the public electronically, in print, or in any other format, via Library and Archives Canada's Thesis Canada database.~~

1.11.3 Postponement of Publication

The results of research conducted at Simon Fraser University **normally** should be **openly** available ~~freely~~ to the public, and it is expected that theses **and research projects** will be placed in the **University's online** institutional repository immediately following final revisions. It is the responsibility of graduate students to ensure that this policy is communicated clearly to relevant individuals and organizations outside the university prior to the initiation of any research project.

A postponement will delay the inclusion of a thesis **or research project** in the **University's online** institutional repository and from copying for a period of 12 months from the date of examination of the ~~thesis work~~. Postponement requests are normally approved if made for the following reasons: if there is real and immediate risk to the researchers, ~~or~~ collaborators, **or subjects (including physical sites and non-human lifeforms)**; patent pending or protection of intellectual property; publication pending in restrictive venue.

A postponement request must be made in writing **to the Faculty of Graduate Studies** prior to the submission to the Library. The submission process and timeline remain the same; however, a copy of the thesis or **research** project shall not be made available in the ~~Library~~ **University's online** institutional repository during the restricted period.

In rare and exceptional circumstances, a postponement of publication may be extended for an additional 12-month period. Requests for such extensions should be submitted 60 days prior to the expiration of the current postponement.

1.11.4 Publication of the **Thesis Work** by the Student

None of the clauses above precludes the student from publishing the **thesis work** in any form at any time.