

## President and Vice-Chancellor, Charlotte Yates' welcome message to incoming graduate students.

### University of Guelph Graduate Student Orientation, Fall 2020

#### **Transcript:**

#### **[gentle music]**

Hi, I'm Charlotte Yates, President and Vice Chancellor at the University of Guelph. I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome you to your graduate studies at the University of Guelph. I am sorry that I cannot do it in person, as we normally would do. I have very fond memories of my own time as a graduate student. I remember it as a time when I studied hard to become an expert in my field, that I became more rigorous in my approach to learning and research, and that I was introduced to great minds and new ideas.

For you, COVID-19 means that your start to graduate studies will be a little different. Most of your classes will be delivered remotely, and for those of you accessing research facilities, this access will require compliance with a number of safety-oriented measures, including physical distancing and the use of masks and possibly other PPE.

At the same time, please trust that many parts of your graduate studies will be unimpacted. For example, our faculty are committed to providing you with first-class training, be it in designing and executing original research, or completing classes that will advance your professional opportunities.

Our Student Life team is here to support your needs and to provide outlets for fun. You will undoubtedly meet new friends and have many new experiences and opportunities. You will be part of our Gryphon family, which means you will be supported every step of the way as you push yourself to expand your knowledge, build your potential, and improve life.

Let me close by acknowledging that over the past few months, you will have faced many challenges and dealt with uncertainty as you navigated life during COVID-19. Your determination and your accomplishments have taken you far and prepared you for this next exciting step in your academic career. I wish you the best of luck with your studies.

#### **[End of Transcript]**