

Funding Policy

All Thesis-Based Graduate Programs in the Cumming School of Medicine (MDBC, MDIM, MDMI, MDGI, MDNS, MDCV, MDSC, MDCH)

Approved by: Faculty of Graduate Studies, April 12, 2022.

Policy Effective September 2022

The purpose of funding thesis-based students is to provide financial support to individuals pursuing their studies full time and in the absence of significant professional work. Working professionals may not be eligible for stipend support from their supervisors or program funding and are encouraged to pursue the self-funding option.

1. The Minimum Doctoral Stipend for students enrolled full time in the PhD program is
 - For Domestic Students \$27,000 and the maximum* amount is \$37,000 annually guaranteed for 5 years.
 - For International Students \$28,000 and the maximum amount is \$38,000 annually guaranteed for 5 years

Students who are fully funded by an external agency (such as the scholarship agency of a foreign government) to an amount equal to or greater than the Program-Set Minimum Doctoral Funding Amount may be admitted without additional funding, with approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

2. The Minimum Stipend for Master's students enrolled full time in an MSc program is
 - For Domestic Students \$25,000 and the maximum amount is \$32,000 annually guaranteed for 2.5 years (30 months) of enrolment.
 - For International Students \$26,000 and the maximum amount is \$33,000 annually guaranteed for 2.5 years (30 months) of enrolment.

Stipends are guaranteed for five years for PhD and 2.5 years MSc students in good standing. The above financial support and its continuation is contingent on continued research and adequate progress through the program, as indicated by a rating of 'satisfactory' on the Annual Progress Report and an average of a B (3.00/4.00) with no grade less than a B- in any of the graduate courses taken. There is an expectation that supervisors will continue stipend/scholarship support after the guaranteed time frame until completion of the thesis, as long as the student maintains satisfactory progress. Funding may not be guaranteed during program extensions, and decisions to discontinue funding will be made in consultation with the supervisor committee and the graduate program director. Funding will continue during thesis revisions until submission or until the students begins a new program/employment. If the supervisor cannot continue stipend/scholarship support after the guaranteed time frame, this must be communicated to the student in writing at least 6 months in advance.

3. International students may receive a tuition scholarship from the Graduate Science Education office or the Faculty of Graduate studies (International Graduate Tuition Award). Funds from the international graduate tuition scholarship are not included in meeting the minimum Doctoral or

Masters stipend requirement. For students beginning their program prior to May 2020, payments will be pro-rated based on tuition paid, depending on when the candidacy requirements are met during the academic year.

4. To be eligible to receive financial support, a student must be registered full time and active in program. Students receiving funding from their supervisor's grant must fulfil their supervisor's reasonable expectation regarding attendance and activity in the research environment as determined by the student's supervisor/supervisory committee and noted in the APR (see above).

For Students in ALL programs except MDCH (or non MDCH students)

5. All of the following count toward meeting the student's guaranteed funding amount (i.e. the amount guaranteed in the student's offer of admission):
 - Stipend/scholarship payment from supervisor's research grant
 - External scholarships, including, but not limited to SSHRC/NSERC/CIHR/AIHS/AITF/AGES charitable organizations.
 - Internal scholarships, including university competitions such as the Graduate Awards Competition
6. Income from the following sources is *not* counted toward the student's guaranteed funding amount:
 - GAT/GANT income*
 - Income as sessional instructor
 - Internal scholarships from the graduate program
 - International graduate tuition award

For MDCH Students

7. All of the following count toward meeting the student's guaranteed funding amount (i.e. the amount guaranteed in the student's offer of admission):
 - Stipend/scholarship payment from supervisor's research grant
 - GAT/GANT income
 - Research assistantship income from supervisor's research grant
 - External scholarships, including but not limited to SSHRC/NSERC/CIHR/AIHS/AITF/AGES/charitable organizations
 - Internal scholarships, including from the graduate program, or university competitions such as the Graduate Awards Competition
8. Income from the following sources is *not* counted toward the student's guaranteed funding amount :
 - Income as sessional instructor
 - International graduate tuition award

Visiting Students

9. Visiting Students are students who come from another institution and are registered as full-time graduate students through a specific a graduate program and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. While they are enrolled in a Cumming School of Medicine graduate program at the University of Calgary, they will received funding that is equal to or greater than the minimum stipend set out in this policy. If their home Institution does not provide stipend funding, or if that funding is below the CSM minimum stipend levels, then their supervisor at the University of Calgary will be required to provide a stipend to ensure that they receive a total amount that is equal to or greater than the guaranteed CSM minimum stipend for the duration of their time at the University of Calgary. University of Calgary graduate students who become visiting students at another institution will continue to receive, at minimum, the same stipend support they received while at the University of Calgary. This funding may come from a variey of sources (including but not limited to, scholarships, awards, funding from the host institution or supervisors grants).

For students in ALL programs:

10. Students in all programs are strongly encouraged to apply for internal and external scholarships for which they are eligible.
11. Success in external and internal scholarship competitions will affect the student's funding in the following way:

For scholarship value of:

- \$0-\$3,000 – The student is allowed to keep the award up to a combined maximum of \$3,000 in addition to their base funding.
- \$3,001-\$10,000 (cumulative awards) – The award goes towards the student's base funding and the student receives a \$3,000 top-up over their base funding.
- \$10,001-15,000 (cumulative awards) – The award goes towards the student's base funding and the student receives a \$4,000 top-up over their base funding.
- Over \$15,000 (cumulative awards) – The award goes towards the student's base funding and student receives a \$5,000 top-up over their base funding, up to a maximum of \$38,000 for MSc students and \$43,000 for PhD students
- Exclusions – TOR for specific scholarships where there is mandatory contribution from the supervisor (i.e., CSM where 20K+10K or ACHRI which is 11.5K=11.5K) and Funding from a First Nations, Metis or Inuit organization (i.e., band funding or similar)

Base Funding is described as the amount of funding the student is guaranteed by the program prior to receiving the award.

12. Students are responsible for paying tuition and fees annually.
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-fees-expenses.html>.

13. Students with funding from university sources can apply for a payment plan.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-fees/graduate-student-payment-plan>

It is expected that stipends will be consistent among students within the same lab/research group, at similar stages in their program, when receiving funds from a supervisors operating grant and/or program level support. For those students receiving scholarships, supervisors will follow the payments outlined in section 11 of this policy.

Supervisors are strongly encouraged to bring all students up to the minimum amounts. However, effective September 2022, supervisors cannot accept any new students until all of their current students are paid the new minimum.

**Cases can be made to the Associate Dean – GSE to exceed the maximum funding level under exceptional circumstances, and for GATs to be included in the guaranteed. Normally, graduate students enrolled in full-time programs in the CSM cannot be self-funded and will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. This policy will be reviewed at minimum every 3 years.*