

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 4, 2019

1. The Minimum Doctoral Stipend for students enrolled full time in the PhD program is \$23,000 and the maximum* amount is \$33,000 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 is \$21,000 and the maximum amount is \$28,000 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 PhD 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. Funding may not be guaranteed during program extensions and decisions to discontinue funding will be done 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. Funds from the international graduate tuition scholarship are not included in meeting the minimum Doctoral or Masters stipend requirement. Payments will be pro-rated based 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 students supervisor/supervisory committee and APR (see above).

To be eligible for scholarships/stipends paid as scholarships offered by the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) graduate programs, or competitive university scholarships, a student cannot hold paid employment for more than 612 hours a year while registered as a full-time student. This includes hours worked as a GAT or GANT.

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/QEII/charitable organizations.
 - Internal scholarships, or 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 student tuition scholarship

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/QEII/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 student tuition scholarship

For students in ALL programs:

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

For scholarship value of:

- \$0-\$3000 – The student is allowed to keep the award up to a combined maximum of \$3000 in addition to their base funding.
- \$3001-\$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 \$33,000 for MSc students and \$38,000 for PhD students
- Exclusions – TOR for specific scholarship where there is mandatory contribution from the supervisor (i.e. CSM where 20K+10K or ACHRI which is 11.5K=11.5K) and Indigenous Government Funding

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

11. Students are responsible for paying tuition and fees annually.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-fees-expenses.html>.

12. 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 10 of this policy.

**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 funding. Normally, graduate students enrolled in full-time programs in the CSM cannot be self-funded.*

This policy will be reviewed at minimum every 3 years.