

Graduate Awards – CSM/Institute

11 January 2026

FGS Fair Distribution Policy

Purpose

- Distribute *university*-wide competitive academic awards among eligible graduate students
- Maintain graduate programs' autonomy for Program Recommended awards

Types of Internal Funding



- Program Recommended Awards
- Open Doctoral
- Special Awards
- Transformative Talent Internships

Funding Limits (Internal Awards + Internships)

Master's



\$32,000
annually

Doctoral



\$45,000
annually

Students may hold one single award that exceeds the limit

External Funding



- No UCalgary limit on external funding (e.g., Tri-agency CGRS, Mitacs)
- External funding considered when assessing eligibility for internal awards to maximize access for all students

Program Recommended Awards

Students holding the maximum amount or less may also receive one additional Program Recommended Award, unless otherwise specified by the award terms of reference.

Graduate Scholarship and Award Regulation

Graduate Award Funding Limits

Master's

Effective
May 2025

\$32,000

Doctoral

Effective
May 2025

\$45,000

**One single award
can exceed the limit.**

What does not count toward the limit?



Graduate Support Allocation



Supervisor Funding



Graduate Assistantships



International Graduate Tuition Awards



Indigenous Government Funding



**Non-Academic Awards
(e.g., Travel, GSA,
Tri-Agency Supplements)**

CSM Graduate Student Funding Policy *(Effective until August 31, 2026)*

- **Minimum Stipend Requirements**

- All thesis-based students must receive at least the annual minimum stipend (MSc \$27K–\$35K; PhD \$29K–\$37K for 2024–25).
- Supervisors cannot accept new students unless current students meet this minimum.

- **Funding Duration & Conditions**

- Guaranteed for **2.5 years (MSc)** and **5 years (PhD)**, contingent on satisfactory progress.
- Students must be full-time and actively engaged in research.

- **Scholarships & Top-Ups**

- Students are expected to apply for internal/external awards.
- Awards up to \$5K can be kept with no impact on base funding
- Awards of \$5,001 and greater reduce base funding but allow top-ups (\$5K–\$8K based on award size).

Ensuring Transparency in Award Adjustments

- Adjustments are **not** part of the Fair Distribution Policy.
- Award values can only be adjusted if explicit instructions are stated in the Terms of Reference (ToR)
 - If not stated, the award must follow the Fair Distribution Policy.
- **Avoid Ambiguous Language**

Phrases like *“award will be adjusted”* or *“may be adjusted”* create confusion for:

 - Students receiving the award
 - Graduate Scholarship Officer (GSO) administering the award
 - Programs/ Institutes/Supervisors
- **Greater risk of errors when administering awards** if adjustment instructions are not clearly defined in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Equity Concerns with Adjustments not Stated in ToR

- **If adjustment rules are not in the ToR, Programs/Institutes can make inconsistent decisions.**
- **Example of inconsistency:** When three different doctoral students were offered Award X and Award Y, the Institute's approach varied each year:
 - **Year 1:** Student A can hold both Award X and Award Y.
 - **Year 2:** Student B can hold Award X, but Award Y is adjusted to \$45,000 to align with policy.
 - **Year 3:** Student C can hold Award X, but must give up Award Y.
- **Different students with the same award may be treated differently if ToR lacks clear award adjustment instructions.**
- **Impact:**
 - Undermine fairness
 - Are non-compliant with university guidelines
 - Have auditing implications