

Harmonized Student Stipend Arrangements
for the Basic Science Departments in the Faculty of Medicine

2007/8

2008/9

2009/10

The following constitutes the agreement that has been reached by the Chairs of the Basic Science Departments in the Faculty of Medicine. (Departments of Biochemistry, Immunology, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, Medical Biophysics, Molecular & Medical Genetics, Nutritional Sciences, Pharmacology, and Physiology)

1. Stipend Rate:

- MSc - \$23,900; PhD - \$24,900
- All paid as a stipend (i.e. T4A income).
- This rate is "fixed" for a 3 year period, beginning September 2007, for the 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10 academic years.

For three departments (Nutritional Science, Pharmacology and Physiology), this new stipend rate will be phased-in, preferably over two years, but certainly within the three years.

Once all eight Departments achieve payment of the same stipend rate as described above, the Chairs and Vice Dean will decide whether additional, harmonized increases to the stipend rate will be implemented effective in the 2010/2011 academic year (also see 5 below).

2. "Top-up" Practices

A student who receives \$10,000 or more, as a major, competitive, and external award, will be provided with an additional \$3,000 'top-up' or bonus. In such cases, the student will be paid the amount of his/her award plus the difference between his/her award and the stipend rate plus a \$3,000 top-up, resulting in a total payment of \$26,900 for MSc or \$27,900 for PhD students.

Payment of "top-ups" will occur for the duration of the award. Thereafter, payments to the student will revert to the base level stipend paid by the Department.

A Ph.D. student who has held such eligible competitive funding, for the full duration of their eligibility (i.e., for 4 consecutive years) will be eligible for the top-up for one year beyond the duration of the award.

Awards eligible for "top-up", must be major, competitive, external and not restricted to a small group of students. They may, however, be restricted by topic area. Eligible awards include: CIHR, NSERC, OGS, NCIC, Vision Science Research Foundation, Heart & Stroke Foundation, and Diabetes Foundation. The list of eligible awards will be reviewed and agreed upon annually by the Chairs and Vice Dean (see 5 below).

Students who receive certain external awards in an amount greater than \$26,900 for MSc or \$27,900 for PhD (e.g., Canada Graduate Scholarship) will be entitled to keep the additional funds but will be ineligible for a further top-up.

Where the above differs from current "top-up" policies already in place in the various Departments, the existing policies will be honoured for students enrolled before September 2007.

3. Supplements

Needs-based awards, such as OGSSTs and OSOTFs may be eligible to be retained as a supplement to the base stipend if they are administered by the University and are not restricted to a particular geographic node (e.g., hospital RTC-based awards are ineligible) or to a small group of students.

A student receiving an award of \$2,000 or less will be entitled to keep this award as a supplement to his/her stipend. For OGSST and OSOTF awards greater than \$2,000, the student will be given a supplement of \$2,000. The remainder of that award will be considered as part of the stipend, which will be adjusted accordingly.

Payment of supplements will occur for the duration of the award. Thereafter, payments to the student will revert to the base level stipend paid by the Department.

Bursaries, such as the SGS Bursary Program, which assists students with sudden and unexpected financial need are **not** part of the funding package outlined above. A student is, therefore, eligible to retain the entire amount of such an award.

4. Funding Term

In general, provided that he/she remains "in good standing", a student will be funded for the duration of his/her program. An MSc student is normally expected to complete and defend his/her thesis within 2 to 3 years, while a PhD student is expected to complete and defend his/her thesis in 5 to 6 years.

Once the supervisory committee has agreed that the student has completed all necessary laboratory experiments needed for writing his/her thesis, an MSc student will have a maximum of 3 months and a PhD student a maximum of 6 months in which to prepare the thesis and schedule a defense. The stipend will continue to be paid to the student during this period.

If the defense is not scheduled within the three or six months, respectively, as described above, the student must apply to the Chair and/or Graduate Coordinator for an extension. The continuation of stipend payments is not guaranteed, but is at the discretion of the supervisor and Department.

5. Annual Review

The Basic Science chairs will meet with the Vice Dean, Graduate Affairs, every January to discuss the funding policy and make any adjustments necessary for implementation effective the following academic year.

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June 12, 2007