

**Harmonized Student Stipend Arrangements  
for the Basic Science & Clinical Graduate Departments in the Faculty of Medicine**

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

1. Stipend Rate:

- MSc - \$24,500; PhD - \$25,500
- All paid as a stipend (i.e. T4A income).
- This rate is "fixed" for the 2010-2011 academic year and will be revisited in January 2011 for subsequent years.

2. "Top-up" Practices

A student who receives \$15,000 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 \$27,500 for MSc or \$28,500 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, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Foundation, and Canadian Diabetes Association. The list of eligible awards will be reviewed and agreed upon by the Chairs and Vice Dean (see 5 below).

Students who receive certain external awards in an amount greater than \$27,500 for MSc or \$28,500 for PhD (e.g., Doctoral Canada Graduate Scholarships and the Vanier) will be ineligible for a further top-up.

3. Supplements

Needs-based awards, such as 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 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 4 to 6 years. Funding is guaranteed for a minimum of 2 years for MSc students and 5 years for PhD students.

As appropriate, once the supervisory committee has agreed that the student has completed all necessary 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.

If the thesis writing phase is very prolonged, the continuation of stipend payments is not guaranteed, but is at the discretion of the supervisor and Department.

5. Annual Review

The Chairs of the Basic Science Departments and the Director of IMS 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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