

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, the Institute of Medical Science and the Vice-Dean Graduate Affairs in the Faculty of Medicine.

In previous years the Harmonized Student Stipend was structured as a fixed annual stipend (e.g. 2010-11 PhD students received \$25,500). Beginning in 2011-12, it will be structured as a living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees. This change will make students' stipends independent of tuition fee increases.

1. Total Stipend:

- MSc - \$17,000 living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees;
- PhD - \$18,000 living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees
- All paid as T4A income
- The living allowance is "fixed" for the 2011-2012 academic year and will be reviewed annually in subsequent years (see 5 below).

2. *Top-up* Practices

A student who receives \$15,000 or more, as a **major, competitive, external** award, will be provided with an additional \$3,000 *top-up* in recognition of receiving an external award. In such cases, the student will be paid the amount of his/her award plus the difference between his/her award and the total stipend plus a \$3,000 top-up.

Payment of *top-ups* will occur for the duration of the award. Thereafter, payments to the student will revert to the graduate student funding package amount. 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 limited group of students, such as those at a hospital-based research institute. They may, however, be restricted by topic area. Eligible awards include: CIHR, NSERC, OGS, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association and other national and international funding agencies. Additional awards that meet these criteria may also be eligible for *top up*.

Students who receive an award of greater value than the total stipend plus \$3000 (e.g., Doctoral or Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships) 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 funding package 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 total 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 total 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 total 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 total stipend 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 student will continue to be paid the total stipend 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 funding 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 annually with the Vice Dean, Graduate Affairs to discuss the funding agreement and to make any adjustments necessary for implementation effective the following academic year.

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