

**Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement  
for the Basic Science Departments, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, and the Institute of  
Medical Science in the Faculty of Medicine (2015-16)**

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 and Life Sciences Education in the Faculty of Medicine.

**1. Total Stipend:**

- MSc - \$17,340 living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees\*;
- PhD - \$19,380 living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees\*
- All paid as T4A income

\* The Faculty of Medicine is maintaining the domestic 2013-14 stipend amounts for 2015-16.

**2. Centralized Entrance Scholarships**

For the first time, the Office of the Vice Dean, Graduate and Life Sciences Education will be offering merit based entrance scholarships valued at \$2,000 each, to a limited number of the most highly rated applicants to the 9 graduate departments as a centralized recruitment strategy. A student who receives such an Entrance Scholarship, approved by the Office of Graduate and Life Sciences Education, will be eligible to retain the full amount over and above his/her total stipend. As a result of this new centralized process, no other “admissions” or “recruitment” incentive funds may be offered by individual graduate departments. Doing so would be considered a violation to the Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement.

**3. Top-up Practices**

A student who receives \$15,000 or more, as a **major, competitive, external** award, will be provided with an additional \$4,000 *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 \$4,000 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, 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*.

OGS is not considered an external award in the Faculty of Medicine. Although it is valued at \$15,000, only \$10,000 is provided by the Ontario Government as a scholarship; therefore, it is no longer eligible for top-up, as of 2015-16.

Students who receive an award of greater value than the total stipend plus \$4,000 (e.g., Doctoral or Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships) will be ineligible for a further *top-up*.

**4. Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Funds (OSOTF) Awards**

Students who receive funding from needs-based/merit awards, such as OSOTFs are required to consider such funds as part of their total stipend.

**5. Bursaries**

Non-repayable grants, such as the SGS Emergency Grant, 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.

**6. Funding Terms**

In general, provided that he/she remains “in good standing”, a student will be funded for the duration of his/her thesis-based program. Funding is guaranteed for 2 years for MSc students. For PhD students funding is guaranteed for a minimum of 5 years, which includes 1 year as an MSc student.

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 **4 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 four 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.

**7. Annual Review**

The Chairs of the Basic Science Departments and Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, and the Director of IMS will meet annually with the Vice Dean, Graduate and Life Sciences Education to discuss the funding Agreement and to make any adjustments necessary for implementation effective the following academic year.

Attendees:

Harvey Anderson

Peter Burns (delegate John Sled)

Richard Hegele

Allan Kaplan

Mingyao Liu

Justin Nodwell

Ruth Ross

Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker

Regrets:

Steffen-Sebastian Bolz

Howard Lipstitz

October 2014

February 2015 (amended)

August 2015 (amended)