



Faculty of Medicine Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement 2016-2017

The following constitutes the Agreement reached by the Chairs of Departments of Biochemistry, Immunology, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Medical Biophysics, Molecular Genetics, Nutritional Sciences, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Physiology, the Institute of Medical Science and the Vice-Dean, Graduate and Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Medicine. This agreement excludes graduate students registered in the Clinician Investigator Program.

Total Stipend

The FoM will be increasing the student living allowance by approximately 3.5% in 2016-2017:

2016-2017 Student Stipend for doctoral-stream Masters and PhD

Domestic			International	
MSc	PhD		MSc	PhD
18,000.00	20,000.00	Living Allowance	18,000.00	20,000.00
7,030.00	7,030.00	*2016-17 Tuition	20,530.00	20,530.00
25,030.00	27,030.00	Total	38,530.00	40,530.00

*2016-17 Incidental, System Access & Ancillary Fees, and UHIP for international tuition are not included – TBA

1. Merit-based Entrance Scholarships (MES)

Merit-based Entrance Scholarships, valued at no more than \$2,000 each, can be offered to up to 20% (based on previous year's enrollment) of the most highly rated applicants as determined by the participating graduate units. A student who receives such an Entrance Scholarship, approved by the Graduate Unit offering admissions, will be eligible to retain the full amount over and above his/her total stipend. No other "admissions" or "recruitment" incentive scholarships may be offered by individual graduate units. Doing so would be considered a violation to the Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement.

2. 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.

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 research topic area. For example, eligible awards include but are not limited to 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*.

For 2016-17, OGS recipients will be rewarded with a top-up amount of \$2,000. It was also agreed that this amount (\$2,000) will be paid to 2015/2016 OGS award winners.

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

3. Awards Under \$2,000

Starting in Fall 2016, any student awards under \$2,000 can be kept by the student over and above the total student stipend. This includes all internal University awards, such as OSOTF awards.

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. Because many of these awards are hospital-based and each hospital has its own rules regarding top-up practices (some allow it and some do not), it was decided that until the practice can be harmonized across all the awards that these awards will remain as part of students 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 under these circumstances is therefore eligible to retain the entire amount of such an award.

6. Funding Terms

In general, provided that he/she remain “in good standing”, a doctoral stream student will be funded for his/her thesis-based program, as follows:

- MSc students are guaranteed funding for their first 2 years.
- PhD students are guaranteed for a minimum of 5 years, which includes 1 year as an MSc student (i.e., transfer from MSc to PhD students). There is currently no ceiling for how long students will receive stipendiary support. This is left to the discretion of individual departments.

7. Annual Review

The Chairs/Directors below agree to meet at least annually with the Vice Dean, Graduate and Academic Affairs, to discuss this funding Agreement and to make any adjustments necessary for implementation effective the following academic year.