

MIDAs Frequently Asked Questions

The MIDAs program will accept its last cohort of students in the Winter 2011 semester. International PhD students currently receiving the MIDAs will be grandfathered into the program and will continue to receive the MIDAs as long as they maintain their eligibility.

Question:

I am an international student who will register for my first semester of my PhD program in May 2011. Am I eligible for the MIDAs Program?

Answer:

No. The MIDAs program is being phased out in favour of a graduate funding mechanism that allows for development of funding programs at the Faculty level. This will allow Faculties to accommodate the unique situations of their own students. For more information on funding programs available to you, contact the [Graduate Program Coordinator](#) in your department/unit.

Question:

I am an international PhD student currently receiving a MIDAs. Will I continue to receive the MIDAs?

Answer:

Yes. The MIDAs program is being phased out in favour of a graduate funding mechanism that allows for the development of funding programs at the Faculty level. This will allow Faculties to accommodate the unique situations of their own students. However, International PhD students currently receiving benefit from the program will continue to do so until they no longer meet the eligibility requirements.

Question:

How is a department to fund the 1/3 of the international tuition supplement? The Faculty passed on the cost of the funding to the departments without providing additional monies. The department is not able to cover the cost and is wondering what their options are, including whether or not they can opt out or not.

Answer:

Dr. Martin Kreiswirth responded to this question at the Senate meeting of March 28th, 2007. The cost sharing distribution between departments and faculties is at the discretion of the faculties. The department and faculty must come to an agreement. Departments and Faculties may not opt out of the MIDAs program.

Question:

In order to receive the Doctoral Award for an International PhD student, does the student have to be fully funded (by the supervisor or otherwise)? I ask this question because many Departments in this Faculty do not require full funding of their students and may ask this question.

Answer:

No. Students don't have to be fully funded to receive a MIDAs. As long as they're international students paying the international tuition fee supplement, they qualify. Everything will happen at the student accounts level. The students do not directly receive any money, nor do the department or the faculty. This is simple and efficient, since it means no student has to apply for the MIDAs and no department has to nominate a student for one.

Question:

Are these going to be in effect for the Fall and Winter terms only or are they going to be in effect for summer sessions where international students, in the past, registered for terms of residency during the summer (when the DFW were granted) so that as to accelerate their residency requirements. For example, a PhD 1 student will need to satisfy 8 terms of residency. If he starts in September 2007 and only fall and winter terms are counted, when will he be finished his residency?

Answer:

Actually, the summer registrations with a DFW accelerated residency requirements in very rare cases. It didn't affect eligibility for fellowships or affect the time to attain time limitation. What it did, in effect, is accelerate the time to attain additional session fees. They were maintained in PhD4A until they hit the time they would have attained PhD5A, in order not to be penalized for eligibility for fellowships or time limitation. Using a summer DFW to accelerate residency has a positive impact only if you expect time to completion to be before the end of the PhD3 year (where you need a second term of full-time registration in PhD3.)

Question:

In cases where the Faculties have devolved some of the cost of the MIDAs program to departments, can research grants be used to cover part of the cost of the MIDAs program?

Answer:

There are serious obstacles to using research grant funds to contribute to the MIDAs program. Research grants are governed by rules and regulations on the use of grant funds.

- Several research grants limit the amount that can be paid as a stipend to graduate students. If a supervisor already pays the maximum allowed stipend to a graduate student, an additional award (the MIDAs contribution) cannot be paid to the graduate student from that research grant.
- Granting agencies stipulate that all expenses must be traceable to the final expenditure (e.g. direct stipend payment to the graduate student). The assessment mechanism for MIDAs does not allow direct payment from a research grant to the student. Contributions to a general cost centre account or to an operating fund are not allowed.
- Only expenses authorized by the use of grant fund regulations can be charged to a research grant. Departments and Faculties may re-evaluate whether they will charge research grants for authorized expenditures previously covered by their operating funds.

Question:

Can the Faculty's share of indirect costs of research be used to cover some or all of the cost of the MIDAs program?

Answer:

The share of indirect costs and overhead on research agreements and contracts that is redistributed to Faculties can be used, at the discretion of the Faculty, towards the costs of the MIDAs program.

However, payments to graduate students are not allowable expenses under the federal and Quebec indirect costs programs.

Question:

Can the Faculties and Departments use Activity codes to track MIDAs transactions?

Answer:

Yes, but it is entirely optional. Activity code **007681** was created for the purpose of tracking MIDAs transactions by Faculties and Departments who wish to track MIDAs transactions by activity code.