


Funding and Parental Leave – Graduate students and postdocs holding tri-agency fellowships

Tri-agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC) have the same policy. It can be found here: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Guides-Guides/TriRTA-TriBFR_eng.asp#interruption.

DISCLAIMER: *The information below is an extracted summary from the official agency websites provided for information only. You MUST verify the information and the impact of interruption on your progress in your program.*

Interruption of award - An award may be interrupted after it has been activated, if the following conditions are met:


- All interruptions must be approved by the institution **before** being submitted to the agency.
- A  [Request for Deferment of Start Date or Interruption of Award](#) form must be completed and the required supporting documentation must be sent to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca for approval **at least one month** before the start of the interruption.
- Once signed, the form must be submitted to the funding agency.
- For CGS M awards, award holders must contact Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca to request an interruption of award; no documentation should be sent to the agencies.
- The end date of the award will be extended by the duration of the leave.

Paid interruption - An award may be interrupted for a period of up to twelve months for paid parental leave.

- Interruptions for this purpose **must be taken within six months** following the birth or adoption of the child.
- Award holders may request a parental leave for every occasion of birth and/or adoption that occurs during the tenure of their award.
- Multiple births upon the same occasion (e.g., twins) do not increase the duration nor the value of the leave.
- Interruptions **require supporting documentation** such as proof of birth or adoption.
- Award holders must be the **primary caregivers** for the entire duration of the interruption.
- The supplement (payment) is **equivalent to the value of the monthly stipend for up to 12 months**.
- If both parents hold a federal granting agency award and choose to request paid parental leave from their agencies, they must share the paid leave for a cumulative maximum of 12 months.
- Interruptions for this purpose do not affect the period of time allowed for other interruptions.
- **Approval of paid parental leave is subject to the availability of agency funds.**


Reinstatement of award – Notification must begin at Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS).

For all **CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC doctoral awards paid by Canadian institutions** and **Vanier CGS and PDF awards paid by Canadian institutions**.

- To reinstate an award, graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca must receive a  [Request for first instalment or reinstatement of award paid by Canadian institution](#) form.
- Request for reinstatement of award should be submitted up to six weeks in advance of the award holder returning to their research or studies.
- Failure to submit the necessary documentation in a timely manner will delay the payment of the award.
- Once signed, the form will be returned, and the student must submit it to the appropriate funding agency.

Unpaid interruptions - An award may be interrupted for a period of **up to three years** for parental or medical reasons and/or because of family-related responsibilities.

- Interruptions may be taken as one large interruption or in smaller increments.
- Interruptions for this purpose do not affect the period of time allowed for other interruptions.
- Permission for an interruption will require appropriate supporting documentation (e.g., birth or adoption certificate, or medical note).

Interruptions greater than one year must be confirmed by submitting a new  [Request for Deferment of Start Date or Interruption of Award](#) form on an annual basis; however, no new supporting documents will be necessary.