

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Minimum Funding Policy for Thesis-based Graduate Students

Overview: Full-time MSc-Thesis and PhD graduate students in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences will receive funding to support for their living expenses, tuition and fees. A student's funding may come from a combination of sources including, but not limited to, the supervisor's research funds, Graduate Excellence Funds, Differential Fee Waivers, and scholarships awarded to the student. Travel and presentation awards do not contribute to the minimum funding package. Funding will be provided to students for a minimum of two years for MSc-Thesis programs and for five years for PhD programs. Shorter periods of funding support are acceptable if the final thesis is submitted prior to the end of these time limits. It is strongly encouraged that funding be extended until submission of the final thesis. Students must demonstrate adequate progress and meet required program milestones. Annual minimum funding levels are outlined in the *FMHS Graduate Student Funding Policy Rates* document.

1. Minimum Funding Package:

The minimum funding package for thesis-based graduate students will include a base living allowance plus tuition, fees and health insurance.

This funding should be provided until the end of MSc2 or PhD5.

Funding is expected to continue during thesis revisions until the revised document is submitted unless the student begins a new program/employment prior to submission.

If the supervisor cannot continue funding support beyond the end of MSc2 or PhD5, this must be communicated to the student and graduate program director in writing at least 6 months in advance.

Decisions to discontinue funding will be done in consultation with the advisor/supervisory committee and the graduate program director.

It is expected that funding will be consistent among students within the same lab/research group, at similar stages in their program, when receiving funds from a supervisors operating grant and/or program level support.

The minimum funding levels will be reviewed annually by a committee chaired by the Associate Dean, Biomedical BSc, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The committee will include faculty and student representatives.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible to receive financial support, a student must be registered full-time and active in their program.

Students must fulfil the reasonable expectations regarding attendance and activity in the research environment as determined by their signed Letter of Understanding and the student's advisory/supervisory committee.

Continuation of funding is contingent on the student being in good standing, including

- Continued and adequate progress in their research program
- Annual progress tracking reports with a rating of 'satisfactory'. If the student has 2 consecutive 'unsatisfactory' progress tracking reports, funding may be suspended and the student may be asked to withdraw from the program.
- An average of B and no grade less than a B- in any required courses

A student cannot hold paid employment for more than 180 hours/term including work as a TA, while registered as a full-time student as per [McGill University's guidelines](#).

3. Sources of Funding

Funds to support the student's funding package may include, but are not limited to

- Supervisor's research grant
- External scholarships, including, but not limited to tri-council agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC), FRQ, and other charitable organizations.
- Internal scholarships, or university competitions including Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Internal Studentships, HBHL, GCRC, Research Institute awards
- International tuition scholarship

Income from the following sources is **not** considered part of the student's funding package:

- Teaching assistant positions
- Income as sessional instructor
- Self-funding

4. Top-Up Policy*

Students in all programs are strongly encouraged to apply for external scholarships for which they are eligible. It is expected the scholarship will contribute to the student's funding AND that the student's funding will be increased above the minimum funding in recognition of the award.

Awards <\$35,000: All recipients of internal or external awards are to be provided a supplement to the total funding package that is not less than 10% the value of their award.

Awards >\$35,001: A minimum 10% supplement to the funding package is at the discretion of the supervisor/program. Out-of-province and international tuition/fee/insurance differentials should continue to be provided.

Note that these supplements may be increased at the supervisor's or graduate program's discretion.

5. Annual cost-of-living increases

As noted above, the funding package will be reviewed annually, and increased to reflect cost-of-living increases and changes in tuition, fees and insurance.

6. Tuition

Students are responsible for paying their tuition fees from the funding that they receive.