

Graduate Student Financial Support

Students should know what kind of financial support they can expect from the department. This document outlines how financial support is usually granted to students.

Duration and Conditions of Support

The Department intends that full-time graduate students *in good standing* have access to adequate financial support for the expected duration of their program, which is:

- up to two years for MSc students
- up to four years for PhD students

Satisfactory progress. Continued support is contingent upon satisfactory progress in coursework, research and scholarship towards a degree, as well as satisfactory performance of duties.

Budget availability. The actual amounts and duration of financial support can change without notice, as it is dependant upon Department budget constraints.

Full-time thesis-based MSc students admitted to our program for September 2011 and January 2012 will be guaranteed funding of a minimum of \$18,000 for two years.

Full-time PhD students admitted to our program for September 2011 and January 2012 will be guaranteed funding of a minimum of \$18,000 for four years.

The guaranteed funding is a combination of support from multiple sources (see below).

Students deferring their admissions to September 2011 and January 2012 will receive the funding level specified in their original funding offer.

Students in receipt of major scholarships of \$25,000 or above per year will be eligible to receive at most one GAT unit per academic year (i.e. Fall 2011 or Winter 2012).

Self funded students will receive no departmental support.

Graduate Assistantship (Teaching)

Department funding support is typically in the form of Graduate Assistantships (Teaching), abbreviated as a GAT. Amounts and priorities are all subject to the conditions of support. The stipend for 2010/11 for one unit is \$7,957.29.

GAT receipt. Typically, two units of GAT support will be awarded for the Fall and Winter sessions. Students may request or decline this teaching support before the start of each session by completing the prescribed departmental request for support form.

GAT responsibilities. Graduate Assistantship (Teaching) support is awarded for teaching duties for an average of at most 12 hours of service per week during the tenure of the award.

Additional Department Funding

Additional Departmental funding in the form of Department Graduate Research Awards will be awarded on a competitive basis.

Scholarship and award holders. Students who hold major scholarships and/or top-up awards (such as NSERC post-graduate scholarships and iCORE top-ups) will typically be eligible for non-GAT Departmental support **only** up a specified ceiling for the total of scholarships and Department funding. This ceiling is currently \$28,000 for MSc students and \$32,000 for PhD students. GAT support and individual supervisor support is not subject to this limit.

Other Funding

Scholarships. Students are expected to research and to apply for scholarships for which they are eligible in a timely manner. These include NSERC, Alberta Innovates, U of C Graduate Awards Competition, Queen Elizabeth II awards and a host of others.

Supervisor support. Supervisors may independently fund students. Many supervisors fund their students over the summer. This support is normally detailed in the offer of admission letter the students receives from the Department. Depending on where these funds come from, there may be rules and conditions that impact other funding.

Differential fees for international students. For the academic year, 2010/11, the department will reimburse international students who pay their own differential fees, 100% of these fees. For 2011/12 this funding will depend upon availability of funding.

Self-funding. If the student is providing some of the funding (e.g., by prior agreement on admission to the program), documentation in the form of a letter from the student acknowledging self-funding must be sent to the department.