

Funding levels: Students in PhD Programs

The minimum stipend for PhD students is \$25,259 per year (effective Fall 2018). Students who transfer from the MSc to PhD program will have their minimum level of financial support increased to this rate effective the semester the transfer is approved by the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS). The minimum guaranteed duration of support is 12 semesters for PhD students, including direct entry students. Students who transfer from the MSc to the PhD program are guaranteed support 12 semesters in total, inclusive of semesters they were registered as an MSc student.

Typically, a graduate student's stipend is made up of funding coming from up to three sources. This includes a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) paid by the advisor, and a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) paid by the department for work done by the graduate student in support of students in undergraduate programs. The third source is funding received as scholarships.

All graduate students are expected to apply for and undertake one full GTA unit per year (140 hrs of work) to make up a portion of their stipend. The entitlement to GTA support during the prescribed program period/job security period (1 GTA unit per year for each of four years) will be included in the offer letter to students. The Fall 2018 GTA is valued at \$5,925.35. A few students apply for and are assigned additional GTA units. This constitutes additional funding to graduate students and does not reduce the amount of GRA support that graduate students receive from their advisors.

The advisor is not obliged to provide the full amount of the GRA to those students holding a major scholarship. In these cases, faculty are required to contribute funds such that the combination of GRA, GTA and scholarship support is at least \$27,259 (\$2,000 more than the original stipend of \$25,259). Note: The International Doctoral Tuition Scholarship is intended to offset the tuition differential for international students and should not be used to reduce the GRA provided by the advisor.

Students who receive a CGS-M or PGS-D Tri-Council Scholarship may also receive an additional scholarship from the University valued at \$5,000. These are provided each year the eligible scholarship is held. No application is required. Effective Spring 2018, Students who receive the Vanier, Alexander Graham Bell or Frederick Banting/Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS-D) are not eligible for the \$5,000 top up.

Continuation of GRA support is subject to satisfactory academic performance, as determined by the student's advisory committee. Assuming satisfactory job performance, GTAs will be awarded to students based upon availability, qualifications and levels of consideration (terms and conditions are outlined in the [Collective Agreement](#) between CUPE, Local 3913, Unit #1 and the University of Guelph). As the minimum stipend is based upon a GTA component it is incumbent upon faculty to ensure that graduate students have the ability to successfully complete a GTA assignment. In those rare cases when graduate students do not have the ability to fulfill the duties of a GTA, responsibility for providing the minimum stipend rests with the faculty advisor.

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Examples of funding provided to Graduate Students in PhD Programs (Effective Fall 2018) ¹					
Type	GRA	GTA ²	Scholarship	Tri-Council Scholarship Top-up	Total
PhD no scholarship	\$19,333.49	\$5,925.35	\$0	\$0	\$25,259
PhD Ontario Graduate Scholarship	\$6,333.49	\$5,925.35	\$15,000	\$0	\$27,259 ³
NSERC-PGS-D Scholarship	\$0	\$5,925.35	\$21,500	\$5,000	\$32,425 ³
NSERC-CGS-D Scholarship	\$0	\$5,925.35	\$35,000	\$0	\$40,925
International Doctoral Tuition Scholarship	\$19,333.49 ⁴	\$5,925.35	\$11,000 ⁴	\$0	\$36,259

¹ These values represent the minimum funding level to domestic eligible students in PhD programs.

² Fall 2018 GTA Rate

³ If a student holds a scholarship, faculty may, at their discretion, reduce the amount of funding provided as a GRA. In these cases, total funding to graduate students must be at least \$2,000 above the minimum stipend level. In most cases, faculty will not reduce their GRA contribution to students who hold a minor scholarship. The GRA reduction generally only applies if the student receives a major award (ie. NSERC, CIHR, OGS, GTS). The stipend amounts indicated in this policy represent a minimum only; students are advised to consult their advisor if they have questions about potential changes to their GRA under different scholarship scenarios.

⁴ The International Doctoral Tuition Scholarship is intended to offset the tuition differential for international students and should not be used to reduce the GRA provided by the advisor.

Note: Student stipends do not include tuition. Students are responsible for all tuition and associated fees, which must be paid in full at the start of each semester or via payroll deduction. See [Student Financial Services](#) for current tuition rates and instructions on payment.