

## **Funding levels: Students in MSc Programs**

The minimum level of financial support (stipend) for MSc students is \$21,259 per year (effective Fall 2018). The minimum guaranteed duration of support is 6 semesters, although many faculty support students beyond this period.

The guaranteed minimum stipend does not apply to those students enrolled in the 3-semester long MSc program by course work and project (e.g. Human Health and Nutritional Sciences), however, those students enrolled in the 4-semester long MSc program by coursework and project are guaranteed 1 GTA during their program (\$5,925 Fall 2018 GTA rate).

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 hours 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 two years) will be included in the offer letter to students. The Fall 2018 GTA is valued at \$5,925. 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 \$23,259 (\$2,000 more than the original stipend of \$21,259).

Students who receive an MSc Tri-council Scholarship (i.e., a CGS-M from NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR) may also receive an additional top-up scholarship from the University valued at \$5,000. These are provided each year the eligible scholarship is held. No application is required.

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 MSc Programs (Effective Fall 2018) <sup>1</sup>					
Type	GRA	GTA <sup>2</sup>	Scholarship	Tri-Council Scholarship Top-up	Total
MS. no scholarship	\$15,333.22	\$5,925.35	\$0	\$0	\$21,259
MSc Ontario Graduate Scholarship	\$2,333.22	\$5,925.35	\$15,000	\$0	\$23,259 <sup>3</sup>
NSERC-CGS-M Scholarship	\$0	\$5,925.35	\$17,300	\$5,000	\$28,225 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These values represent the minimum funding level to eligible students in MSc programs

<sup>2</sup> Fall 2018 GTA Rate

<sup>3</sup> 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 (i.e., 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.

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.