

STUDENT FUNDING

The IMS Student Funding Policy
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THE IMS STUDENT FUNDING POLICY

- The University of Toronto requires that all doctoral stream students receive full funding for the funding term duration of their program. Full funding must be provided for 2 years in the MSc program and 5 years in the PhD program. A “stipend” refers to the funds a student receives during the program funding commitment period.
- Doctoral student stipends are derived from multiple sources and must be guaranteed by the supervisor. Stipend funding can either come from the supervisor’s operating grant, any major external competitive awards the student has attained, or a combination of both. These external competitive awards include but are not limited to, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association and other national and international funding agencies. Other sources of stipend support include University of Toronto Open Fellowships, Departmental and Affiliated Hospital/Research Institute internal awards (e.g, OGS, OSOTF, QEII-GSST, Restracomp). Some international students are supported with stipends provided by their home countries.
- Stipend funding amounts have been set at the levels indicated below in order to maintain consistency with other Faculty of Medicine graduate units. The stipend for new and continuing graduate students in IMS varies according to tuition fees (tuition plus \$17,340/annum plus an applicable adjustment for MSc students and tuition plus \$19,380/annum plus an applicable adjustment for PhD students).
- A student who receives an external, competitively reviewed award valued at or over \$15,000 will be rewarded with a merit bonus of \$4,000 above the stipend. However if the value of the award is greater than the value of the total stipend plus \$4,000, the student then becomes ineligible for the merit bonus. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to provide this merit bonus. For detailed information concerning top-up funding regulations, contact the IMS Office.
- The IMS **recommended time to degree completion** for the MSc program is 2 years including time for thesis preparation and defense. The recommended time to completion for the PhD program is 5 years, including time for thesis preparation, IMS thesis defense, and final School of Graduate Studies Senate Examination. Please refer to the IMS Faculty Handbook and the IMS Student Handbook for details and tips on completing a degree in a timely fashion.
- It is expected that students will be fully funded while working in the laboratory, taking courses, writing up and preparing to defend their thesis, provided that they are still full-time registered graduate students and have not exceeded the guaranteed full funding time limit mentioned above. The expectation is that the thesis will be completed in a timely fashion, agreed upon by student and supervisor (i.e. 2-3 months for an MSc degree, 3-4 months for a PhD degree).
- Licensed MDs who return to clinical training or duties on a full-time basis (as necessitated by their clinical training program or job description) while writing their thesis and maintaining registered full-time graduate status will **NOT** be eligible for graduate funding.
- Students will not be able to register in the absence of funding commitment.

FUNDING SOURCES

It is expected that all student stipend income be classified as T4A income. This does not apply to professional earnings.

Teaching assistantships and any income received by the student through a T4 are not counted as part of the graduate student stipend.

Both student and supervisor will make every reasonable effort to obtain funding for the student from external, peer-reviewed award sources. The IMS will provide information to students and supervisors regarding the availability and application procedures for such awards when possible. Both supervisors and students should be particularly vigilant to ensure that applications are submitted for external awards.

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

Student and supervisor are required to jointly complete an IMS "Statement of Agreement" annually; before initial registration in an IMS graduate program and before each September registration thereafter. Effective September 2012, registration in the program is contingent upon students' completion of their online GradSIS form with the correct funding amount and submission for approval by the IMS office. Once approved by the IMS office the student will be permitted to continue their registration in the program. The Statement of Agreement covers the general conditions of supervision, student funding agreement, and conflict of interest guidelines. The signature of student and supervisor indicates that they both comply by the terms and provisions of this agreement.

The IMS is responsible for reporting all sources of student funding on an annual basis to the University of Toronto. Both student and supervisor will benefit from a clear understanding of policies governing funding levels duration, and of their roles in seeking and maintaining student funding.