

Rehabilitation Science Graduate Programs

# Thesis Student Funding Policy Statement

## MCMASTER UNIVERSITY POLICY

As listed in [Section 4 of the Graduate Calendar](#), McMaster University aims to provide competitive funding offers to highly qualified candidates recommended for admission to research-based graduate programs. Each program is responsible for determining the level of funding in the admission offers, although the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) sets a minimum level of funding for full-time doctoral studies for the first four years of full-time enrollment.

McMaster University provides funding to Doctoral students who meet the criteria under [Section 5 in the Graduate Calendar](#), and they shall receive financial support which meets or exceeds an annual minimum value equal to full time tuition plus \$17,500.

Funding for students enrolled in most research-based master’s programs will normally be provided for the nominal duration of the program. There is no minimum level of funding stipulated by SGS for master’s programs.

## REHABILITATION SCIENCE PROGRAM POLICY

### Who Qualifies

The funded cohort consists of all full-time students who maintain good standing in the program as outlined in the following table:

	Years Eligible for Funding
Master’s Thesis	Years 1, 2
PhD Thesis	Years 1, 2, 3, 4
PhD Dual-Degree	Years 1, 2, 5

For students who transfer from the MSc to the PhD program, time in the MSc program will not be counted towards the PhD full funding time limit. That is, students who transfer will be funded for the full four years of their PhD.

International students in PhD programs at McMaster University will pay the same tuition as a domestic student. International Masters students will continue to pay at a higher rate of international tuition.

Students must maintain “Good Academic Standing” in their program to remain eligible for this funding. “Good Academic Standing” refers to maintaining on-time status (within 6 terms for MSc

students, 12 terms for PhD students), maintaining the required minimum grade in all currently in-progress courses, completing committee meeting reports and milestones as required by the program, and being free of academic misconduct/dishonesty. Failure to maintain good academic standing may result in the student’s offer being rescinded.

Self-funding from personal or family funds, either directly or indirectly, or from any other funds whose source is not a recognized funding source approved by SGS, is not permitted.

Financial support equivalent to the minimum standard should be in place prior to making the offer of admission to the student and prior to their acceptance. If such support is not derived from internal or external scholarships, awards or other approved funding sources, then it is expected that the supervisor will make support available.

### Funding Amounts

Financial support to students can be derived from the following sources:

- 1) External scholarships, such as Tri-Council Agencies Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canadian Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS-D) or Vanier CGS, Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Ontario Graduate Fellowship, etc.
- 2) Supervisor stipends in the form of Research Scholarship
- 3) Departmental Scholarship funding\*
- 4) Internal Rehabilitation Science program awards, such as Jean Crowe Award, Patricia Solomon Award, Ian and Shirley Rowe Scholarship in Rehabilitation Science
- 5) Other approved funding sources

\*Available for students of supervisors in the School of Rehabilitation Science. See [Non-SRS Supervisors](#) section for details.

The minimum funding for all eligible full-time MSc students will be \$17,000 per year. The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing full-time PhD students will be \$24,000 per year (Years 1, 2, 5 for PhD Dual Degree). Supervisors may consider providing financial support over and above the minimum funding.

Pending financial support from internal or external awards or other approved funding sources, annual contributions for students will be distributed as follows:

STIPENDS	Research Scholarship	Departmental Scholarship	Total
Master’s Thesis	\$11,000	\$6,000	\$17,000
PhD Thesis	\$17,000	\$7,000	\$24,000

PhD Dual Degree for Years 1, 2, 5	\$17,000	\$7,000	<b>\$24,000</b>
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### Non-SRS Supervisors

Departmental support is provided to students of supervisors in the School of Rehabilitation Science. All non-SRS supervisors will be responsible for providing the total minimum guaranteed amount for MSc and PhD students. The minimum funding for all eligible full-time MSc students will be \$17,000 per year. The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing full-time PhD students will be \$24,000 per year (Years 1, 2, 5 for PhD Dual Degree).

STIPENDS	Research Scholarship	Departmental Scholarship	Total
Master’s Thesis	\$17,000	N/A	<b>\$17,000</b>
PhD Thesis	\$24,000	N/A	<b>\$24,000</b>
PhD Dual Degree for Years 1, 2, 5	\$24,000	N/A	<b>\$24,000</b>

### Internal and External Awards

All full-time students are expected to apply for external and internal awards throughout their program.

#### Examples of Major External Awards

- Tri-Council Agency Canada Graduate Scholarship (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) Masters Award, Doctoral Award, Fellowship, or Vanier Scholarship
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
- Ontario Graduate Fellowship (OGF)
- CHILD-BRIGHT Fellowship Award
- MIRA Labarge Mobility Scholarship
- MITACS
- Heart and Stroke Award

### Adjustment of Financial Support Following External Award

All students who receive a major, competitive, external award **equal to or greater than \$5,000** will have their stipends (research scholarship and departmental scholarship) reduced. The Faculty of Health Science Graduate Policy on the Adjustment of Financial Support and Merit-Based Scholarships establishes the limits for maximum reductions and other relevant conditions. Please see the full FHS policy on reduction of financial support, here <https://secretariat.healthsci.mcmaster.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Graduate-Policy-on-the-Adjustment-of-Financial-Support-and-Merit-Based-Scholarships-Faculty-of-Health-Sciences-2024.pdf>.

In Rehabilitation Science, the maximum adjustment to stipends following an award must ensure that the student receives an increase in remuneration equal to **at least 30% of the value of the award** (FHS minimum is 20%), relative to the total of stipends and awards already held. See *Appendix 1 and 2*.

Of the difference between the external award and the amount allocated to the student, 70% will be used to offset the supervisor’s contribution and 30% will be used to offset the departmental contribution.

A reduction will not result from the receipt of employment (including TA), needs-based bursaries, awards to the supervisor, travel awards, or scholarships and bursaries not paid through McMaster.

The distribution of the total reduction will be 70% for the research scholarship and 30% for the departmental scholarship. See *Appendix 1 and 2*.

### Teaching Assistantships

Teaching Assistantships are considered employment and are not part of the guaranteed funding packages in the School of Rehabilitation Science. Teaching assistant positions will be shared when they become available.

For information on teaching assistantships, please visit

<https://hr.mcmaster.ca/employees/labour-relations/cupe-local-3906-unit-1-tas/>.

### Minimum Contributions by Junior Faculty

Junior faculty within the School of Rehabilitation Science who are in the first three years of their appointment and thereby starting their research programs will have a reduction in the minimum Research Scholarship as outlined in the table below. The RS program will augment the Research Scholarship to the full amount of the required minimum funding level. This level will be provided for the first THREE years to a maximum of 3 students. Specific sources of funding may vary, but total amounts of support for the student will meet the funding level described in this policy.

STIPENDS	Research Scholarship	Departmental Scholarship	Total
Master’s Thesis	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$17,000
PhD Thesis	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$24,000
PhD Dual Degree for Years 1, 2, 5	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$24,000

### Implication of student change in status

If a student withdraws, takes a leave of absence, or graduates (or becomes approved to graduate) part way through the academic year, they are not entitled to any further portion of

the scholarship award, and they may have to repay the full or a portion of the award/scholarship they received for the term.

Students who are considered over-time or out-of-time will not receive departmental funding from the program. Research scholarship funding from supervisors becomes optional.

### Version History

Version Date	Updated by	Approved by	Comment
October 19, 2020		Julie Richardson	Initial release
March 22, 2023	Cindy Ma	Ada Tang	Updated terms to reflect new minimum funding from McMaster University, and funding for PhD Dual Degree
May 26, 2023	Ada Tang	Ada Tang	New minimum funding from McMaster University
Oct 12, 2023	Ada Tang	Ada Tang	Updated Internal and External Award section to clarify funding adjustments
April 24, 2024	Vanessa Killinger	Ada Tang	Updated funding adjustment to reflect new FHS Policy

Rehabilitation Science  
Stipend Reduction Following Award

Research Scholarship	Departmental Scholarship	Pre Award Total	Award Value	Min Benefit (30% of Award)	Min Take-Home (pre award plus min benefit)	Final Take Home
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$18,800.00	\$18,800.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$19,100.00	\$19,100.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$19,400.00	\$19,400.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$19,700.00	\$19,700.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$20,300.00	\$20,300.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$20,600.00	\$20,600.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$3,900.00	\$20,900.00	\$20,900.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$21,200.00	\$21,200.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$21,500.00	\$21,500.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$4,800.00	\$21,800.00	\$21,800.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$5,100.00	\$22,100.00	\$22,100.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$5,400.00	\$22,400.00	\$22,400.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$5,700.00	\$22,700.00	\$22,700.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$6,300.00	\$23,300.00	\$23,300.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$6,600.00	\$23,600.00	\$23,600.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$6,900.00	\$23,900.00	\$23,900.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$7,200.00	\$24,200.00	\$24,200.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$24,500.00	\$25,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$7,800.00	\$24,800.00	\$26,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$8,100.00	\$25,100.00	\$27,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$8,400.00	\$25,400.00	\$28,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$29,000.00	\$8,700.00	\$25,700.00	\$29,000.00
\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$30,000.00

Rehabilitation Science  
Stipend Reduction Following Award

Research Scholarship	Departmental Scholarship	Pre Award Total	Award Value	Min Benefit (30% of Award)	Min Take-Home (pre award plus min benefit)	Final Take Home
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$25,800.00	\$25,800.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$26,100.00	\$26,100.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$26,400.00	\$26,400.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$26,700.00	\$26,700.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$27,300.00	\$27,300.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$27,600.00	\$27,600.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$3,900.00	\$27,900.00	\$27,900.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$28,200.00	\$28,200.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$28,500.00	\$28,500.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$4,800.00	\$28,800.00	\$28,800.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$5,100.00	\$29,100.00	\$29,100.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$5,400.00	\$29,400.00	\$29,400.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$5,700.00	\$29,700.00	\$29,700.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$6,300.00	\$30,300.00	\$30,300.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$6,600.00	\$30,600.00	\$30,600.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$6,900.00	\$30,900.00	\$30,900.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$7,200.00	\$31,200.00	\$31,200.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$31,500.00	\$31,500.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$7,800.00	\$31,800.00	\$31,800.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$8,100.00	\$32,100.00	\$32,100.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$8,400.00	\$32,400.00	\$32,400.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$29,000.00	\$8,700.00	\$32,700.00	\$32,700.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$9,300.00	\$33,300.00	\$33,300.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$9,600.00	\$33,600.00	\$33,600.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$9,900.00	\$33,900.00	\$33,900.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$10,200.00	\$34,200.00	\$34,200.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$34,500.00	\$35,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$10,800.00	\$34,800.00	\$36,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$11,100.00	\$35,100.00	\$37,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$11,400.00	\$35,400.00	\$38,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$11,700.00	\$35,700.00	\$39,000.00
\$17,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$40,000.00