



Rehabilitation Sciences Institute Student Funding Policy & Statement of Agreement: 2017-2018

PREAMBLE

The University of Toronto has committed to provide a minimum of \$15,000 plus tuition and incidental fees for eligible doctoral-stream students.

The RSI policy is that graduate students registered in their department should have financial support throughout the fundable period of the program.

Support is derived from:

- External Scholarships (i.e. OGS, NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
- Supervisor Stipends
- Departmental/ Internal awards

These will be considered part of the funding package. If a student is offered any of the funding components as a part of their minimum funding package and then turns the offer down, the student forfeits that component of their funding package for that year.

Funded Cohort:

The funded cohort consists of all doctoral stream students (excluding Part-Time and Practice Science Field) who **maintain good standing** in the program. The fundable period for students in good standing will normally be:

- Years 1 and 2 of MSc
- Years 1-4 of PhD or years 1-5 of PhD, if direct entry or transfer

REHABILITATION SCIENCES INSTITUTE FUNDING POLICY

- The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI MSc students will be \$25,500 per year.
- The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI PhD students will be \$26,500 per year.
- Students must maintain “good standing” in their programs to remain eligible for this funding.
- All students who receive a competitive award (e.g. CIHR Doctoral Award, OGSST, OGS, NSERC) equal to or greater than \$15,000 per year will receive a “**bonus**” of \$3,000.

- RSI **will not provide** any bonus if the sum of external/internal awards and supervisor support is equal to or greater than \$30,000.
- In an effort to support new faculty in RSI, new **junior RSI faculty*** are expected to provide a minimum stipend of \$8,000 and RSI will make every effort to augment the supervisor's stipend to the full amount of the required minimum.
- Students whose amount of funding or funding sources change throughout the year are required to provide RSI with supporting documentation and a revised GEMS agreement (formally known as GradSIS). In addition, the students may be required to return or decline funds in order to comply with the policies of the funding sources and/or RSI. The net result will be an equal or a greater amount of student support.
- Students must be registered as a full-time degree candidate for a minimum of fourteen weeks in any term during which they hold an award. Repayment of an award is required if a student is registered full-time for fewer than 14 weeks in any term, transfers to another graduate unit, changes to part-time status or voluntarily withdraws from the program.
- Full funding must be guaranteed for a minimum of 2 years for the MSc program and 4 years for the PhD program. For students who have transferred from the Masters of Science program, time in the Master's program will be counted towards the PhD full funding time limit. PhD Direct Entry students and transfer students are guaranteed a minimum of 5 years of funding.
- Supervisory and/or departmental support equivalent to the minimum standard should be in place prior to acceptance and registration in the entry year. If such support is not derived from external fellowships or awards, then it is expected that the supervisor will make support available. Supervisors are required to fund students on a first-entry, first-supported basis.
- All Students are required to apply for external and internal awards throughout their program.
- Students receiving tuition assistance must report all information to the RSI office.

**Junior RSI faculty is defined as someone in their first two years of associate membership with RSI and has a maximum of two students.*

Bursaries

Bursaries which assist students with sudden and unexpected financial need, such as the SGS Bursary Program, are **not** part of the funding package outlined above. A student is, therefore, eligible to retain the entire amount of such an award.

SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE (GOOD STANDING)

Good standing includes satisfactory progress in coursework, thesis research, and participation in other academic activities of the graduate program (i.e. Research Day). Students and their supervisors must

complete their **RSI Annual Report, Supervisory Committee Forms, Comprehensive Examination,** and their **GEMS Student/Supervisor Agreement Form**. The supervisor should notify the Graduate Coordinator immediately of any issues related to poor performance in the program.

FUNDING SOURCES

Both student and supervisor will make every reasonable effort to obtain funding for the student from external, peer-reviewed award sources, such as the CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, OGS, private foundations, and internal awards. The RSI will make every effort to inform students and supervisors, of the availability and application procedures for such awards. The RSI will not be able to monitor award applications. Supervisors are requested to be particularly vigilant to ensure that their students apply, and students and supervisors must notify RSI for all awards applied for at the time of application.

All students' graduate income will be classified as T4A Income.

Teaching assistantships (T4) and Research Assistantships are not counted as part of the graduate student funding.

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

Student and supervisor are required to jointly complete a Doctoral Graduate Student-Supervisor Agreement (GEMS). Completion of this agreement is required annually, commencing before initial enrolment, for all doctoral (MSc or PhD) students admitted to Graduate Departments in the Faculty of Medicine. Please read the terms and provisions carefully. Completion of this form indicates the commitment of the student and supervisor to abide by these terms and provisions. This agreement will be in effect until completion of, or withdrawal from the program of study, or change in supervision.

<http://medsis.utoronto.ca/>

Approved: 04/11/16