



Rehabilitation Sciences Institute Student Funding Policy & Statement of Agreement: 2023-2024

PREAMBLE

The University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, and therefore the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI), require full Base Funding of all Doctoral Stream (PhD) students.

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

Self-funding by a student from personal or family funds, either directly or indirectly, or from any other funds whose source is not a recognized funding agency approved by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), cannot be counted towards the total student funding under this agreement.

Support is derived from:

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

These will be considered part of the Total Base Funding package. If a student is offered any of the funding components as a part of their Total Base 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 full-time Doctoral Stream students who remain in “**good standing**” in the program and are in year one or year two of the Master of Science (MSc), year one to year four of the PhD, or year one to year five for the Direct Entry or transfer program.

REHABILITATION SCIENCES INSTITUTE FUNDING POLICY

1. TOTAL BASE FUNDING

Domestic Students

- The minimum Total Base Funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI Domestic MSc students will be **\$33,200.00** per year (including tuition*). For the 2023-24 academic year, \$29,100.00 of this funding must be provided by the supervisor** (this may include internal or external awards received by the student), and an increase of up to \$4,100 will be provided by RSI. Funding levels for 2024-25 and beyond will be confirmed at a later date.
- The minimum Total Base Funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI Domestic PhD students will be **\$35,000.00** per year (including tuition). For the 2023-24 academic year, \$30,900.00 of this funding must be provided by the supervisor (this may include internal or external awards received by the student), and an increase of up to \$4,100 will be provided by RSI. Total Base Funding levels for 2024-25 and beyond will be confirmed at a later date.
- Students must maintain “**good standing**” in their programs to remain eligible for this funding.
- Self-funding by a student from personal or family funds, either directly or indirectly, or from any other funds whose source is not a recognized funding agency approved by SGS, cannot be counted towards the total student funding under this agreement.

International Students

- The minimum Total Base Funding (including tuition and UHIP) for all eligible new and continuing RSI International MSc students will be **\$55,300.00** for the 2023-24 academic year. For the 2023-24 academic year, \$51,200.00 of this funding must be provided by the supervisor (this may include internal or external awards received by the student), and an increase of up to \$4,100 will be provided by RSI. Funding levels for 2024-25 and beyond will be confirmed at a later date.
- The minimum Total Base Funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI International PhD students will be **\$35,700.00** (including UHIP). For the 2023-24 academic year, \$31,600.00 of this funding must be provided by the supervisor (this may include internal or external awards received by the student), and an increase of up to \$4,100 (13%) will be provided by RSI. Funding levels for 2024-25 and beyond will be confirmed at a later date.
- Students must maintain “**good standing**” in their programs to remain eligible for this funding.

- Self-funding by a student from a personal or family funds, either directly or indirectly, or from any other funds whose source is not a recognized funding agency approved by SGS, cannot be counted towards the total student funding under this agreement.

**Tuition fees and incidental fees are not finalized until June/July, therefore there may be small adjustments to the minimum Total Base Funding.*

***RSI Junior Faculty should consult the [Junior Faculty Funding Policy](#) on the RSI website regarding assistance RSI provides for early career supervisors.*

****Effective fall 2018, all **International students in research-stream PhD programs** at the University of Toronto pay the same tuition as a Domestic student. International Master's students will continue to pay the higher International student tuition.*

2. TOP-UP PRACTICES

- All students who receive a major competitive external award (e.g., CIHR, OGSST, NSERC) equal to or greater than \$15,000 per year will receive a “**Top-up Bonus**” of \$3,000. Competitive awards are awards that require a formal application and are reviewed by an external review panel.
- Top-up Bonus eligibility excludes University of Toronto Fellowships (e.g., UTF Open), Doctoral Completion Awards, Entrance awards, travel awards, and bursaries. Top-up Bonuses are only given if the student receives the balance of their funding from their supervisor or another award.
- Top-up Bonuses will not be given if:
 - a. The student must be topped-up with RSI funds (i.e., UTF) to meet the departmental minimum
 - b. The competitive award is a matched award that is matched at RSI (i.e., OGS, QEII) and RSI is required to bring the student up to the departmental minimum with RSI funds.
- RSI **will not provide** a Top-up Bonus if the sum of awards and supervisor support is equal to or greater than \$40,000.
- Supervisors are allowed to have lab-specific Top-up Bonus practices.

3. ONTARIO STUDENT OPPORTUNITY TRUST FUNDS (OSOTF) AWARDS

- Students who receive funding from needs-based and merit awards (i.e., OSOTFs) are required to consider such funds as part of their Total Base Funding. These awards do not qualify for RSI Top-up Bonuses.

4. BURSARIES

- Non-repayable grants, such as the University of Toronto Advanced Planning for Students (UTAPS) funding and the SGS Emergency Grant, which assists students with sudden and/or unexpected financial need, are not part of the Total Base Funding outlined above. A student under these circumstances is therefore eligible to retain the entire amount of such an award.
- Students whose amount of funding or funding sources change throughout the year are required to provide RSI with supporting documentation and a revised Doctoral Graduate Student-Supervisor Agreement (available on the Graduate Education Management System or GEMS, formerly 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 greater amount of student support.
- For students who have transferred from the Master of Science program, time in the Master's program will be counted towards the PhD Full Funding time limit. PhD Direct Entry students (Direct Entry from undergraduate studies) and transfer students (MSc to PhD) are guaranteed five years of funding.
- Students must be registered as a full-time degree candidate for a minimum of 14 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 registration status or voluntarily withdraws from the program.
- Total Base Funding must be guaranteed for two years for the MSc program and four years for the PhD program. 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.
- 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.

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., yearly participation in the RSI Research Day). Students and their supervisors must complete their **RSI Annual Report**, **Supervisory Committee meetings (every 6 months)**, **Candidacy Examination (if applicable)**, and their **GEMS Student/Supervisor Agreement Form**. Students in the first year of their program are also required to attend the Graduate Research Integrity Workshop. The supervisor

should notify the Associate Director immediately of any issues related to unsatisfactory 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 regarding all awards for which RSI students apply. All students' graduate income that makes up the Total Base Funding will be classified as T4A Income.

Teaching assistantships (TA) and research assistantships (RA) are not counted as part of the graduate student Total Base Funding.

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

Student and supervisor are required to jointly complete a GEMS Doctoral Graduate Student-Supervisor Agreement. Completion of this agreement is required annually, commencing before initial enrolment for all Doctoral (MSc or PhD) students admitted to Graduate Departments in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. Please read the terms and provisions carefully. Completion of the 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 a change in supervision.