



Preamble

The University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, and therefore the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI), require full Base Funding of all Research Stream (PhD and MSc) students throughout the fundable period of the program.

Supervisory and/or institutional support equivalent to the minimum standard should be in place prior to acceptance and registration in the entry year.

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.

Funded Cohort:

The funded cohort consists of all full-time RSI students who remain in good standing in the program and are in Year 1-2 of the Master of Science (MSc), Year 1-4 of the PhD, or Year 1-5 for the Direct Entry or Transfer programs.

The Total Base Funding Package May Be Derived From:

- External Scholarships (e.g., Ontario Graduate Scholarship [OGS], CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral program [CGS-D])
- Supervisor Stipends
- Departmental/Internal awards

If a student is offered any of the funding components as 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.

If funding support is not derived from external fellowships or awards, then it is expected that the supervisor will make funding available. RSI Early Career Faculty should consult the [Early Career Faculty Policy](#) regarding the assistance RSI provides to support their growth as supervisors.

All students - regardless of the availability of supervisory funding - are strongly encouraged to apply for external and internal awards throughout their program. **Students must discuss award applications and funding strategies with their supervisors throughout the duration of their program.**

Rehabilitation Sciences Institute Funding Policy for Year 2025-2026

1. TOTAL BASE FUNDING

Domestic Students

- The minimum Total Base Funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI Domestic MSc students will be **\$35,000.00** per year (including tuition). For the 2025-26 academic year, at least \$30,000 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 \$5,000 will be provided by RSI* if needed.
- The minimum Total Base Funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI Domestic PhD students will be **\$40,000.00** per year (including tuition), as required by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). For the 2025-26 academic year, at least \$35,000.00 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 \$5,000 will be provided by RSI* if needed.

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 2025-26 academic year. For the 2025-26 academic year, at least \$50,300.00 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 \$5,000 will be provided by RSI* if needed.
- The minimum Total Base Funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI International PhD students will be **\$40,000.00** (including UHIP)**. For the 2025-26 academic year, at least \$35,000.00 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 \$5,000 will be provided by RSI* if needed.

**This policy is subject to changes annually. Supervisors are required to make every effort to transition to a self-funding model for their graduate students. All supervisors must provide support and strongly encourage students to apply for external funding opportunities.*

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., University of Toronto Fellowship [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) and/or 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 greater than \$45,000.
 - 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.

5. OTHER

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, see below).
- All students' graduate income that makes up the Total Base Funding will be classified as T4A Income.

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. Award deadlines can also be found on the RSI webpage: <https://rsi.utoronto.ca/upcoming-award-deadlines-0>

The RSI will not be able to monitor award applications. Supervisors are requested to ensure that their students apply, and students and supervisors must notify RSI regarding all awards for which the student applies (that are not directed through RSI).

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

Statement Of Agreement, GEMS

Students and supervisors 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.

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