

## STIPEND SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL GENETICS GRADUATE STUDENTS

### Stipend Amount and Duration:

The recommended minimum yearly stipend for a full time Medical Genetics (MEDG) graduate student is **\$22,000**. The student is expected to pay tuition from their stipend. This stipend may come from an independent studentship award and/or from the Research Supervisor's research grant. Admission to the Medical Genetics Graduate Program normally includes a commitment from the Supervisor to ensure that each student is supported to the recommended funding level. Exceptions to this policy may be granted under unusual circumstances. Financial support from personal resources is not acceptable as "funding" for incoming students in the Medical Genetics Graduate Program.

The duration of the annual stipend is normally two years for an MSc student and four years for a PhD student. After the two-year MSc and four-year PhD point, continued funding is at the discretion of the Supervisor. The Supervisor should inform their student in writing (with a copy to the Medical Genetics Graduate Program office) at least six months prior to the end-date of the student's stipend.

Funding depends both on satisfactory academic and research progress, as determined by the Student's Advisory Committee, and on the Research Supervisor's continued grant support. Termination of funding for other justifiable reasons must be approved by a majority of the Medical Genetics Graduate Advisory Committee.

### Stipends for Award Winners:

If a student wins a Four Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF), Rotation Program Award, or external award valued over \$14,000 and under \$27,000 (and no other top-up is received), the Medical Genetics Graduate Program recommends that the Supervisor top-up the award by at least \$4,000 over the minimum stipend (\$22,000) to a maximum stipend of \$27,000/year.

### Examples of Recommended MEDG Student Stipends for Award Winners:

- i. Student wins 4YF (\$18,200 / year plus full tuition) funding through the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS). The student's Research Supervisor tops-up the stipend by \$4,700. The total student award is approximately **\$27,200** (due to variation in tuition rates).
- ii. Student wins a one-year Rotation Program Award of \$17,000. Student's Supervisor tops up by \$6,000 (to bring to minimum level of \$22,000) plus \$4,000 for a total top-up of \$10,000. Total Rotation Program Award and student stipend is **\$26,000**.
- iii. Student wins a one-year Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS M) of \$17,500 from CIHR or NSERC. Supervisor tops-up by \$4,500 (to bring to a minimum stipend of \$22,000) and then a further \$4,000 for a total top-up of \$8,500. Total student stipend is **\$26,000**.
- iv. Student wins an NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship Doctoral (PGS D) award of \$21,000. The student becomes a 4YF holder and G+PS pays tuition. This brings the student stipend to \$25,300. Then the recommended top-up from the Supervisor would be \$1,700. Total student stipend is **\$27,000**.

- v. Student wins any award over \$30,000 - Supervisor does not pay student a top-up. This includes NSERC / CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral (CGS D) for \$35,000/year; NSERC / CIHR Vanier Scholarships for \$50,000/year; and University Doctoral Fellowship for \$30,000/year plus tuition.
- vi. Student wins any award below \$14,000. Supervisor brings salary up to the minimum stipend of **\$22,000** and tops up the stipend by \$2,000.

### Other Funding:

Financial support from personal resources is not acceptable as “funding” for incoming students in the Medical Genetics Graduate Program.

### Teaching Assistant (TA) Positions in Medical Genetics:

MEDG 419, 420, 421, 505, 520 and 530

The Medical Genetics Graduate Program offers six part-time Teaching Assistant (TA) positions that are posted in March each year. The Program encourages every student to TA once during their graduate career and thus encourages the Research Supervisor to not reduce the student’s stipend the first time their student TA’s. Whether funding from subsequent TA positions is considered “part of” or “in addition to” a student’s stipend is at the discretion of the individual Supervisor and should be discussed between the student and the Supervisor before the student accepts a TA position (in Medical Genetics or another department). No student should spend more than twelve hours per week in employment at or outside of UBC that does not relate to their thesis research.

**Duties:** May include attending lectures, grading reports and exams, holding tutorials and group review sessions, posting course information on *Connect* and helping students on an individual basis, with specific weekly office hours provided when necessary. Some positions may also involve maintaining or improving web pages.

### Teaching Assistants - Hours and Salary:

PhD students – GTA I; MSc students – GTA II

**MEDG 520:** five hours per week x 16 weeks (**80 hours total**): **\$626.71/month (GTA I); and \$603.06/month (GTA II)**

**MEDG 419, 420, 505:** nine hours per week x 16 weeks (**144 hours total**): **\$1,128.08/month (GTA I); and \$1,085.51/month (GTA II)**

**MEDG 421 and 530:** eleven hours per week x 16 weeks (**176 hours total**): **\$1,378.76/month (GTA I); and \$1,326.73/month (GTA II)**

For more information, see the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies [policies and procedures](#) for graduate teaching assistantships; and teaching assistant workshops offered by the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT).