

## **STIPEND SUPPORT AND AWARD TOP-UP GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL GENETICS THESIS-BASED GRADUATE STUDENTS**

### **1. Recommended minimum stipend amount and duration**

As of September 1, 2022, the recommended minimum yearly stipend for a full-time Medical Genetics (MEDG) Graduate Program thesis-based graduate student is as follows:

- MSc: **\$26,500**
- PhD: **\$28,000**

The student pays tuition from their stipend (the cost of tuition depends on whether the student is domestic or international as well as on the time spent in the graduate program). The stipend may come from an independent studentship award and/or from the Research Supervisor's research grant(s). Admission to the MEDG 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.

The duration of the annual stipend is normally **two and half years** for an MSc student and **five years** for a PhD student. After two and half years in MSc and five years in PhD, continued funding is at the discretion of the Supervisor. The Supervisor must inform the student in writing (cc MEDG Graduate Program Advisor) 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 Supervisory 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 MEDG Graduate Program Advisory Committee.

### **2. Recommended MEDG Graduate Program student award/scholarship top-ups and total stipends**

#### **MSc**

- i. MSc student wins a one-year MEDG Rotation Program or Entrance Award of \$18,200. Student's Supervisor tops up award by \$10,800. The total student stipend is **\$29,000**.
- ii. MSc student wins a one-year Tri-Agency Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's (CGS M) of \$17,500. Supervisor tops up award by \$11,500. The total student stipend is **\$29,000**.
- iii. MSc student wins a one-year UBC Affiliated Fellowship of \$16,000. Supervisor tops up award by \$13,000. The total student stipend is **\$29,000**.
- iv. MSc student wins a one-year UBC Affiliated Fellowship of \$18,000. Supervisor tops up award by \$11,000. The total student stipend is **\$29,000**.

#### **PhD**

- v. PhD student wins a one-year MEDG Rotation Program or Entrance Award of \$18,200. Supervisor tops up award by \$12,800. The total student stipend is **\$31,000**.
- vi. PhD student wins a MEDG Four Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF-G) of \$18,200 plus tuition/year. Supervisor tops up award by \$11,800. The total student stipend is **\$30,000 plus tuition support**.

- vii. PhD student wins a Tri-Agency (CIHR/NSERC) Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral (CGS D) or Vanier Doctoral award and becomes a UBC **4YF-T holder** (funded through Faculty of Graduate Studies - G+PS):
  - PhD student wins an NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship Doctoral (PGS D) award of \$21,000/year. The student becomes a 4YF-T holder and G+PS pays tuition in full. Supervisor tops up award by \$10,000. The total student stipend is **\$31,000 plus tuition support**.
  - PhD student wins a CIHR CGS-D of \$35,000 stipend/ year for 3 years. Supervisor top-ups by \$1,000. The total stipend is **\$36,000**.
    - Students who received the CIHR CGS- D award before 2022W, will receive \$30,000 + \$5,000 research allowance/ year for 3 years. The student becomes a 4YF-T holder and G+PS pays tuition up to \$5,000. Supervisor top-ups by \$1,000. The total stipend is **\$36,000**.
  - PhD student wins a NSERC CGS-D of \$35,000/year, and no tuition support from G+PS. Supervisor tops up award by \$1,000. The total student stipend is **\$36,000**.
  - PhD student wins a Vanier (CIHR/NSERC) doctoral scholarship of \$50,000/year. The supervisor does not pay the student a top-up and G+PS provides no tuition support.
- viii. PhD student wins a one-year UBC Affiliated Fellowship of \$16,000. Supervisor tops up award by \$15,000. The total student stipend is **\$31,000**.
- ix. PhD student wins a one-year UBC Affiliated Fellowship of \$18,000. Supervisor tops up award by \$13,000. The total student stipend is **\$31,000**.

### MSc or PhD

- x. MSc or PhD student wins any award below \$16,000/year. Supervisor tops up award **by \$2,000** over the minimum recommended stipend to a total of **\$28,500 (MSc) / \$30,000 (PhD)**.
- xi. MSc or PhD student wins a BCCHR graduate studentship in the amount of \$22,000/year for one - two years. Supervisor tops up award by \$4,000/year over recommended minimum stipend. The total student stipend is **\$30,500 (MSc) / \$32,000 (PhD)** per year. If the value of the BCCHR graduate studentship is less than \$22,000 (partner awards), rules in x or xii apply.
- xii. MSc or PhD student wins other award(s): Supervisor tops up MSc award to **\$29,000** and PhD award to **\$31,000** if award is \$16,000-28,000. Supervisor tops up MSc/PhD to **\$33,000** if award is \$28,001-32,000; and tops up MSc/PhD to **\$36,000** if award is \$32,001-35,000.
- xiii. MSc or PhD student wins any award \$36,000 or above. The Supervisor does not normally pay the student a top-up and UBC G+PS provides no tuition support.
- xiv. MSc or PhD student wins a “Friedman Award for Scholars in Health”. The awardee uses the award exclusively to fund their approved travel (flights, accommodation, food, etc) outside Western Canada. The supervisor is still required to continue with the previously confirmed funding obligations.

Additional information on award values for 4YF holders is in the [4YF Guidelines](#) on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website.

### **3. Other funding**

**Personal (self) funding:** Financial support from personal resources is not acceptable as funding for incoming students in the MEDG Graduate Program.

### **4. Teaching Assistant (TA) positions in the MEDG Graduate Program**

The MEDG 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 MEDG or another department/program).

#### **Hours per week and salaries**

*PhD students – GTA I; MSc students – GTA II*

**MEDG 419, 420, 505:** nine hours per week x 16 weeks (**144 hours total**). Salary: \$1,264.53/month (GTA I); and \$1,216.82/month (GTA II)

**MEDG 421, MEDG 520, and 530:** eleven hours per week x 16 weeks (**176 hours total**). Salary: \$1,545.60/month (GTA I); and \$1,487.28/month (GTA II)

#### **4.1. Medical Genetics TA Award**

Course Coordinators are asked to comment on the TA's performance of their duties. The Teaching Assistant Award Review Committee is composed of several members of the Research Day Committee. They receive copies of the student and course coordinator evaluations where the identifiers (the TA's name and course name) have been removed, ensuring an unbiased process of selection. On Research Day, the Medical Genetics TA Award in the amount of \$200 is presented to the TA Award winner.

### **5. Leave of Absence (LoA)**

Students who find it necessary to interrupt their graduate studies may request [a leave of absence](#). A leave of absence must be requested **before** the date on which the leave will start. A student stipend or top-up during LoA is not mandatory but rather at the discretion of the supervisor

**Important:** International graduate students should review [Taking time away from studies](#) and consult International Student Advising if needed before pursuing a Leave of Absence to discuss the impact on their ability to stay in Canada, study permit, and future post-graduation plans.

### **6. Other employment**

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.