



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, 2024, the recommended minimum yearly stipend for a full-time Medical Genetics (MEDG) Graduate Program thesis-based graduate student is as follows:

- MSc: **\$31,500**
- PhD: **\$33,000**

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 amount of time spent in the graduate program). The stipend may come from an independent studentship award and/or from the Research Supervisor's research grant. Admission to the Medical Genetics Graduate Program requires 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 and a half years for an MSc student and five years for a PhD student. After the two-and-a-half year MSc and five-year PhD point, continued funding is at the discretion of the Supervisor. The Supervisor should inform the 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 on both satisfactory academic and research progress, as determined by the student's Supervisory Committee, and on the Research Supervisor's continued grant support. Funding termination for other justifiable reasons must be approved by a majority of the Medical Genetics Graduate Advisory Committee.

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

The general top-up guidelines are as follows: Students receive a \$2,000 top-up for awards in the amount of \$8,000 or less; and receive a "25% of award value" top-up for awards \$8,000 - \$39,999, with a cap at \$6,000 top-up. See below for specific examples.

MSc

- MSc student wins a one-year MEDG Rotation Program or Entrance Award of \$22,000. Student's Supervisor tops up award by \$15,000. The total student stipend is \$37,000.
- MSc student wins a one-year Tri-Agency Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's (CGS M) of \$27,000. Supervisor tops up award by \$10,500. The total student stipend is \$37,500.
- MSc student wins a one-year BC Graduate Studentship of \$17,500. Supervisor tops up award by \$15,000. The total student stipend is \$35,875.

PhD

- PhD student wins a one-year MEDG Rotation Program or Entrance Award of \$22,000. Supervisor tops up award by \$16,500. The total student stipend is \$38,500.

- i. PhD student wins a MEDG Four Year Doctoral Fellowship (4YF-G) of \$18,200 plus tuition/year. Supervisor tops up award by:
 - \$20,355 for Domestic Schedule A and Domestic Continuing. The total student stipend is \$38,555.
 - \$20,800 for International Schedule A and International Continuing. The total student stipend is \$39,000.
- ii. PhD student wins a Tri-Council 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 a Tri-Council CGS-D of \$40,000 stipend/ year for 3 years. Providing a top-up is at the supervisor's discretion.
 - PhD student wins a Vanier (CIHR/NSERC) Doctoral scholarship of \$50,000/year. Providing a top-up is at the supervisor's discretion. G+PS provides no tuition support.
- iii. PhD student wins a one-year BC Graduate Studentship of \$17,500. Supervisor tops up award by \$19,875. The total student stipend is \$37,375.

MSc or PhD

- iv. MSc or PhD student wins any award below \$8,000/year. Supervisor tops up award by \$2,000 over the minimum recommended stipend.
- v. MSc student or PhD student wins a UBC Affiliated Fellowship of \$16,000 or \$18,000, respectively. Supervisor tops up award by \$19,500 or \$18,000, respectively, for MSc students; and by \$21,000 or \$19,500, respectively, for PhD students. The total MSc student stipend is \$35,500 or \$36,000, respectively. The total PhD student stipend is \$37,000 or \$37,500, respectively.
- vi. MSc or PhD student wins a BCCHR graduate studentship in the amount of \$22,000/year. Supervisor tops up award by \$5,500/year over recommended minimum stipend. The total student stipend is \$37,000 (for MSc students) or \$38,500 (for PhD students) per year. If the value of the BCCHR graduate studentship is less than \$22,000 (partner awards), general top-up guidelines apply (see above).
- vii. MSc or PhD student wins Friedman Award for Scholars in Health: as per the G+PS advice, the student's sources of funding separate from the Friedman adhere to the minimum funding policy for PhD students where applicable.
- viii. MSc or PhD student wins other award(s): Supervisor tops up 25% of award value for awards \$8,000 - \$39,999. If award value is \$40,000 or above, providing a top-up is at the supervisor's discretion. UBC G+PS provides no tuition support.

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 seven 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: \$1,403.64/month (GTA I); and \$1,351.08/month (GTA II)

MEDG 421, MEDG 520, 525 and 530: eleven hours per week x 16 weeks (**176 hours total**). Salary: \$1,715.56/month (GTA I); and \$1,651.32/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.

