Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement
for the Basic Science Departments, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, and the Institute of Medical Science in the Faculty of Medicine (2015-16)

The following constitutes the Agreement that has been reached by the Chairs of Departments of Biochemistry, Immunology, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, Medical Biophysics, Molecular Genetics, Nutritional Sciences, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Physiology, the Institute of Medical Science and the Vice-Dean Graduate and Life Sciences Education in the Faculty of Medicine.

1. **Total Stipend:**
   - MSc - $17,340 living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees*
   - PhD - $19,380 living allowance plus tuition and incidental fees*
   - All paid as T4A income
   
   * The Faculty of Medicine is maintaining the domestic 2013-14 stipend amounts for 2015-16.

2. **Top-up Practices**
   A student who receives $15,000 or more, as a major, competitive, external award, will be provided with an additional $4,000 top-up in recognition of receiving an external award. In such cases, the student will be paid the amount of his/her award plus the difference between his/her award and the total stipend plus a $4,000 top-up.

   Payment of top-ups will occur for the duration of the award. Thereafter, payments to the student will revert to the graduate student funding package amount. A Ph.D. student who has held such eligible competitive funding, for the full duration of their eligibility (i.e., for 4 consecutive years) will be eligible for the top-up for one year beyond the duration of the award.

   Awards eligible for top-up, must be major, competitive, external and not restricted to a limited group of students, such as those at a hospital-based research institute. They may, however, be restricted by topic area. Eligible awards include: CIHR, NSERC, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association and other national and international funding agencies. Additional awards that meet these criteria may also be eligible for top up.

   OGS is not considered an external award in the Faculty of Medicine. Although it is valued at $15,000, only $10,000 is provided by the Ontario Government as a scholarship; therefore, it is no longer eligible for top-up, as of 2015-16.

   Students who receive an award of greater value than the total stipend plus $4,000 (e.g., Doctoral or Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships) will be ineligible for a further top-up.

3. **Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Funds (OSOTF) Awards**
   Students who receive funding from needs-based/merit awards, such as OSOTFs are required to consider such funds as part of their total stipend.

4. **Bursaries**
   Non-repayable grants, such as the SGS Emergency Grant, which assists students with sudden and unexpected financial need are not part of the total stipend outlined above. A student is, therefore, eligible to retain the entire amount of such an award.
5. **Funding Terms**

In general, provided that he/she remains “in good standing”, a student will be funded for the duration of his/her thesis-based program. Funding is guaranteed for 2 years for MSc students. For PhD students funding is guaranteed for a minimum of 5 years, which includes 1 year as an MSc student.

As appropriate, once the supervisory committee has agreed that the student has completed all necessary experiments needed for writing his/her thesis, an MSc student will have a maximum of **4 months** and a PhD student a maximum of **6 months** in which to prepare the thesis and schedule a defense. The student will continue to be paid the total stipend during this period. If the defense is not scheduled within the four or six months, respectively, as described above, the student must apply to the Chair and/or Graduate Coordinator for an extension.

If the thesis writing phase is very prolonged, the continuation of funding is not guaranteed, but is at the discretion of the supervisor and Department.

6. **Annual Review**

The Chairs of the Basic Science Departments and Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, and the Director of IMS will meet annually with the Vice Dean, Graduate and Life Sciences Education to discuss the funding Agreement and to make any adjustments necessary for implementation effective the following academic year.

---

**Attendees:**

Harvey Anderson  
Allan Kaplan  
Ruth Ross  
Peter Burns (delegate John Sled)  
Mingyao Liu  
Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker  
Richard Hegele  
Justin Nodwell

**Regrets:**

Steffen-Sebastian Bolz  
Howard Lipstitz

October 2014  
August 2015 (amended)