

Schulich School of Engineering

Minimum Funding Policy for all MSc and PhD programs

[Note: The graduate funding levels indicated in this document are the minimum amounts; financial support to individual students may exceed these amounts.]

1. This SSE policy pertains to full time graduate students registered in either MSc or PhD program at the Schulich School of Engineering. It does not apply to MEng students.
2. The minimum funding will be guaranteed for 2 years for MSc students and 4 years for PhD students, as long as the student is in good standing (section H.2 of graduate calendar), meets supervisor's reasonable expectations and maintains satisfactory progress in the program (section H.3 of graduate calendar).
3. This policy will not apply to students who take paid employment or internship (>612 hours annually about 4 months/40 hours per week) elsewhere
4. Wherever there is a conflict between this SSE policy and the Faculty of Graduate Studies – Graduate Student Funding Operating Standard, the latter will prevail.
5. All fully-funded MSc and PhD students will receive a minimum funding of \$ 18,000 from a variety of sources, plus applicable tuition fees per annum as specified in the university Calendar. As an example, based on 2020-21 Calendar, the total support should be:
 - for domestic students: \$21,464 (= \$18,000 + \$3,464)
 - for international students: \$26,081 (= \$18,000 + \$8,081)
6. The following count towards meeting the student's guaranteed minimum funding:
 - Stipend from supervisor's research grant
 - Up to two ¼ unit (or equivalent) of Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GATs) per year
 - Any departmental, SSE, FGS or university non-competitive awards/scholarships
7. Additional GATs (beyond the two ¼ unit GATs per year) may be awarded by Departments/Centers based on the needs of a Department/Center. These will be paid additionally.
8. Graduate students during the first 2 years of a MSc program or during the first 4 years of a PhD program will have priority for TA assignments.
9. Students are encouraged to apply for awards and scholarships. Awards and scholarships are defined as those to which a student applies on their own in Canada and wins in a competitive environment. Departmental support, assistantships through supervisor's grants and support that the supervisor may have procured to advance their research, do not qualify as scholarship in this policy. If a student wins an award or scholarship, their funding will be affected in the following way:
 - \$0 - \$ 3,000 per annum (cumulative awards): The student receives the award(s) in addition to the guaranteed minimum funding
 - \$ 3,000 - \$ 33,000 per annum (cumulative awards): The student receives the award(s), but the guaranteed minimum funding is prorated, based on the following formula:
Total Student Support (including awards) = 18,000 + fees + [3000+ 0.3*(award amount-3000)]
 - > \$ 33,000 per annum: The student receives the award(s), but is not guaranteed any additional minimum funding
 - Exclusions: TOR for specific scholarships/awards where there is a minimum contribution required from supervisor/department.