

# Schulich School of Engineering

## Minimum Funding Policy for all MSc and PhD programs

Approved July 18, 2023

This policy has been amended with the minimal updates required to ensure compliance with the Faculty of Graduate Studies Graduate Student Funding Operating Standard (PhD) and Faculty of Graduate Studies Graduate Student Funding Operating Standard (MSc) (“the FGS Operating Standard”), both approved June 26, 2025, and effective as of January 1, 2026. For ease of reference, amendments are indicated in red text below.

The amended policy was determined to be compliant with the FGS Operating Standard and approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on February 4, 2026.

Note: The graduate funding levels indicated in this document are the minimum amounts; financial support to individual students may exceed these amounts. The purpose of funding thesis-based students is to provide financial support to individuals pursuing their studies full-time and in the absence of significant outside work. Working professionals may not be eligible for stipend support from their supervisors or program funding and are encouraged to pursue the self-funding option.

- 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 G.H.2 of the Academic Calendar), meets the supervisor’s reasonable expectations and maintains satisfactory progress in the program (section G.H.3 of the Academic Calendar).
- 3) Wherever there is a conflict between this SSE policy and the Faculty of Graduate Studies – Graduate Student Funding Operating Standard, the latter will prevail.
- 4) **Minimum guaranteed funding amounts**
  - a) **For MSc and PhD students who started their program before January 1, 2026:**

All fully funded domestic MSc and PhD students will receive a minimum funding of \$23,300 per annum. All fully funded international MSc and PhD students will receive a minimum funding of \$25,000 per annum.
  - b) **For MSc and PhD students who started their program on or after January 1, 2026:**

**For domestic MSc students**  
Annual funding = \$23,676.05  
Calculated as follows: \$20,000 (base funding) + \$3,676.05 (tuition amount)

**For international MSc students**  
Annual funding = \$25,455.65  
Calculated as follows: \$20,000 (base funding) + \$8,575.65 (tuition amount) - \$3,120 (IGTA)

**For domestic PhD students**  
Annual funding = \$31,426.05

Calculated as follows: \$27,750 (base funding) + \$3,676.05 (tuition amount)

For international PhD students

Annual funding = \$33,205.65

Calculated as follows: \$27,750 (base funding) + \$8,575.65 (tuition amount) - \$3,120 (IGTA)

Beginning September 1, 2027, this amount will be automatically adjusted annually

- i) Base funding: increase by 2% each year
  - ii) Tuition component: by the actual change in the University's tuition for domestic and international graduate students.
- c) For all MSc and PhD students
- The International Graduate Tuition Assistance (IGTA) provided by FGS do not form part of the minimum funding. **Students' income from internships (less than 12 hrs/week) cannot be used for minimum funding (FGS Operating Standard 4.4).**
- 5) The following count towards meeting the student's guaranteed minimum funding:
- a) Stipend from supervisor's research grant
  - b) Any departmental, SSE, FGS, or university funds that are not given as an award, scholarship, or fellowship on a competitive basis directly to a student
  - c) **Student income from internships exceeding 12 hrs/week (FGS Operating Standard 4.5e).**
- 6) Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GATs) may be awarded by Departments/Centers based on the needs of a Department/Center. These will be paid additionally and will not count toward the guaranteed minimum funding.
- 7) Graduate students during the first 2 years of an MSc program or during the first 4 years of a PhD program will have priority for GATs.
- 8) 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 **(including AGES scholarships<sup>i</sup>)**. 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 graduate student is successful in securing competitive external or internal awards (awarded for academic merit and research potential through an adjudicated competition), this will result in an increase to the student's guaranteed funding amount as set out in the offer of admission. Then minimal level of increase in student total funding is<sup>ii</sup>:

- a) For awards of \$3,000 or less per year, the total amount of funding as set out in the letter of admission will not be adjusted.
- b) For cumulative awards of over \$3,000 per year, funding as set out in the letter of admission may be adjusted, so that the student's total funding for the year (including the award) will be the greater of:
  - i) guaranteed funding plus first \$3,000 of total annual awards, plus 30% of the remaining annual awards, or
  - ii) the amount of the competitive award

- c) Exclusions: TOR for specific scholarships/awards where there is a minimum contribution required from the supervisor/department.
- 9) Students are responsible for paying tuition and fees annually.  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-fees-expenses.html>

Students with funding from university sources can apply for a payment plan.

---

<sup>i</sup> As per current practice in the SSE.

<sup>ii</sup> This wording was adjusted to be independent of the different minimum funding values outlined in section 4 above.