

Funding Policy

MSc and PhD Students Registered in Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

This policy is effective September 2024 – June 2026. This policy will be revised every two years or as recommended by the Associate Dean, Office of Emerging Scholars. This interim policy is designed to address current stipend deficiencies. Revisions from 2026 onward will be indexed to tuition costs and the cost of living in Calgary.

Full time graduate students in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine receive financial support through stipends which serve to assist students in paying for the costs of being a graduate student at the University of Calgary. Stipend values are calculated to reflect those costs. Because the base stipend has been well below the cost of living in Calgary confirmed by data provided by UCVM graduate students, it is being increased. This document outlines the increase for the next three years.

Effective September 2024 supervisors may not accept any new thesis-based students until all their current UCVM registered students receive the minimum stipend for that academic year.

Stipend Information

1. The stipend value schedule for full time thesis-based graduate students is as follows:

Academic Year						
	2024-2025		2025-2026		2026-2027	
Program	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	\$30,000	\$38,000	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$34,000	\$42,000
PhD	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$34,000	\$42,000	\$36,000	\$44,000

- a) All students in a research group must receive at least the minimum stipend value for each academic year.
 - b) Maxima are in place to help support stipend equality. Individual circumstances may require adjustments to the maximum stipend value. Maxima may be exceeded by internal/external scholarships or with permission of the Associate Dean, Office of Emerging Scholars.
2. Stipends are guaranteed for four years for PhD and two years for MSc students. Continuation of stipends is contingent on satisfactory progress through the program, as indicated by a rating of 'satisfactory' on the Annual Progress Report (APR) and an average of a B (3.00/4.00) with no grade less than a B- in any graduate courses taken as part of the program. Supervisors are expected to continue stipend support after the guaranteed time frame until completion of the program, as long as the student maintains satisfactory progress. Funding will continue during thesis revisions until submission. Stipends may not be guaranteed during program extensions. Decisions to discontinue funding for any reason other than program completion must be made in consultation with the supervisory committee and the Associate Dean of Emerging Scholars.
 3. Stipends are expected to align with the principles of economic equality among students within the same research group, at similar stages in their program, when receiving funds from a supervisor's operating grant and/or program level support. For those students receiving scholarships, supervisors will follow the top-up instructions outlined in Section 7 of this policy.

4. To be eligible to receive a stipend, a student must be registered full-time and active in program, and must fulfil their supervisor's reasonable expectations regarding attendance, activity in the research environment, and progress as determined by the student's supervisor/supervisory committee and as documented in the APR.
 5. Income from the following may be used to meet the guaranteed stipend value:
 - Supervisor grants
 - External scholarships/fellowships/studentships, including, but not limited to SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, AAFC, RDAR, charitable organizations, and 3rd party funding
 - Internal scholarships, including university competitions such as the Graduate Awards Competition
 - MITACS Internship
 6. Income from the following sources *may not* be used to meet the guaranteed stipend value:
 - Graduate assistantship positions (GAT)^a
 - Sessional instructor positions^a
 - International graduate tuition awards
 - Transformative Talent Internships
 - Fee differential payments
 - Travel and conference awards
 - Program awards
- a) GAT and sessional income may be included in the guaranteed stipend with permission of the Associate Dean, Emerging Scholars, on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Information

7. Students in all programs are expected to apply for internal and external scholarships for which they are eligible. For cumulative awards of \$3,000 or less, the student may keep the award up to a combined maximum of \$3,000 in addition to their base funding. For awards greater than \$3,000, the amount above \$3,000 may be applied to the student's funding consistent with UCVM graduate student award policies.

NOTE: Where Scholarship Terms of Reference require mandatory contribution from the supervisor and funding from a First Nations, Metis or Inuit organization (i.e., band funding or similar) are excluded from the top-up schedule.

8. Students are responsible for paying tuition and fees annually.
<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/tuitionandfeesoverview/grad>
9. Students with funding from university sources can apply for a payment plan.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-and-fees/payment-plan>

Support after Final Thesis Submission:

11. Once a student has submitted their final thesis document to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, they are no longer eligible for a stipend, and the stipend will end at the end of the month in which the submission occurs. Should a supervisor wish to continue supporting a former student, the supervisor will need to make arrangements to hire the former student via Graduate Assistantship or support staff pathways.