



Rehabilitation Sciences Institute Student Funding Policy & Statement of Agreement: 2021-2022

PREAMBLE

The University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine, and therefore the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, (RSI) require Full Funding of all Doctoral Stream students.

The RSI policy is that graduate students registered in their department should have financial support throughout the fundable period of the program.

Self-funding by a student from personal or family funds, either directly or indirectly, or from any other funds whose source is not a recognized funding agency approved by SGS, is not permitted.

Support is derived from:

- External Scholarships (i.e. OGS, NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
- Supervisor Stipends
- Departmental/ Internal awards

These will be considered part of the funding package. If a student is offered any of the funding components as a part of their minimum funding package and then turns the offer down, the student forfeits that component of their funding package for that year.

Funded Cohort:

The funded cohort consists of all full-time doctoral stream students (excluding Practice Science Field) who remain in “**good standing**” in the program and are in year 1-2 of the MSc, year 1-4 of PhD or year 1-5 for direct entry or transfer.

REHABILITATION SCIENCES INSTITUTE FUNDING POLICY

1. TOTAL BASE FUNDING

Domestic Students

- The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI MSc students will be **\$27,300.00** per year. (\$19,319 plus tuition).
- The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI PhD students will be **\$28,690.00** per year (\$20,709 plus tuition).

- Students must maintain “good standing” in their programs to remain eligible for this funding.
- Self-funding by a student from personal or family funds, either directly or indirectly, or from any other funds whose source is not a recognized funding agency approved by SGS, is not permitted.

International Students

- The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI International MSc students will be **\$48,055.00** (\$19,319 plus tuition plus UHIP).
- The minimum funding for all eligible new and continuing RSI International PhD students will be **\$29,445.00** ** (\$20,709 plus tuition plus UHIP).
- Funding of International graduate students is the responsibility of the supervisor. RSI does not fund International students. Students may also be funded from external awards, international Institutions etc.

**Note: Tuition fees and incidental fees are not finalized until April/May, therefore there may be small adjustments to the minimum funding numbers.*

***Effective fall 2018, all **international students in research stream PhD programs** at the University of Toronto will pay the same tuition as a domestic student. International Masters students will continue to pay the higher international tuition.*

2. Top-Up Practices

- All students who receive a major competitive external award (e.g. CIHR, OGSST, NSERC) equal to or greater than \$15,000 per year will receive a “**top-up Bonus**” of \$3,000. Competitive awards are awards that require a formal applications and are reviewed by an external review panel.
- Top-up Bonus eligibility excludes University of Toronto Fellowship (e.g, UTF Open), Doctoral Completion Awards, travel awards, and bursaries. Top-up bonuses are only given if the student receives the balance of their funding from their supervisor or another award. Top-up bonus will not be given if:
 - a. The student must be topped-up with RSI funds (i.e. UTF) to meet the departmental minimum
 - b. The Competitive award is a matched award that is matched at RSI (i.e. OGS, QEII)
 - c. RSI is required to bring the student up to the departmental minimum with RSI funds.
- RSI **will not provide** a top-up if the sum of awards and supervisor support is equal to or greater than \$30,000.
- Supervisors are allowed to have lab-specific top-up practices.

3. Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Funds (OSOTF) Awards

- Students who receive funding from needs-based and merit awards, such as OSOTFs, are required to consider such funds as part of their base funding. These awards do not qualify for RSI top-ups.

4. Bursaries

- Non-repayable grants, such as the UTAPS and SGS Emergency Grant, which assists students with sudden and/or unexpected financial need, are not part of the base funding outlined above. A student under these circumstances is therefore eligible to retain the entire amount of such an award.

Students whose amount of funding or funding sources change throughout the year are required to provide RSI with supporting documentation and a revised GEMS agreement (formally known as GradSIS). In addition, the students may be required to return or decline funds in order to comply with the policies of the funding sources and/or RSI. The net result will be an equal or a greater amount of student support.

For students who have transferred from the Masters of Science program, time in the Master's program will be counted towards the PhD full funding time limit. PhD Direct Entry students (Direct Entry from undergraduate studies) and transfer students (MSc to PhD) are guaranteed 5 years of funding.

Students must be registered as a full-time degree candidate for a minimum of fourteen weeks in any term during which they hold an award. Repayment of an award is required if a student is registered full-time for fewer than 14 weeks in any term, transfers to another graduate unit, changes registration status or voluntarily withdraws from the program.

Full funding must be guaranteed for 2 years for the MSc program and 4 years for the PhD program. Supervisory and/or departmental support equivalent to the minimum standard should be in place prior to acceptance and registration in the entry year. If such support is not derived from external fellowships or awards, then it is expected that the supervisor will make support available. Supervisors are required to fund students on a first-entry, first-supported basis.

All Students are required to apply for external and internal awards throughout their program.

Students receiving tuition assistance must report all information to the RSI office.

SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE (GOOD STANDING)

Good standing includes satisfactory progress in coursework, thesis research, and participation in other academic activities of the graduate program (i.e. yearly participation in the RSI Research Day). Students and their supervisors must complete their **RSI Annual Report, Supervisory Committee Forms,**

Comprehensive Examination, and their **GEMS Student/Supervisor Agreement Form**. Students in their first year of their program are also required to attend the Graduate Research Integrity Workshop. The supervisor should notify the Graduate Coordinator immediately of any issues related to unsatisfactory performance in the program.

FUNDING SOURCES

Both student and supervisor will make every reasonable effort to obtain funding for the student from external, peer-reviewed award sources, such as the CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, OGS, private foundations, and internal awards. The RSI will make every effort to inform students and supervisors, of the availability and application procedures for such awards. The RSI will not be able to monitor award applications. Supervisors are requested to be particularly vigilant to ensure that their students apply, and students and supervisors must notify RSI regarding all awards applied for. All students' graduate income will be classified as T4A Income.

Teaching assistantships (T4) and Research Assistantships are not counted as part of the graduate student funding.

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

Student and supervisor are required to jointly complete a Doctoral Graduate Student-Supervisor Agreement (GEMS). Completion of this agreement is required annually, commencing before initial enrolment, for all doctoral (MSc or PhD) students admitted to Graduate Departments in the Faculty of Medicine. Please read the terms and provisions carefully. Completion of this form indicates the commitment of the student and supervisor to abide by these terms and provisions. This agreement will be in effect until completion of, or withdrawal from the program of study, or change in supervision.