



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MEDICINE

2016-17 Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement – FAQs

Q. *Who approves the Harmonized Student Stipend Agreement?*

A: The Agreement is approved annually by the participating Graduate Chairs and Office of the Graduate & Life Sciences Education.

Q. *If I win an OSOTF award under \$2,000, is it part of the student's total stipend?*

A: Students who are awarded OSOTF awards will include it as part of their total stipend. However, starting Fall 2016, **any** student awards under \$2,000 can be kept by the student over and above the total student stipend; which includes OSOTF awards and any internal University and external awards. Therefore:

- If the OSOTF award is under \$2,000, it will be kept by the student over and above the total student stipend.
- If the OSOTF award is \$2,000 and above, it will be part of the student's total stipend.

Q. *If a student is awarded a Merit Entrance Scholarship (MES), can the student also hold award(s) that are under \$2,000, over and above their total student stipend?*

A: Yes, the student can keep an award that is under \$2,000, over and above their total student stipend, simultaneously with a MES.

Q. *On the Agreement, the 2016-17 Tuition states that incidental fees are not included. Does this mean that they are to be determined and that they will be included as part of the total stipend in the end?*

A: The total stipend amount will be updated to include the Incidental, System Access & Ancillary Fees, and UHIP for international tuition, after it is announced.

Q. *How many years are PhD students funded?*

A: - PhD stream students are guaranteed student stipend funding for a minimum of 5 years; for those with a relevant Master's degree, the PhD funding is guaranteed for 4 years.

-**Direct-entry PhD students** admitted with a bachelor's degree are guaranteed student stipend funding for a minimum of 5 years.

-**Transfer students** (i.e., transfer from MSc to PhD students), are guaranteed minimum funding for their first 5 years, which includes 1 year as an MSc student.

Q. *What does guaranteed "minimum" funding mean?*

A: It means the Graduate Unit and/or supervisor must fund the student for the stated minimum number of years. Also, it is at the discretion of the Graduate Unit and/or supervisor whether or not to continue funding after the stated minimum number of years.