

Faculty of Kinesiology Graduate Funding Policy

Approved March 18, 2026

1. Kinesiology Program-Set Minimum Guaranteed Funding Level:

The Kinesiology program-set minimum guaranteed funding level is the minimum annual amount of funding from all sources guaranteed to an MSc or PhD graduate student at the time of admission, to receive throughout their guaranteed funding period if they maintain eligibility.

1.1. Doctoral:

1.1.1. The doctoral minimum guaranteed funding level for full-time students who started their program on or after May 1, 2020, but before August 2022 is \$18,000 for domestic students and \$20,000 for international students, annually for four years.

1.1.2. For students who started their program on or after August 2022, but before May 2025, the doctoral minimum guaranteed funding level is \$22,000 for domestic students and \$24,000 for international students, annually for four years.

1.1.3. For students who started their program on or after May 1, 2025 the doctoral minimum guaranteed funding level is \$30,000, annually for four years.

1.1.4. For students who started their program on or after January 1, 2026, the doctoral minimum guaranteed funding level is

(a) For domestic students = \$31,426.05, calculated as follows: \$27,750 (Base funding) + 3,676.05 (tuition)

(b) For international students = \$33,205.65, calculated as follows: \$27,750 (Base funding) + 8,575.65 (tuition) - \$3,120 (International Graduate Tuition Award)

Beginning September 1, 2027, the annual funding amount will be automatically adjusted annually: (a) base funding will increase by 2% each year, and (b) the tuition component will change by the actual change in the University's tuition for domestic or international graduate students (respectively).

1.2. MSc:

1.2.1. The master's minimum guaranteed funding level for full-time students who started their program on or after April 1, 2023, but before May 2025, is \$10,000, annually for two years. The program recommended minimum guaranteed funding level is \$15,000 annually for two years.

1.2.2. For students who started their program on or after May 1, 2025 the master's minimum guaranteed funding level is \$24,000 annually for two years.

1.2.3. For students who started their program on or after January 1, 2026, the master's minimum guaranteed funding level is

(a) For domestic students = \$24,000 in year 1. Beginning September 2027, it will be calculated as follows: \$20,000 (Base funding)+2% (Base funding) + Tuition.

(b) For international students = \$25,455.65, calculated as follows: \$20,000 (Base funding) + 8,575.65 (tuition) - \$3,120 (International Graduate Tuition Award)

Beginning September 1, 2027, the annual funding amount will be automatically adjusted annually: (a) base funding will increase by 2% each year, and (b) the tuition component will change by the actual change in the University's tuition for domestic or international graduate students (respectively).

1.3. Exemptions: Students who are externally sponsored (i.e., admitted with documented financial support from an external agency meeting or exceeding the minimum amount) are not normally funded from university sources and are exempted from the minimum guaranteed funding level.

2. Student Eligibility:

- 2.1. To be eligible to receive financial support, a student must be registered full time and active in program, and be in good academic standing.
 - 2.2. Continuation of funding is contingent on maintaining adequate progress through the program as indicated by a rating of “satisfactory” on the Annual Progress Report and average of 3.00/4.00 GPA with no grade below a B- in any courses taken as part of the program. Decisions to discontinue funding prior to the guaranteed timelines in such cases must be approved by the Associate Dean Graduate and Faculty of Graduate Studies after consultation with the student, supervisor, and supervisory committee.
 - 2.3. Where funding is provided in part or in full from a Supervisor’s or other faculty member’s research grant, the Graduate Student is expected to contribute to the collective research effort. When funding from a grant is paid as a scholarship, it is intended to support the Graduate Student’s research progress toward fulfilment of the requirements of the degree. Scholarship payments should be stable and predictable to contribute to the student’s ability to progress toward degree completion.
 - 2.4. When funding is provided in part or in full from a Supervisor’s or other faculty member’s research grant and the Supervisor deems the Graduate Student’s contribution or research progress to be deficient, the Supervisor (or other faculty member providing funding) must work with the Associate Dean, Graduate to initiate a review of the Graduate Student’s research performance. The Supervisor (or other faculty member providing funding) cannot reduce or stop funding to a Graduate Student below the minimum guaranteed funding level without the prior approval of the Associate Dean, Graduate and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
 - 2.5. When Graduate Assistant Teaching (GAT) or Graduate Assistant Non-Teaching (GANT) funding is part of a student’s minimum guaranteed funding, students must be available to fulfil these obligations and demonstrate satisfactory performance. Otherwise (including if students are not available or decline a GAT or GANT position), the amount of the GAT/GANT refused may be deducted from the minimum guaranteed funding offered to the student for that academic year. Reduction of funding in such cases must be approved by the Associate Dean, Graduate in the Faculty of Kinesiology.
 - 2.6. To be eligible for scholarships/stipends paid as scholarships offered by the Kinesiology graduate program, or competitive university scholarships, a student cannot hold paid employment for more than 612 hours a year while registered as a full-time student. This includes hours worked as a GAT, GANT, or GAR.
3. All of the following count toward meeting the student’s minimum guaranteed funding:
 - 3.1. Stipend/scholarship payment from supervisor’s research grant
 - 3.2. Graduate Assistantships Teaching (GAT), Graduate Assistantships non-Teaching (GANT) and Graduate Assistantships Research (GAR) income
 - 3.3. Research assistantship income from supervisor’s research grant
 - 3.4. External scholarships, including SSHRC/NSERC/CIHR/AIHS/AITF/AGES, etc.
 - 3.5. Internal scholarships, including from program or university competitions such as the Graduate Awards Competition
 - 3.6. Income from up to two appointments as a sessional instructor, as per the TUCFA Collective Agreement.
 4. Income from the following sources is *not* counted toward the student’s minimum guaranteed funding:
 - 4.1. Travel awards, including Kinesiology Presentation Awards
 - 4.2. Bursaries
 - 4.3. Students’ income from internships (less than 12 hrs/week)
 - 4.4. Income earned through unrelated paid employment external to the University
 - 4.5. Non-academic awards, leadership awards and prizes (e.g., 3MT competition)
 - 4.6. International Graduate Tuition Award (IGTA)

- 4.7. Funding from a First Nations, Metis, or Inuit organization (i.e., band funding or similar).
5. Students are required to apply for external scholarships for which they are eligible
6. If a graduate student is successful in securing competitive external or internal awards (awarded for academic merit and research potential through an adjudicated competition) (i.e., scholarships that are not part of a student's minimum guaranteed funding at the time of admission) will affect the student's funding in the following way:

For a scholarship value of:

- \$0-\$3000 (cumulative awards) – The student is allowed to keep the award up to a combined maximum of \$3000 in addition to their minimum guaranteed funding.
- \$3001-\$10,000 (cumulative awards) – The award goes towards the student's minimum guaranteed funding and the student receives a \$3,000 top-up over their minimum guaranteed funding level.
- \$10,001-15,000 (cumulative awards) – The award goes towards the student's minimum guaranteed funding and the student receives a \$4,000 top-up over their minimum guaranteed funding.
- Over \$15,000 (cumulative awards) – The award goes towards the student's minimum guaranteed funding and the student receives a \$5,000 top-up over their minimum guaranteed funding.

Top-ups only need to be provided to a maximum total funding of the minimum guaranteed funding level plus \$5,000, although supervisors are welcome to provide top-ups beyond this.

Exclusions – Terms of Reference for specific scholarship where there is mandatory contribution from the supervisor that exceeds this top up formula and Indigenous Government Funding.

Please see the appendix for examples.

7. 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. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-fees/graduate-student-payment-plan>
8. This funding policy will be reviewed at minimum every three years.

Appendix: Examples of Funding Packages

Student A is admitted to the MSc program with minimum guaranteed funding of \$24,000 per year. This funding is provided by the supervisor and involves research assistant work.
Student A receives an \$11,000 AGES Program award. This means their new minimum required funding is \$28,000 (\$24,000 minimum guaranteed funding +\$4,000 top-up). The supervisor now must provide a minimum of \$17,000 in funding.
The supervisor chooses to continue providing \$24,000 per year. Student A receives funding for the year of \$35,000.

Student B is admitted to the PhD program with minimum guaranteed funding of \$33,265.65 per year. This funding is provided by the supervisor.
Student B receives an external award of \$40,000 per year. This award exceeds the maximum required top up level of the minimum guaranteed funding plus \$5,000, so the supervisor is not required to provide a top up to this award. The supervisor chooses not to provide a top up and the student's funding for the year is now \$40,000.

Student C is admitted to the MSc program with minimum guaranteed funding of \$24,000 per year. This funding is provided by a combination of GAT funding, noncompetitive scholarship from the program, and funding from the supervisor.
Student C receives (1) a \$3,000 external scholarship, and (2) a \$1200 Kinesiology Presentation Award.
1. Students are allowed to keep a combined total of \$3,000 or less in addition to their minimum guaranteed funding. Thus, the student's funding for the year is now \$27,000.
2. Kinesiology Presentation Awards do not count towards a student's minimum guaranteed funding. Thus, this award does not influence the student's minimum guaranteed funding.