

Faculty of Social Work Graduate Funding Policy
(Effective April 5, 2025)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure appropriate funding for Master of Social Work - Thesis and Doctor of Philosophy students in the Faculty of Social Work.

MSW Thesis Students

Students enrolled full-time in the thesis-based MSW program are eligible to receive a one-time MSW Thesis Scholarship valued at \$3,000 when they receive their Ethics Certificate or, if an Ethics Certificate is not required (e.g., policy analysis), when the supervisor confirms that the student is ready to begin. The student must submit a completed MSW Thesis Scholarship Application Form within three months of having obtained an Ethics Certificate, or, where none is required, within three months of having completed the final research course.

Doctoral Students

1. For the first four years, the minimum doctoral stipend for domestic students enrolled full-time in the PhD program is \$22,000 annually. For international students this minimum stipend is \$24,000 annually.

Domestic and international status are based on tuition residency.

Students who are externally sponsored (i.e., admitted with documented financial support from an external agency meeting the minimum amount) are not normally funded from university sources and are exempted from the minimum doctoral stipend.

2. All the following count toward meeting the student's guaranteed funding amount (i.e., the amount guaranteed in the student's offer of admission):
 - External scholarships, including SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, AIHS, AITF, AGES
 - Internal scholarships, including program recommended graduate awards, faculty awards (e.g., FSW Recognition of Excellence Awards) or university competitions (e.g., Graduate Awards Competition)
 - Stipend/scholarship payments from supervisor's research grant
 - Graduate Assistantship Teaching (GAT) income
 - Graduate Assistantship Non-Teaching (GANT) income
 - Graduate Assistantship Research (GAR) income from supervisor's research grant, and
 - Income as sessional instructor for up to two appointments during the program.

3. Students are required to apply for internal and external (e.g., Tri-Council awards including SSHRC, CIHR) scholarships for which they are eligible.
4. To be eligible to receive financial support, a student must be registered full-time, active in their program and demonstrate satisfactory progress on annual progress report (APR).
 - Students receiving scholarship funding from their supervisor's grant must fulfil their supervisor's reasonable expectations regarding attendance and activity in the research environment. If the expectations are not met, the allocated payment may be deducted from the annual funding offered to the student for that academic year, upon further evaluation and approval by the Graduate Program Director and Associate Dean – Graduate.
 - Employment income as a graduate teaching assistant (GAT), research assistant (GANT or GAR), or sessional instructor is included in the guaranteed funding amount offered to students. Students must be available to take the employment as GAT, GANT, GAR or sessional instructor; otherwise, the amount of refused appointment will be deducted from the annual funding offered to the student for that academic year.
 - The expectation is that students will be engaged in research (GANT, GAR) and teaching opportunities (GAT, sessional teaching) in Year 2 and onwards. In Year 1, seeking out GAT, GANT, GAR and sessional opportunities is optional.
5. Success in external or internal scholarship competitions will affect the student's funding in the following way:
 - a) For awards of cumulative value of \$5,000 or less, funding as set out in the letter of admission will not be reduced.
 - b) For awards of cumulative value of over \$5,000, funding as set out in the funding letter may be reduced, so that the student's total funding for the year will be the greater of:
 - guaranteed funding + \$5,000 or
 - cumulative amount of awards that were won.
6. Students are responsible for paying tuition and fees annually.
<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/tuitionandfeesoverview/grad>
Students with funding from university sources can apply for a payment plan.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-fees/graduate-student-payment-plan>.