



## Factsheet: Graduate Student Funding

U of T Engineering competes for the best graduate students from around the world. Our funding packages and support programs help to attract and retain the most qualified candidates, and to prepare graduate students for successful careers in their fields of choice.

This factsheet outlines general information about graduate student funding in the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering at U of T. However, policies may vary widely between graduate units (i.e. departments, institutes). For more specific information about your graduate unit's funding arrangements, please review the School of Graduate Studies' "[Understand Your Funding](#)" page and consult your unit's graduate coordinator.

### What funding is available, and what does it cover?

Most U of T Engineering graduate units guarantee a minimum level of funding for either a) two years of MASc studies, followed by up to four years of PhD studies, or b) five years of total funding for students who either fast-track from an MASc program into a PhD, or enter the PhD program directly following their undergraduate degrees. This funding is available for both domestic and international students.

This minimum guaranteed amount covers tuition and fees (and for international students, health insurance) as well as an annual stipend designed to help support the student's living expenses.

### How much is the minimum guaranteed amount?

The minimum guaranteed amount varies by graduate unit. As of September 2017, all departments offer an amount sufficient to cover tuition and fees and provide, in addition, an annual stipend of at least \$17,000 per year for PhD students and \$16,000 per year for MASc students. For more specific information about your graduate unit's funding arrangements, please review the School of Graduate Studies' "[Understand Your Funding](#)" page and consult your unit's graduate coordinator.

### What opportunities are there to obtain additional funding?

In addition to the minimum guaranteed amount, students can earn additional funding through internal or external scholarships and fellowships, as well as teaching assistantships. Most graduate students at U of T earn additional funding through one of these pathways.

## Scholarships and Fellowships

Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships either internally or through external organizations such as the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) or the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Program. When students win large scholarships, the graduate units may reduce funding from other sources (e.g. research grants held by the student's



supervisor). However, the amount of the annual stipend will remain higher than the minimum guaranteed amount.

### Teaching Assistantships

In most graduate units, teaching assistantships are awarded competitively and are paid on top of the guaranteed funding package. However, in some graduate units, work is considered to be an essential component of graduate students' training and professional development. There is a limit on the amount of TA work that can be counted toward a student's base funding package: as of September 2017, this limit is 180 hours. TA work above this amount results in additional funding.

Currently, TAs are paid an hourly rate of \$43.65. The collective agreement for employees of CUPE 3902 Unit 1 requires that all new TAs be provided with three hours of paid pedagogical training.

#### What is the annual funding letter?

Most graduate units provide their students with annual funding letters to inform them of their funding amount, composition, and timeline for distribution, based on the best practice guidelines provided by the School of Graduate Studies. For more about this letter, consult your unit's graduate coordinator.

#### Resolving issues

There is often some confusion about the roles of different groups in the graduate student experience. Graduate students in the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering have several groups that represent their interests.

1. **The University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union** and the School of Graduate Studies have created a [Funding Complaint Process](#) so graduate students can bring forward complaints about their individual funding packages. This process was implemented in 2016-17 and covers all graduate students.
2. **CUPE 3902, Unit 1** represents students in their role as Teaching Assistants through a [collective agreement](#) with the University. Approximately 58% of research-stream graduate students at U of T were TAs in 2016-17.
3. **The University Ombudsperson** provides an impartial and confidential service to help any member of the University who has been unable to resolve concerns about their treatment by University authorities through other channels.