

Program Level Fellowships

The 2016 Funding Announcement

In 2016, the Faculty of Arts & Science (A&S) announced a three-pronged strategy to improve graduate education for doctoral stream students. It included a \$2,000 base funding increase, which was rolled out over three years, new initiatives to assist students to progress through their programs and prepare for careers, and Program Level Fellowship Pools, to be deployed at the graduate unit level after consultation with students. A further \$1,500 base funding increase is planned for the next three years, starting in 2019-20.

Program Level Fellowship Pools

The Program Level Fellowships are dedicated pools of funds provided to each graduate unit by the Faculty. These pools are scaled to the number of funded cohort students in the unit, calculated at \$1,000 per student. The Program Level Fellowship funds must be spent:

- on students in the funded cohort;
- in the year allocated;
- on fellowships (i.e not employment).

Objectives

The Program Level Fellowships program objectives are to:

- increase funding for graduate students in the funded cohort;
- give students a voice on how funds are spent;
- improve transparency;
- demonstrate to graduate students that, as students and as scholars, their views are respected; and
- provide an opportunity for dialogue on graduate student funding.

Annual Consultations & Reporting

Graduate units are required to consult with their students in the fall prior to each academic year to determine how to deploy the Program Level Fellowship funds. The objectives are to:

- inform students who are new to the graduate unit about the Program Level Fellowships;
- review the different models that other graduate units have adopted;
- review the plans that the unit has in place for the current academic year;
- determine if there is continued support for the plan or whether students wish to change it for the following year; and
- give students an opportunity to discuss any broad issues related to graduate funding.

The 2018 consultation process will result in either the confirmation or reform of each unit's Program Level Fellowship plans for 2019-20. Graduate units must submit reports to the Vice-Dean, Graduate Education, on their consultations and any changes to existing plans.

Examples of Program Level Fellowships Plans

Each unit's Program Level Fellowship plans and consultation process is posted on the Faculty of Arts & Science website so that students can see the results for all departments. The models chosen in previous years include:

- ▶ Equal distribution of the per student allocation to all funded cohort students.
- ▶ Distribution of funds to students with income below a certain threshold.
- ▶ TA buy-out for students in the final year of the funded cohort.
- ▶ Awards for those who have met certain milestones – eg. achieving candidacy.