## Program Level Fellowship Plans & Fall 2017 Consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Department Name</th>
<th>Grad. Unit</th>
<th>Est. Participant</th>
<th>Fall 2017 Consultations</th>
<th>2018-19 PLF Plan</th>
<th>Comparison with 2017-18 PLF Plan</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>ART</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>To be confirmed when consultations are concluded in December.</td>
<td>The 2017-18 Program Level fellowship was for equal distribution to all members of the funded cohort.</td>
<td>No change from last year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>ART</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Students anonymously decided that the funding should be disbursed equally to all members of the funded cohort.</td>
<td>There were some minor revisions to the proposed usage, e.g. NSERC-GSOP (weekly seminar of department research presentations) has been put on hold and is no longer a focus for the research presentation award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Astronomy and Astrophysics</td>
<td>ART 13%</td>
<td>The Associate Chair, Graduate and Graduate Administrator hosted a meeting in coordination with the Graduate Astronomy Students Association. A good proposal with prepared times was sent to the graduate student body to maximize participation. The Program Level Fellowship proposal was approved by the students.</td>
<td>50% of the Program Level Fellowship allocation will be equally distributed among the funded cohort and the remainder appointed to second-year awards. Since the Program Level Fellowship pools based on the number of graduate students in the funded cohort, we anticipate some variations in our projected annual budget. e.g. programs with more administrative support. As such, there is some discretion in the awards budget to retain the 50% commitment to the funded cohort. Any unused amounts from the awards budget can be equally distributed among the funded cohort. The awards are: (1) Merit-based International Student Fellowship for Excellence in Doctoral Studies (2) Teaching, Outreach and Leadership Award (3) Research Presentation Award (4) Research Talk Travel Award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>GMA 20%</td>
<td>A town hall meeting for all students in the funded cohort was held on Monday October 14th, 2017, at the St. George campus. Approximately ten students from USC (based on a video link). The Associate Chair, Professor Jennifer Murphy, sent a follow-up e-mail on November 3, 2017.</td>
<td>For 2017-18, students in the funded cohort will receive the $800 from PSL on December 1st. For 2018-19, students in the funded cohort will receive the $800 from PSL on December 1st.</td>
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<td>There are no changes to the plans that were chosen in 2017-18.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>GIA 5%</td>
<td>Consultations were not held.</td>
<td>Equal distribution to all students in the funded cohort.</td>
<td>No change from last year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Comparative Literature</td>
<td>CCL 15%</td>
<td>The Graduate Coordinator circulated a message regarding Program Level Fellowships with a schedule of the current plan and the &quot;Overview&quot; handout attached. Critical message meeting at the Centre on October 11th was announced for discussion, and comments and questions were invited by e-mail. At the October 3rd meeting, we discussed the consultation process and the previous year’s decision to pool funds to support PhD students entering their final year (and only half-funded year) of study, as well as the most common decisions taken by units to distribute the PLF equally among all students in the funded cohort. We provided hard copies of the session's information which students took to the General Meeting of the Council of Graduate Students. The Graduate Coordinator subsequently polled students by e-mail and targeted the Student Union leadership to express their opinion on the issue and its costs. The strongest majority of those voting ultimately kept the current system.</td>
<td>The Plan is to distribute Program Level Fellowships equally among students entering their fifth year of the PhD program, just as the funding is ending (after the fall term).</td>
<td>For 2018-19, the plan is to allocate $600 to each Master’s student and then divide the remaining funds equally among all PhD students in the funded cohort. For 2018-19, the plan is to allocate $600 to each Master’s student and then divide the remaining funds equally among all PhD students in the funded cohort.</td>
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<td>SCI</td>
<td>Criminology, and Sociological Studies</td>
<td>ORM 50%</td>
<td>The Graduate Program Administrator met with the Criminology-funded cohort on October 5, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to (1) review the funded cohort at the initiation; (2) inform students about the program at the initiation; and (3) establish how the program level fellowship would be distributed. An overview of the Program Level Fellowship funds was distributed at the meeting. The options considered were: (1) equal distribution to all students in the funded cohort and (2) equally distribute a portion of the funds to students in the funded cohort, receive a portion for travel, conference, and/or student run events.</td>
<td>Students in the funded cohort agreed to put the funds towards increasing the program level travel funding by an extra $1000 in 2018-19.</td>
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<td>SCI</td>
<td>Cell &amp; Systems Biology</td>
<td>CSB 10%</td>
<td>On October 14th all graduate students enrolled in the tri-campus CSB group were invited by email to submit a travel proposal. A “save-the-date” style reminder was also sent one week before the students in the program, CSB 142 Travel Hall in meeting at 1:00 pm on Monday November 6th. The Chair (Vince Tropepe), Associate Graduate Chair (Darrell Desroches) and Graduate Administrator (Ian Buglass) were in attendance.</td>
<td>The plan for 2018-19 is to allocate PLF funds as follows: (1) $5000 AT/8 increase to base funding for PhD students in the funded cohort without external awards; (2) $1000 AT/8 increase to base funding for MSc students in the funded cohort without external awards; (3) $1500 Top-up for PhD OSF recipients (in addition to the standard $1,000 top-up); (4) $500 Top-up for A Connaught, NSERC CGS, and FAST recipients; (5) $500 AT/8 Top-up for NSERC PGSD; (6) Initially recipients of NSERC-PGS; this is in addition to the standard $1,000 top-up; (7) $500 Top-up for MSc students entering their final year.</td>
<td>It was agreed that the Centre for Criminology and Sociological Studies would continue with the 2017-18 plan and allocate the funds equally to all students in the funded cohort.</td>
<td>The 2018-19 plan is similar to the plan for 2017-18, except that Master’s students’ contributions have been included in 2018-19 and the amounts distributed reflect the additional funds provided to the unit.</td>
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HUM Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies 42% of PhD and 32% of MA

In the department, we were happy to discuss the options at the EGSA - the chance for graduate students to present their ideas in using a small portion of the funding for fellowship for their community building initiatives. Given the high volume of graduate students and faculty, we chose an open-ended compensation model (Google Form) rather than formal exams or meetings. The consultation questions were designed to assess the need for a revision in the following year's consultation. The consultation plan was designed to address the questions of the following year's consultation. The consultation was open to suggestions from students, graduate students, and the department. Thus, the consultations were helpful, particularly for raising awareness among the graduate students of the Program Level Fellowships and the way that they were being allocated across different units. The consultations also provided an opportunity for graduate students to present their ideas in using a smaller portion of the funding for fellowship for their community building initiatives.

The Department of East Asian Studies organized a lunch meeting with the Graduate Coordinator on Friday, November 10th. The meeting was attended by the department's graduate student leaders. The consultation was helpful. The two students who benefited from the fellowship pool funded in 2017-18 release the two were present and reported back. Other students agreed with the programmatic goals. The biggest benefit of the meeting was to have us all sit around a table eating lunch with plenty of time to discuss other issues. The most common issues to arise surrounded the question of comprehensive exams, how to form committees, how to communicate with supervisors, time to complete, and the absence of international students having to pay full tuition in year 1. In other words, we managed to have a well-rounded conversation. It was helpful to discuss this issue of the time to complete. It's instructive for the graduate coordinator to focus the degree to which superiors may view the time to complete. A similar discussion needs to happen amongst faculty in order to make us clear what is being done. The Program Level fellowship pool (which is designed to enable students to complete the comprehensive exam) is on schedule to its full advantage.

The Graduate Director met with the 30 PhD students on October 12, 2017. The existing rules for the allocation of the PLF funds were outlined for the benefit of new students. A new rule was also provided on (i) where the funds are coming from (2) how the total amount is calculated (3) the benefits to new students. Information was also provided on (1) where the funds are coming from (2) how the total amount is calculated (3) the benefits to new students. Also, the students were invited to discuss the options at the EGSA - the chance for graduate students to present their ideas in using a small portion of the funding for fellowship for their community building initiatives. The consultations were helpful, particularly for raising awareness among the graduate students of the Program Level Fellowships and the way that they were being allocated across different units. The consultations also provided an opportunity for graduate students to present their ideas in using a smaller portion of the funding for fellowship for their community building initiatives.

The Student Success Office organized an online survey in December 2017. The survey was open to suggestions from students, graduate students, and the department. Thus, the consultations were helpful, particularly for raising awareness among the graduate students of the Program Level Fellowships and the way that they were being allocated across different units. The consultations also provided an opportunity for graduate students to present their ideas in using a smaller portion of the funding for fellowship for their community building initiatives.

The Program Level fellowship pool for 2017-18 has not yet been implemented in our unit, as it is a Summer Thesis Fellowship. We will continue with the 2017-18 plan for deploying Program Level Fellowships as described in our earlier statement. The remaining 50% will be allocated to one or two fundworkshops that enhance the graduate student experience and community building initiatives, developed by the Computer Science Graduate Students Union. Unfunded funds in this pool will be divided equally among all students in the funded cohort at the end of each year to ensure the full amount of fellowship funds is used for the benefit of the graduate students annually.

We will continue with the 2017-18 plan for deploying Program Level Fellowships as described in our earlier statement. The remaining 50% will be allocated to one or two fundworkshops that enhance the graduate student experience and community building initiatives, developed by the Computer Science Graduate Students Union. Unfunded funds in this pool will be divided equally among all students in the funded cohort at the end of each year to ensure the full amount of fellowship funds is used for the benefit of the graduate students annually.

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HUM French Language and Literature FRENCH 50% On October 3rd, 2017, graduate students were asked to schedule a consultation session with the graduate student association GESOF. They held a general meeting with 13 students in attendance, plus two other GESOF members who gave their input to the students who were present on October 28th. A vote took place and a new unanimous recommendation of our graduate students (11 for, 2 against) was then circulated to the GESOF department chair. The GESOF Co-presidents presented a brief overview of the previous year’s meeting and explained how they had reached a decision at the time. The GESOF Co-presidents and the members explained the rationale behind the decision reached at the October 20th student meeting for modifying last year’s plan and supported the new recommendation. There were no objections to the proposed use of funds. The students unanimously supported the change. All PhD students were invited to the consultation. The Department’s Program Level Fellowships Plan was discussed in two meetings of the executive of the Graduate Student Federation Graduate Student Association with the Department Chair and the Associate Chair Graduate, held in October and November 2017. The consultations were helpful. One challenge was the fact that the offer letters for two incoming PhD students this year guaranteed the distribution of the program level funding to them over the 5 years of their PhD. The Department assured the students that this offer guarantee holds even if there are no modifications to the PLF distribution, which freed the way for a more constructive discussion.

Available Program level fellowship funds will be distributed equally among all registered students in the funded cohort, regardless of programs (i.e. MA and PhD), with payment in January each year.

The 2018-19 plan is a departure from 2017-18, which was to pool the funds and distribute them to 5th-year students who have met certain conditions.

HUM German Language and Literatures GERMAN 100% All PhD students were invited to the consultation. The Department’s Program Level Fellowships Plan was discussed in two meetings of the executive of the Graduate Student Federation Graduate Student Association with the Department Chair and the Associate Chair Graduate, held in October and November 2017. The consultations were helpful. One challenge was the fact that the offer letters for two incoming PhD students this year guaranteed the distribution of the program level funding to them over the 5 years of their PhD. The Department assured the students that this offer guarantee holds even if there are no modifications to the PLF distribution, which freed the way for a more constructive discussion.

The Program Level Fellowships will be allocated to PhD students in the Department’s funded cohort with fellowship amounts below the median.

Our wish to move away from the equal distribution model followed last year and allocate the funds to students with funding packages below a certain threshold. It was felt by graduate students that this would help to offset the overall financial wellbeing of members of the funded cohort more than the equal distribution model chosen before.

HUM History HISTORY 61.3% An e-mail invitation was sent out to all graduate students in the funded cohort on October 17, 2017 inviting them to attend a Town Hall meeting on November 2nd, 2017 at 5:00pm. Included in the e-mail was the memo from the Department Chair, explaining how the funding allocations for each unit would be calculated. We met on November 25th for 45 minutes and discussed that the Fellowship would be ongoing and also discussed the range of options some of the other department chose this year. The majority of those in attendance were executives from the Graduate Historical Society (GHS).

After an initial conversation with the president of our graduate student union (KangGSA), a meeting was held. The president reported that the KangGSA students were present. The options subject to other units were reviewed. This was followed by an open discussion, from which three options emerged: (1) the equal distribution of allocated funds between eligible students; (2) the equal distribution of the majority (90%) of allocated funds between eligible students, with a small percentage retained as a pool for academic travel & conferences, and (3) the allocation of funds with a preference for TA Relief (i.e., of the majority of the funds to MIO students for the reduction of TA hours among completing students). After discussion, a consensus was reached on the second of these options—failing this meeting, an overview would be distributed to all graduate students eligible in 2017-2018 (i.e., this year’s funded cohort). This email detailed the options as well as the consensus conclusion option. This email invited a poll in which students could vote on the possibilities discussed at the meeting, and make additional suggestions. 19 eligible students voted, 61.3% of total 31 eligible students in 2017-2018. The poll shows that there is a consensus that students sent more or all of the PLF funds to be distributed equally among eligible students. No student voted for a “reservist pool” larger than 10% of the whole fund.

Graduate students in the funded cohort will receive 90% of available funds equally. 10% of the fund will be leased following completion for the costs related to individual academic initiatives (e.g., conference, travel).

The plan for 2018-19 is a slight modification of the plan for 2017-18, which was that 90% of the funds would be distributed equally to all students in the funded cohort. For 2018-19 10% of the funds will be allocated following a competition.

HUM Italian Studies ITALIAN 100% The Chair of the department met with the President of the Graduate Student Association of Italian Studies who sent an email survey to all the students in the funded cohort. A number of alternatives were discussed and the students expressed a clear preference for the funds to be distributed equally between students in the funded cohort. This would allow them to account for the funds to a conference, travel grants, or whatever would best suit their individual needs.

The Italian studies Program Level Fellowships will be distributed equally among all students in the funded cohort.

HUM Linguistics LINGUISTICS 100% The consultations enabled all students to have access to information about the Program Level Fellowships as well as the opportunity to discuss possibilities among themselves over a period of a few weeks. The Graduate Coordinator of the Linguistics Department met with all the graduate students (GSD) last in October and explained the situation to them. Then they organized a consultation breakfast on October 17th. The Department provided food and drink. The meeting was held specifically in order when no students had dissolved; however, the turn out was quite modest, only about 10 students. The graduate students at the meeting had several ideas about how to change the current proposal for dividing the Program Level fellowship money. The decision was made to consult with the entire graduate student body on the possible scenarios. A survey was circulated to all members of the PhD funded cohort and this they were asked to weight in their desires. The survey was open until October 28th at midnight. The results were: (1) 86.5% of the vote - 100% to the funded students directly; (2) 10.0% of the vote - 70% to the funded students directly, 30% for the funded students for conferences, 10% for recruiting; (3) 3.5% of the vote - 90% to the funded students directly, 10% for recruiting; (4) 1.7% of the vote - 60% to the funded students, 40% to recruiting. No change from last year.

The Centre will continue with the 2017-18 plan to distribute the funds equally.

SCI Earth Sciences SCIENCE 100% The Association of Graduate Earth Sciences Students (AGESS, full names) voted and unanimously came to the conclusion that the Program level fellowship should be divided equally among all current graduate students. The members of the Graduate Affairs, Admissions and Awards committee were also in favour of putting the funds towards increasing our base level funding of all students. The decision was unanimous and without controversy.

The Earth Sciences department will put the funds towards increasing our program level funding for an estimated $10000 in 2017-18 and $10000 in 2018-19 to its students in our funded cohort.

No change from last year.

SCI Mathematics MATHEMATICS 30% A call for applications for the 2017-18 Fellowships was issued. Then, an invitation to complete a survey regarding the use of the fund was sent to students. The table showing the different approaches adopted by graduate units was included in the survey and students had the option to choose any of the various options. They could also propose a new option. In addition to the survey, we talked to students whenever the opportunity presented itself. Of the 36 students who completed our survey, 73% are in support of keeping the current plan, which is to create scholarships for international students and support 8th year students.

We are offering 2 types of Fellowships: (1) Foreign Students Fellowships of a value of $6,000 and (2) 4th Year Students Fellowships of a value of $3,000. This idea is to create an analogue of a GGS award for international students. We aim to have roughly the same success rate as an OGS award, as well as the same top-up amount. The motivator is the following: (1) encouraging students to complete the program. The criteria will be: evidence of strong progress and financial need.

No change from last year.

SCI Geography and Planning G:PB 0/1/2017 Graduate students were consulted via e-mail and an open meeting of the department’s graduate student society, soliciting feedback or concerns regarding the PLF allocation process stipulated for the 2017-18 year.

The PLF will be pooled and distributed to masters and 4th year PhD students who have not secured major awards. The allocation formula will provide more PLF money to international students than domestic students and more to PhD students than masters students.

No change from last year.

Secco Geography and Planning G:PB 0/1/2017 Graduate students were consulted via e-mail and an open meeting of the department’s graduate student society, soliciting feedback or concerns regarding the PLF allocation process stipulated for the 2017-18 year.

The PLF will be pooled and distributed to masters and 4th year PhD students who have not secured major awards. The allocation formula will provide more PLF money to international students than domestic students and more to PhD students than masters students.

No change from last year.
The 2017 consultations were conducted with/through the Student Executive Committee. Students in good academic standing in the doctoral program will be awarded the PLF annually.

The plan is similar but modified to take into account the larger dollar values. There is a description of the plan.

A poll was conducted via email. Those who responded voted unanimously for option 2, we would have called a town hall meeting to discuss other options used for conference travel, etc). The majority of students who responded (over 60%) chose to stick with the original plan. If a majority had chosen option 2, we would have called a town hall meeting to discuss other options in detail.

An e-mail was sent to all graduate students by the co-presidents of the Psychology Graduate Student Association, asking them for their feedback on the allocation of program level funds for 2017-18 and the plans for 2018-19. Students who participated in the meeting or responded to the poll will be divided equally to all students in the funded cohort.

An ‘information meeting’ was held in winter 2017 where fewer than 10% of our students attended. Subsequently all students were then invited to attend a department retreat in early spring. That afternoon, approximately one quarter of our students joined the faculty and had facilitated discussions of the various options for the Program level fellowships and other issues in our graduate program. In addition to these two meetings, the options were discussed with the graduate liaison committee (9 students) and several individual students. There may have been overlap between these different discussions, but at least 1/2 of the student cohort was involved in formulating our PLF proposal. Based funding for each student in the funded cohort will be increased by $1,000 in 2018-19, with the exception of major external award holders as outlined in our original plan decided in fall 2016.

The students deliberated various ways of distributing the consultation meeting to discuss anything about graduate funding and to plan the distribution for the PLF. The distribution scheme includes students in the MA program.

Program level fellowship funds of $1,000 per student will be distributed equally to all students in the funded cohort.

The Program Level Fellowship money will continue to be used to provide students in the final year of the funded cohort with financial support equivalent to what they would earn from their TA-assignment. Ultimately, this will give them the option to not secure a TA assignment, without foregoing the income, in the last year of the funded cohort. It is expected that this will give them the freedom to complete their research and/or finish writing that work up for publication and ultimately complete their dissertation. We believe this is a critical phase in our PhD programs and that additional financial support will help students finish their degrees in a more timely fashion.

An e-mail was sent to all graduate students by the co-presidents of the Sociology Graduate Student Association, asking them for their feedback on the allocation of program level funds for 2017-18 and the plans for 2018-19.

Funds in 2018-19 will provide $2,000 per student. The distribution scheme is as follows. Domestic Vanier winners will receive no supplement. The rest of the students will be divided into three groups according to funding, with the groups ranked highest to lowest: receiving $2,000, $1,500, and $750 respectively. Group allocations will be determined by total PLF available and by the requirement that some in funding is preserved, so that no student who is funded at a higher level than a student who is funded at a lower level will, after the PLF distribution, receive lower total funding. The distribution scheme includes students in the MA program.

In both 2017-18 and 2018-19, the Program-Level funds will be equally distributed to graduate students in the funded cohort, with the exception of the students holding scholarships valued at $15,000 or more. Students in this latter category will not be eligible for Program Level funds.

In 2017-18 and 2018-19, the Program-Level fellowship funds will be equally distributed to graduate students in the funded cohort, with the exception of the students who were entitled when we initially discussed the options with them. The increased funding will allow all students, in the final year of the funded cohort, to opt out of their teaching responsibilities for the fall year. In the first year of the PLF program, we’ve only been able to provide enough support to offset their TA assignment for one semester of their final year. The plan is to provide a one-time-only fellowship award of $2,000, disbursed in September of the academic year immediately following successful completion of the special field examination. The examination is ordinarily taken in year 3, and the fellowship award would be conferred in September of year 4.

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The decision was to continue the TA-buyout program into the second year of the program, thereby making/deliberately leaving about 40% of the students who were entitled when we initially discussed the options with them. The increased funding will allow all students, in the final year of the funded cohort, to opt out of their teaching responsibilities for the fall year. In the first year of the PLF program, we’ve only been able to provide enough support to offset their TA assignment for one semester of their final year. The 2017-18 plan is to provide a one-time-only fellowship award of $2,000, disbursed in September of the academic year immediately following successful completion of the special field examination. The examination is ordinarily taken in year 3, and the fellowship award would be conferred in September of year 4.

In both 2017-18 and 2018-19, the Program-Level funds will be equally distributed to graduate students in the funded cohort, with the exception of major external award holders as outlined in our original plan decided in fall 2016.

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