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Part I: Introduction

Welcome from the Dean and Associate Provost

Welcome to Simon Fraser University!

In choosing to attend Simon Fraser University — a university which opened in 1965 with a campus that is now recognized as architecturally significant, and which grew to have campuses in downtown Vancouver and in Surrey — you are coming to a welcoming University noted for being student-centred, research-driven and community engaged.

As a graduate student at Simon Fraser University you will join a community of 5,000 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from over 100 countries, a global fabric that reflects SFU’s diversity. You will have the opportunity to further your intellectual development and career opportunities at a university that has a strong academic and community history and is internationally recognized and ranked as one of the top institutions in the world.

Despite this scale, every student is valued, and encouraged to excel in their chosen discipline, both on and off the campus. You will be supported academically and challenged intellectually and given every opportunity to develop and circulate your research. At the same time, we hope the SFU ethos of engaging with the world, and thinking through local contexts and knowledges inspires you. Within this global context, it is significant that SFU is located on unceded, traditional and ancestral Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories: we are honoured to live and work on these Coast Salish lands.

Welcome to SFU. I trust you will make the most of your graduate education and make the university itself a better place.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Derksen, PhD
Dean and Associate Provost
Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Professor of English
Simon Fraser University

Contact Information

Your graduate program assistant is usually your first point of contact for most questions related to your program.

If you need additional assistance, please contact the staff in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), Maggie Benston Student Services Centre 1100, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby campus.

Helpdesk: http://help.deangrad.sfu.ca/index.php/Tickets/Submit
Email: gradstdy@sfu.ca
Website: www.sfu.ca/grad
Please include your student number in all correspondence.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 am–12:30 pm and 1:30–4:30 pm (Pacific time)
Purpose of This Document

This handbook is updated annually and by accepting your admission offer you are acknowledging that you understand and comply with your funding offer (if applicable), the policies in this publication, academic integrity, and the university’s policies on Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOI/POP).

There may also be terms and conditions applicable to your offer of admission that are specified by your faculty, department, or program and it is your responsibility to comply with those. If you have any questions or require clarification about your admission offer or funding, please contact the graduate program assistant for your program.

The policies and regulations set out in the SFU Calendar are updated every term. The current Calendar is available at [http://students.sfu.ca/calendar.html](http://students.sfu.ca/calendar.html) and every graduate student should become familiar with the relevant sections, particularly the Graduate General Regulations. These regulations may change during the course of your program and it is your responsibility to review and follow the current applicable policies.

Should the academic program requirements change during your degree, please contact your graduate program chair as you may select to use the program requirements which are most beneficial to you.

Part II: Terms and Conditions of Admission

Offer of Admission

Your offer of admission and funding (if applicable) is valid for 21 days from the date of the offer, unless otherwise specified in your admission letter. If you have applied to several different programs at Simon Fraser University, you may only accept one offer of admission. Should you be unable to comply with the specified timeline, please contact the academic unit offering admission to discuss your options.

To accept or decline your offer, please log in to the application system at [https://go.sfu.ca/](https://go.sfu.ca/) using your ‘GA’ ID or your existing SFU computing ID. You may accept the offer and pay your admission deposit online. The admission deposit will hold your place in the program, will be applied toward your tuition in the first term, and is nonrefundable. If you are unable to pay your admission deposit online, please refer to other payment options at [http://students.sfu.ca/fees/howtopay.html](http://students.sfu.ca/fees/howtopay.html).

Your admission is valid only for the academic term stated on your offer of admission letter. If you require a deferral of your admission to a later term, you must submit the request directly to the program to which you have been admitted. Deferrals are not guaranteed. If your admission is contingent upon providing SFU with additional documentation, any required documentation (e.g., final transcript showing degree conferred) must be submitted to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies prior to the beginning of the term in which you wish to begin your studies.

Verification of Documents

By accepting our offer of admission, you agree to allow Simon Fraser University to submit the documents that you included with your application for verification by an external agency such as the World Education Service or the International Credential Evaluation Service at our discretion. In the event that any document, including a reference letter or CV, is found to be fraudulent in any way, the offer of admission will be revoked regardless of length of time in the program.

Welcome to Simon Fraser University
Canada’s most community-engaged research university, with three thriving urban campuses.
Admission

Regular admission applies to students who have completed all of the requirements for direct admission to the graduate program, and have submitted all supporting documentation, such as transcripts and test scores. Regular admission can be granted to applicants who have not completed all of the requirements for admission at the time that they are accepted, provided these requirements are completed by the appropriate deadlines.

These deadlines include the provision of evidence of meeting the English language proficiency requirement prior to enrolling in the first term; and provision of evidence of completing a previous degree prior to the end of the first term. Failure to provide these documents will result in the cancellation of the admission offer.

Please request that all official documents be sent to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies directly from the institution or testing agency. The required documents are specified in your admission letter.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission is normally granted to students who are required to take specific graduate courses and achieve a defined grade or grade point average in their first or, at the latest, their second term of enrollment in their graduate program. If you have been granted conditional admission, it is important that you read and understand the conditions, because meeting these conditions is mandatory for continuance in your graduate program. Credit for graduate courses taken during the conditional admission term may be granted toward the degree program, if approved by the graduate program and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Qualifying Admission

Applicants who are admitted as qualifying students are required to take specific undergraduate courses and obtain a defined grade or grade point average in order to be considered for admission to the graduate degree program to which they have applied. Admission as a qualifying student does not guarantee future admission to a master's or graduate diploma/certificate program unless the offer of admission specifically states that satisfying specific requirements within a specific period of time will result in admission to the degree program. Normally a student is admitted as a qualifying student for a maximum of one year (3 consecutive terms). Undergraduate courses taken as a qualifying student cannot be used for graduate degree credit. Qualifying students cannot enroll in graduate courses. You may not be admitted as a qualifying student for a doctoral program.

Revoking and/or Rescinding Admission Offers

Students receiving offers of admission to most programs will have their offer of admission revoked and their eligibility to register cancelled if they do not accept the offer by the specified date, register by the deadline, submission of fraudulent documents, violation of our student code of conduct or laws of Canada, admission decision mistakes, or other factors deemed appropriate. The decision to revoke an offer is never taken lightly and can occur at any time prior to the date that the applicant commences academic studies or the first day of the academic term for which the application applies, whichever shall occur last.

Enrolling in Courses

Approximately two months before the start of your first term, you will receive an email that contains your SFU student computing ID. The email will also provide instructions on how to activate it. Your computing ID is used as your login to the SFU email system, the student information management system (used for enrolling in classes, ordering transcripts, etc.), and as the access login to various other campus systems. Please note: your computing ID is not your 9-digit student number, nor is it the 'GA' account that you may have created when you applied for admission.

You will not be able to enroll in courses if you have not submitted appropriate test results as indicated in your offer of admission. Once the test results have been received, you will be able to register online.
**Tuition and Fees**

There are two tuition fee structures at the university — term fees and unit fees. Students enrolled in programs that charge term fees pay a flat amount each term, whereas students in credit fees pay an amount per unit for each course in which the student is enrolled. Certain rules and policies differ, depending on the type of program in which you are enrolled. Please see the relevant sections of the Calendar for a detailed explanation.

If you wish to take one or more courses outside your program of study, additional tuition will apply.

In addition there are various ancillary fees which are applicable. The student system calculates tuition and fees each term after you have enrolled. Detailed information on tuition and ancillary fees is available at: [https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/fees-and-regulations/tuition-fees/graduate.html](https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/fees-and-regulations/tuition-fees/graduate.html).

Student Accounts is responsible for receiving payment of fees. Please contact Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies if you have any concerns with your assessed tuition fees.

**SFU Calendar — Graduate General Regulations**

The intent of the Graduate General Regulations is to provide a consistent and equitable framework for the pursuit of graduate education at the university. These regulations are in effect ‘the rules’ for graduate study at SFU.

The Graduate General Regulations are provided in full in the University Calendar ([http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/student-info/grad-regulation.html](http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/student-info/grad-regulation.html)). These regulations provide important information for new and continuing students including information on:

- The administration of graduate education at SFU
- Graduate student supervision
- Enrolling in and withdrawing from courses
- Grading and academic progress
- Withdrawing from a term
- Program withdrawals
- Leaves of absence
- Course and residency requirements
- Time limits for the completion of degrees
- Thesis examinations
- Readmission
- Appeals
- Withdrawal / Reactivation

The Calendar will also provide you with the detailed requirements for the completion of your program.

The online edition of the Simon Fraser University Calendar is the University’s official Calendar, and is updated every term.

It is your responsibility to review and familiarize yourself with the Graduate General Regulations and the schedule of dates and deadlines that have been prescribed by the University Senate for all academic activities and procedures.

The University reserves the right without liability or penalty, and without notice, to make changes in the services and programs it offers, and to cancel particular courses due to low enrollment.
Supervision

All graduate students at SFU have some form of faculty supervisor. In some programs, the program director assumes supervisory responsibilities for the students. All others will have a senior supervisor and thesis and project students will have a supervisory committee. Unless otherwise stated, the graduate program chair will act as a newly admitted student’s Faculty Advisor until a supervisor (if appropriate) is appointed. Supervisors should be appointed as soon as possible upon the student’s admission and no later than the beginning of the second term. For those programs requiring students to have a supervisor, we advise students to consider available supervisors during the application process to SFU. Students may consider the following factors when choosing a supervisor:

- Fit between the supervisor's research and their own
- The ability of the supervisor to provide funding to the student
- The supervisor’s availability for the duration of the student’s program of study
- The faculty member’s demonstrated success in supervising students through to degree completion

The nature of the supervisory relationship will vary by program and capstone, and students should be proactive in coming to an agreement on expectations between themselves and their supervisors. A list of expectations and a guide to coming to an agreement about expectations with your supervisor can be found on our website: [http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/current/managing_your_progress/supervision.html](http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/current/managing_your_progress/supervision.html).

It may be necessary to change your supervisory committee. A written request may come from the student and any member of the supervisory committee. It must be sent to your department’s graduate program committee, accompanied by the reasons for the request in writing. If the graduate program committee agrees with the request then it will be sent to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for approval.

Time Limits for Completion (Graduate General Regulations 1.12)

Time limits have been set by the university for the completion of all graduate programs. These limits are intended to encourage you to complete your program and not unnecessarily protract your graduate education. They are also intended to ensure that your program and research are current and not out-of-date.

The time limits for completion are not intended to be the normal times for completion. They are intended to take into account a wide variety of extenuating circumstances and events that may delay completion. Individual programs may specify their expectations of normal degree completion times as a guide to determining whether your progress is satisfactory.

Please refer to the Graduate General Regulations in the Calendar ([http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/fees-and-regulations/grad-regulation.html](http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/fees-and-regulations/grad-regulation.html)) for detailed information about the maximum times for completion.
Leaves of Absence (Graduate General Regulations 1.8.4)

Graduate students are required to maintain continuous enrollment. When students find it necessary to interrupt their studies, they must apply for a leave of absence. During a leave of absence, graduate students are not enrolled and normally should not use any of the University's facilities or resources, or undertake academic or research work related to the program from which they have taken a leave of absence. Typically a leave of absence begins on the first day of an academic term and approval for the leave is obtained before the term begins.

Term and Program Withdrawals (Graduate General Regulations 1.8.3 and 1.4.3)

If you enroll for a course and subsequently need to withdraw from that course or all courses that term, or you decide to withdraw from your program, it is essential that you understand the applicable deadlines, transcript notations and refund policies.

This information is available on the graduate studies website, www.sfu.ca/grad, and the appropriate form must be completed, signed as indicated, and submitted to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. If the withdrawal is done during a term, certain fees are not refundable, even when extenuating circumstances exist. If you are holding a scholarship, please be sure that you have notified the scholarship team at dgsawards@sfu.ca.

If you are not enrolled or approved for a leave of absence by the end of the 6th week of classes within a term, you will be withdrawn from your program.

Reactivation and Readmission (Graduate General Regulations 1.4.8 and 1.4.9)

If you have been withdrawn from your program due to failure to enroll, you may apply for reactivation in the same term you have been withdrawn to be retroactively enrolled if you have not reached your program time limit.

If you have been withdrawn from your program past the term of your withdrawal, you must apply for readmission. Readmission is completed through the regular admission process for new students and you must still be within your program time limit, plus three terms of possible extension time. Please note that when you are withdrawn from your program, the time away continues to count towards the time limit and possible extension for program completion. Students who are readmitted to their program maintain the same start date, time limit, and program requirements from when they were first admitted to the program.

Western Canadian Deans Agreement

The Western Canadian universities, including UBC, UNBC, and UVic, have agreed to allow students to take courses at each other's institutions for credit to their degrees and at minimal cost. The application form is at www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/current/forms.html. For more information, see http://wcdgs.ca/. 

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Academic Quadrangle, Burnaby campus
Part III: Terms and Conditions of Funding

Validity of Offer of Funding

Your Offer of Admission and Funding is valid for 21 days, unless otherwise specified in your admission letter. If you have applied to several different programs at Simon Fraser University, you should note that you may only accept one offer of admission and your funding will be tied to the department in which you accepted admission. You may or may not be offered funding for all programs for which you are offered admission. Your offer of funding is tied to your academic term of admission and subject to the availability of funding. If you must postpone your admission, your offer of funding will no longer be valid and cannot be deferred to a subsequent term or year. You are urged to consult the program that has made you the offer of funding to discuss your options, which may include a new offer of funding for a subsequent term or year.

- The offer of funding is based on the expectation that you are not receiving support in the form of awards (i.e., scholarships and/or fellowships) from external agencies, either domestic or international (i.e., CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC).
- You must notify your graduate program assistant as well as Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies should you receive an external award after accepting an offer of funding or if you are already registered and receiving funding from SFU. In such instances, your offer of funding from SFU will be reviewed and likely changed, but in all cases the total amount of funding that you receive from your external award plus SFU funding sources will exceed your original offer of financial support.
- Most funding offers include a variety of sources of financial support including teaching assistantships and research assistantships. In some instances, the funding sources may need to vary to meet the funding obligation but, subject to available funding, the total amount of support will equal or exceed the offer of funding.
- The offer of funding, exempting TSSU funding, is subject to your continued good academic standing and continued satisfactory performance and progress in courses and research. If you have been offered a specific award, you must continue to meet the terms of reference/eligibility for that award.
- Incidents beyond the control of your home department (e.g. a faculty member losing his or her research grant, job action, or changes in banking interest rates) may affect your funding.
- Most funding offers are based on an annual amount. The amount received each term may vary.
- Cancellation of tutorials or TAships, including those due to job action, may affect your funding. For example, if you are scheduled to TA in the fall term, but there is a strike, your annual funding will be reduced accordingly. Should you decline an offered TAship, your financial support will be reduced by this amount for the academic year.
- Normally students are not to receive total support in excess of $50,000 per annum from all institutional sources and external scholarships.
- Teaching and research assistantship support is governed by collective agreements and funding agency policies.
- All major SFU entrance award recipients are required to apply each for external funding (i.e. CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, or an equivalent program). If they do not apply, they will forfeit remaining funding.

Awards

- The total maximum support you are permitted to receive from University award/scholarship sources is $50,000 per annum unless otherwise specified in the terms of reference for the award. This includes many external agency awards administered by SFU (e.g., CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC).
- In all instances, you must meet the terms of reference/eligibility for any award offered (normally a CGPA of at least 3.5).
- All awards are competitive and merit-based, and meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee that you will receive that award.
- All students must be in good academic standing and demonstrate satisfactory progress in their degrees to qualify for awards.
- For awards that are paid (disbursed) over more than one term or year, subsequent payments are contingent on you maintaining good academic progress in your program.
- Most applications for graduate awards and scholarships are handled through the Graduate Awards, Application and Adjudication System (GA3): [http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/FAQs/GA3SInfo.html](http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/FAQs/GA3SInfo.html).
**Interruption and Termination of Funding**

- **All Graduate Award holders** must maintain continuous registration during the tenure of their award. When students find it necessary to interrupt their studies, they must apply for a leave of absence. For a description of the types of leave permitted, refer to GGR 1.8.4.

- **Award Overpayment:** Award holders will be required to return any amounts disbursed to them for the time period after their effective completion or withdrawal date.

- **Completion of Program:** Funding offers are prorated to the end of the month in which students complete their degree program, which is normally the date the final copy of the student’s thesis is accepted by the SFU Library. However, Departments may offer RAships and TAships to the end of the term in which students complete their degree. To assist in avoiding award overpayments, students are asked to advise Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of their completion date in a timely manner.

- **Withdrawal from Program:** Awards are prorated to the effective date of withdrawal from a degree program. To assist in avoiding overpayments, students are asked to advise Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of their withdrawal date in a timely manner.

- **Leave from Program:** Award holders are not eligible to receive their award during academic terms in which they are officially on-leave from their program. Students are asked to advise Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to arrange for the suspension of their award payments until their return from on-leave status. The decision whether to re-initiate payment of any award requires approval of the Dean and Associate Provost or designate.

**Graduate Student Vacation Policy**

- Graduate students are entitled to three weeks of vacation (15 working days) from their academic obligations per academic year.

- For the purpose of calculating vacation allotments, the academic year means the period of time from September 1 to August 31 of the following year.

- Any vacation time taken during the period between the Christmas and New Year statutory holidays is not included in the three-week vacation allotment.

- Vacation allotments will be prorated for the portion of the year in which you are registered.

- Vacation leave will not interrupt disbursement of student stipends or merit-based student financial assistance.

- There will be no vacation pay in lieu of any vacation time not taken.

- The exact duration and timing of any vacation, including extensions of vacation, are subject to prior approval by your supervisor and by any faculty member providing you with Research Assistantship (RA) funding. Vacations must be arranged so that there is minimal impact to your research and other obligations to the University.

- This policy does not affect your employment as a Teaching Assistant (TA). Although you may make a request to align vacation taken under this policy with that taken from paid employment, vacation taken under this policy is approved separately from that for paid employment at the University.

- Attendance at academic conferences shall not be considered vacation time.

- Vacation requests within these guidelines will not be unreasonably denied.

- Should a conflict arise between your vacation request and a supervisor’s expectations, the graduate program chair will make a final determination.

- The time taken for vacation leave will be counted toward the maximum time allotted to degree completion.

- All program requirements, academic unit expectations and deadlines will remain the same.

Stay updated through our blog

Upcoming funding opportunities are posted at www.sfu.ca/grad/blog
Change of Status or Program

Your offer of funding is connected to both the degree and the program that has recommended you for admission and funding.

Cancellation of your funding will likely occur if you change your degree program, enroll in less than 6 units if in a per unit fee program, withdraw from your courses, choose to take time off from your program, or are not progressing at an acceptable rate. For example, if your offer of funding includes a scholarship and a Research Assistantship (RA) in an MASc program in engineering, you will forfeit all your funding if you switch to an MEng program. It will be up to the new program to determine if a financial offer will accompany your admission to that program.

In addition, if you are offered an RA position at the time of admission, but choose to switch supervisors, you will forfeit your RA position. In these cases, your supervisor may choose to offer you another Research Assistantship.

Should you transfer to a PhD program from your master’s degree prior to completing your degree, a new funding offer is required at the time of transfer, as your previous funding offer was tied to your master’s degree. Your PhD is then considered to have begun with your first course registration in your master’s program.

If you are considering any changes to your program or you decide to go on leave or not enroll in courses, you must consult your program first to discuss any possible implications for your funding.

Method of Payment of Graduate Awards and Funding

Some of the financial components of your Offer of Funding are paid through Human Resources — Payroll Services, every two weeks. This includes assistantships (teaching and research), and sessional positions.

The majority of scholarships are paid through your SFU student account. Award payments will be applied to your student account first, paying off any outstanding tuition balance. The remaining funds will be transferred to your personal bank account, provided you have completed the direct deposit information on your SFU student account. Please note that there is a 2–3 day delay in the funds being transferred to your bank account. For more information on award payments please visit our website: [www.sfu.ca/grad/awards/award-payments.html](http://www.sfu.ca/grad/awards/award-payments.html).

To receive payment, you must be registered in your graduate program for the term and have submitted the required documentation to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. You must be registered as a full-time student in the program in which the offer of funding was made to receive your scholarship funding.

Teaching Assistantships

Registered graduate students are eligible to apply for Teaching Assistant (TA) and Tutor Marker (TM) positions across the university. Please contact your graduate program assistant or departmental manager. Available positions are posted 8 weeks prior to the start of the term, for a period of 2 weeks, and can be found at [www.sfu.ca/grad/job-postings.html](http://www.sfu.ca/grad/job-postings.html).

TAs, TMs, and sessional instructors at Simon Fraser University are covered by the terms and conditions of a Collective Agreement between Simon Fraser University and the Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU). A copy of this Agreement is available at [www.tssu.ca/collective-agreement/](http://www.tssu.ca/collective-agreement/).

Graduate Scholarships

The scholarship component of an offer of funding is normally applied to your student account two weeks after the start of the term in which your scholarship is awarded. Award payments will be applied to your student account first, paying off any outstanding balance. The remaining funds will be transferred to your bank account provided you have completed the direct deposit information on your SFU student account. Please note that there is a 2–3 day delay in the funds being transferred to your personal bank account.

To receive payment, you must be registered in your graduate program for the term and have submitted the required documentation to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Please note: If you are a recipient of an external award/scholarship, your financial offer may be revised.
Research Assistantships

A component of your offer of funding may be in the form of a Research Assistantship (RA) funded by contract research, or other grant funds, which may require some work related to your research. The value of the RA may not be the same in each academic term. Please contact your program to verify how your RA is paid.

Continuation of this component of your offer of funding may depend upon satisfactory performance of the duties assigned by your research supervisor and on the availability of funds. In addition, students are required to maintain full-time status in the term in which the RA is paid.

If you change your degree program, you may lose your RA position unless your new supervisor can provide funding for an RA position for you. For example, if you change from an MASc program in engineering to an MEng program, you will lose your RA unless your new supervisor can provide RA funding for you. In addition, if you change supervisors while in your graduate program, you may also lose your RA position unless your new supervisor can provide funding for a RA position for you.

Please note: If you have received an external award/scholarship, the value of your award may impact the value of your RA.

Entrance Scholarships for Academic Excellence

On admission, some graduate students are recommended by their program for a Major Entrance Scholarship.

Graduate Dean’s Entrance Scholarships (GDES)
Graduate Dean’s Entrance Scholarships (GDES) packages are intended for outstanding incoming PhD domestic and international students. Continuation of the award is conditional on the recipient maintaining satisfactory academic progress and applying for tri-agency funding every year for a total of four years after initiation of their PhD program. All awards are contingent upon availability of funds.

Full entrance scholarship guidelines are found here: http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/entrance-scholarships.html

Graduate Aboriginal Entrance Scholarship
Entering students who meet the criteria are eligible for consideration. Students must be nominated for this award by the Graduate Program Chair of the academic unit to which the student will be admitted. There are two master's and one doctoral scholarship awarded each year.

More information is found here: http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/entrance-scholarships/major-entrance-scholarships/aboriginal-entrance.html

Private Awards

Over the years, a number of individuals and organizations have contributed substantial funds to the University through bequests, endowments and donations, in order to help support students in various fields of study. A complete list of these awards is available from the graduate studies website (www.sfu.ca/grad).

You may be offered an award of this type at the time of your admission or further along in your program. In order to be eligible to receive the award, you must be registered full-time in the degree program and the program offering the award in the term of your admission. The award is applied directly to your student account. It may be paid in one lump sum or paid in equal installments, depending on award value and terms.

Names of recipients and their program are normally given to the donor(s) of the award(s) and the department/school/academic unit/program/Faculty.

Bursaries

A bursary is a monetary award similar to a scholarship in that you are not expected to repay it, but bursaries are awarded primarily on financial need rather than academic achievement. Bursaries are a supplemental source of funding for students in high financial need. (See http://students.sfu.ca/financialaid/grad-sabws/bursaries.html).
Eligible students must have a demonstrated financial need and must apply using the Simon Fraser University online bursary/work-study application form via the student information system (http://go.sfu.ca). It is the student’s responsibility to meet applicable deadlines and supply all required documentation. Bursaries are administered by SFU Student Services.

Funds will be credited to the recipient’s account with the University. Outstanding debts to the University will be deducted from the bursary funds before a refund for the credit balance is issued. Bursaries are tenable only for the term indicated and may not be deferred. Students who do not enroll in the term for which the bursary is granted forfeit the award. To be considered for bursaries in future terms, students must reapply.

### Work-Study Program

The Work-Study Program is an excellent opportunity to earn a supplemental income while gaining valuable experience and connecting with various members of the SFU community. Recognizing that your first commitment is to your studies, Work-Study hours are flexible, on-campus and supervised. (See http://students.sfu.ca/financialaid/grad-sabws/work-study.html).

Work-Study positions are available during the fall, spring and summer terms, beginning with the first day of classes and ending at the end of the Final Exam period for each term. The value of your Work-Study placement will vary depending on your assessed financial need. Successful applicants will be awarded a specific number of Work-Study hours for a term.

Eligible students must have a demonstrated financial need and must apply using the Simon Fraser University online bursary/work-study application form via the student information system (http://go.sfu.ca). It is your responsibility to meet applicable deadlines and supply all required documentation. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

### External Awards

If you receive an award from an external agency (e.g. CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, etc.) you must promptly report it to the chair/director/graduate supervisor of your program and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Some external agencies limit the total amount of scholarship funding you may receive. Also, award holders are expected to limit their number of hours of employment in order to excel in their graduate program. Students, supervisor and/or graduate programs with concerns should contact the graduate awards team at dgsaward@sfu.ca.

The decision to modify your funding package from Simon Fraser University is made in consultation with your department and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Please refer to the award holder's guide of the relevant external agency for the terms and conditions of your external award.

For information on this and other kinds of financial assistance, please visit the graduate studies website at www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies.html and the financial aid and awards website at www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid.html.

### Protection of Privacy

At Simon Fraser University, we recognize and respect the importance of privacy. Personal information that we collect is kept confidential. Please contact Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies should you have any concerns about your name being given to third parties or in news releases as the recipient of an award. (See also page 15).
Part IV: Academic Integrity

Simon Fraser University is committed to creating a scholarly community characterized by honesty, civility, diversity, free inquiry, mutual respect, individual safety, and freedom from harassment and discrimination.

Academic dishonesty, like other forms of dishonesty, includes misrepresentation with intent to deceive or without regard to the source or the accuracy of statements or findings. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of the University; it is furthermore unfair and discouraging to the majority of students who pursue their studies honestly. Scholarly integrity is required of all members of the University.

You have a responsibility to ensure you are familiar with the generally accepted standards and requirements of academic honesty (http://students.sfu.ca/academicintegrity.html). Ignorance of these standards will not preclude the imposition of penalties for academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. All members of the university community share the responsibility for upholding SFU’s academic standards and reputation. Academic honesty is a cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge. Academic honesty is a condition of continued membership in the University community. SFU’s code of academic honesty is contained in policy S10.01–S10.04, is printed every term in the course timetable and exam schedule, and can be found at www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html.

Please go to the SFU Library website at www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/plagiarism-tutorial to try their online tutorial on plagiarism. It will only take you a few minutes, and will help you gain a better understanding of plagiarism as it is defined in Canada. Some instructors may include this tutorial as part of their course.

■ Student Conduct

The code of student conduct is intended to define your basic responsibilities as a valuable member of the academic community, to define inappropriate student conduct, and to provide procedures and penalties to be invoked and applied, should you engage in unacceptable behaviour. You are responsible for your conduct as it affects the University community. The code shall not be construed to unreasonably prohibit peaceful assemblies, demonstrations or free speech.

The University’s code of student conduct is contained in policy S10, is printed every term in the course timetable and exam schedule, and can be found at www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html.

The following activities are representative but not exhaustive of behaviours constituting misconduct: disruptive or dangerous behaviour; behaviour which results in damage, destruction and/or theft of University property or the property of any member of the University; forgery or alteration of University documents or records; misuse of University resources including information (computing) resources; unauthorized entry or presence in university premises; and/or misuse of student disciplinary procedures.

Penalties imposed by the University for misconduct may include one or more of the following: a verbal or written reprimand, exclusion from specified areas of the University, restitution or other ameliorative measures, suspension or expulsion from the University.

3 Minute Thesis Competition for graduate students
Part V: Supplementary Information

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Simon Fraser University gathers and maintains student information used for the purposes of admission, enrollment and other fundamental activities related to being a Simon Fraser University community member and attending a public post-secondary institution in the Province of British Columbia.

When you submitted your application for admission, you were advised that the information you provide and any other information placed into the student record will be protected and used in compliance with British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOI/POP 1992). For further information on FOI/POP policies, procedures and standards, visit www.sfu.ca/archives/foi_index/policies/index.html.

Student Information System

The Student Information System (https://go.sfu.ca/) is SFU's secure online centre for student registration and administrative activities. It is your one-stop service for registration, student records, admission, and fee information.

The features available in the Student Information System include, but are not limited to:

- Registering for courses
- Displaying final grades
- Updating your address online
- Confirming your registration status
- Displaying your timetable
- Searching for classes
- Obtaining unofficial and advising transcripts
- Requesting official transcripts
- Obtaining confirmation of enrollment letters online
- Displaying student accounts
- Entering and updating direct deposit information for scholarship/awards payments
- Applying for graduation
- Applying for scholarships and bursaries
- Checking the status of your scholarship application

Centre for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented or suspected disability, the Centre for Students with Disabilities may be able to help you. They can review eligible students’ disability documentation and recommend reasonable academic accommodations to offset the effects of their disability on academic life, as well as act as liaisons between students and faculty in the implementation of disability related services and accommodations. See http://students.sfu.ca/disabilityaccess.html.

On-Campus Housing

By living in Residence, you have an exciting opportunity to grow and find meaning through friendships, exploration of ideas, and involvement in the residential community and the University as a whole.

Simon Fraser University has two residences for graduate students, Hamilton Hall on the Burnaby campus and a graduate residence in downtown Vancouver. It is recommended that you apply for residence as soon as possible to ensure placement for the fall term. Offers to new residents will start to be emailed out typically in mid-June. Priority for residence is given to current graduate student residents.

Information regarding residence fees, applying for residence, accepting an offer, etc. can be found on the Residence and Housing website at http://students.sfu.ca/residences.html. The website is updated as information becomes available each term.
Transit and Compass Card

SFU is served by four bus routes: #95 B-line, #143, #144, and #145. For more information on routes and scheduling, please see TransLink’s website at [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca).

Students load their passes onto Translink’s Compass Card: [www.sfu.ca/students/upass](http://www.sfu.ca/students/upass).

The U-Pass BC program is a comprehensive transportation package providing students in Metro Vancouver with universal and affordable access to public transit in partnership with SFU, the Simon Fraser Student Society and Graduate Student Society (GSS), TransLink, and the Province of British Columbia.

U-Pass BC is a mandatory program for all members of Simon Fraser University’s Student Unions and currently costs $164 per term. The program provides unlimited access to public transit in Metro Vancouver including TransLink Bus, SkyTrain and SeaBus services (all zones) and a discount on West Coast Express Train fares.

If you will be conducting your studies outside Metro Vancouver, please consult the U-Pass BC website on how to make yourself ineligible, as you will be charged $164 per term otherwise. See [http://students.sfu.ca/upass/eligibility.html](http://students.sfu.ca/upass/eligibility.html).

Sensitive or Classified Information in Theses

All theses must be published in the SFU online repository.

In some instances a portion of a student’s thesis or dissertation research might involve sensitive, proprietary, controlled, or classified information. Although some results might need to be summarized in a separate embargoed document, a completely embargoed thesis or dissertation conflicts with scholarly values of peer review and promotion of knowledge and should be avoided.

All theses and dissertations produced to meet Simon Fraser University’s degree requirements are subject to open publication, and should be capable of standing as academically–complete works.

Students are expected to seek guidance from their supervisory committee whenever there is a possibility that certain findings might be subject to embargo due to fear of persecution, patent pending, or pending publication. In coordination with their committee, students should communicate any anticipated or known restrictions on their research to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies as soon as possible.

A pre-publication review should be conducted with the supervisor as early as is prudent to avoid the need for restrictions on publication, including acceptable separation of restricted findings into a separate embargoed document.
Part VI: Information for Indigenous Students

Welcome to Indigenous Graduate Students

We want to create a welcoming space so you can grow academically, professionally and culturally. There are many opportunities for you to connect with SFU’s Indigenous community. Do you need information on awards/scholarships, opportunities for networking, advancing your career and our Indigenous academic community? If you have any questions regarding supports and resources for Indigenous graduate students at SFU, please email our Indigenous Graduate Coordinator at gsindig@sfu.ca.

Indigenous Graduate Studies Resources

The Graduate Studies’ Indigenous webpage includes information on professional training, Indigenous research and links to funding sources. www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/indigenous-aboriginal-students.html

Awards and Scholarships, including the Indigenous Graduate Student Travel Award (www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/indigenousaboriginal-students/conferencestipend.html) are accessible online through the Graduate Awards and Application System (GA3) http://gradawards.sfu.ca

Connecting with Indigenous Students

The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) is a welcoming space with computers, a kitchen, and weekly lunches with resident Elders. The ISC supports students culturally and emotionally with a space for smudging and an onsite registered clinical counsellor. The ISC website includes an events page which promotes workshops and cultural activities www.sfu.ca/students/indigenous.html

Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) is an excellent opportunity to meet other Indigenous graduate students and to discuss research ideas, challenges, and experiences. https://www.sfu.ca/sage.html

Other SFU and External Community Resources

The Indigenous Online Learning Community website highlights programs, student services, traditional events and other supports for Indigenous students www.sfu.ca/olc/indigenous

The Office for Aboriginal People’s mandate is to implement SFU’s Aboriginal Strategic Plan. www.sfu.ca/aboriginalpeoples.html

The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (VAFCS) located near Hastings St. and Commercial Drive. The centre provides programs in health and welfare, social services, human rights, culture, education, recreation and equality for all genders of Aboriginal People of all age groups. http://www.vafcs.org/
Part VII: Information for International Students

■ Pre-Arrival Information

International graduate students bring valuable perspectives, insights and experiences to the university. If you are an international student, please visit our Virtual Orientation for information that will help you find your way through getting settled in Metro Vancouver and getting established in the Canadian university system. We have also set up a Facebook group for you to connect with other grad students. See www.sfu.ca/grad/new_graduate_students/before_you_arrive/orientation.html. If you have any questions about getting settled in Vancouver, you are welcome to email gradintl@sfu.ca.

■ International Services for Students Office

The International Services for Students Office (ISS) at Simon Fraser University offers programs and services such as:

- International student orientation
- Assistance with medical insurance, taxes, visas, work and study permits
- Community engagement activities

For information about resources that are available, visit http://students.sfu.ca/isap. To contact an International Student Advisor, please email intl_advising@sfu.ca or call 1.778.782.4232.

■ Enrollment Requirements for International Students

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) requires you to actively pursue your studies while at SFU. As a designated learning institution, SFU is required to report the enrollment status of international students twice per year. See here for more information: www.sfu.ca/students/isap/current/enrollment-requirements.html.

■ Applying for a Study Permit

Before you can study in Canada, you must obtain a study permit by applying to your closest Canadian Embassy or Consulate. Apply early as the processing time can take months and some Canadian representatives may have deadlines for processing your requests.

For detailed instructions on how to apply, please visit the website of the Canadian visa office responsible for your region (see www.cic.gc.ca). You will need your official admission letter from SFU and the study permit information form issued by the Office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows. US citizens and US permanent residents may apply online or at their port-of-entry into Canada (airport or border crossing).


If you are already in Canada and need to extend or change the conditions of your stay, please see the Citizenship & Immigration Canada website: www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/extend-student.asp.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact an International Student Advisor at intl_advising@sfu.ca or 1.778.782.4232.

Join our facebook group
Your fellow incoming graduate students can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/sfugradstudents
■ Working in Canada

Full-time graduate students at SFU with valid study permits may accept part-time employment on any of our three campuses without obtaining a work permit. International graduate students may also be eligible for “co-op work permits” if participating in an approved SFU co-op or internship program.

Study permits will also automatically authorize the holder to work off-campus for up to 20 hours per week. For more information, visit www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp and www.sfu.ca/students/isap/current/employment-volunteer-options.html.

Important: If you will be employed in Canada (on or off campus) you will need a Social Insurance Number within three days of starting employment. For information on how to apply, see www.sfu.ca/students/isap/faq.html.

For more information on employment opportunities, please visit www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/current/employment.html.

■ Bringing Your Family

The spouses, partners and families of our graduate students are an integral and vital part of the SFU community. Spouses and common-law partners of full-time international students are eligible to apply for open work permits in Canada for the same period of time as your study permit.

If you wish for your spouse or common-law partner and/or any dependent children to accompany you to Canada, they are advised to apply for a visa at the same time that you apply for your study permit. School-age children (ages 5-18) are advised to obtain study permits.


■ Staying in Canada

You may be eligible to work in Canada for up to three years after graduation though the “Post-Graduation Work Permit” program. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has a number of Permanent Resident (PR) programs for international graduates who wish to remain in Canada permanently after graduation.

These programs include the recently introduced Canadian Experience Class, Federal Skilled Worker Class, and the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP).

If you are interested in staying in Canada permanently, please see www.cic.gc.ca or www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/future/international-applicants/study-and-work-permits/staying-in-canada.html.
Part VIII: Medical Insurance

SFU requires all students to have medical insurance for the entire duration of their studies. Health services in Canada can be very expensive if you do not have complete medical insurance coverage.

Initial Medical Insurance for International Graduate Students (Primary Insurance)
If you are a new international student enrolled in a graduate program at SFU, you will be automatically enrolled in a mandatory 4 month primary medical insurance plan for your first term through guard.me@SFU (https://www.guard.me/sfu). Great Northern Way Campus students are also covered by the plan.

Please see www.sfu.ca/medical-insurance.html for the most up-to-date details on this medical coverage.

BC Medical Services Plan (Primary Insurance)
All students are expected to be enrolled under the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) with the exception of students from other Canadian provinces, who may be able to remain on their home provincial plan.

International graduate students are covered by the Guard Me plan initially (see above), and are expected to apply for the BC MSP when they arrive in Canada. Please see www.sfu.ca/medical-insurance.html for instructions.

Note: If you will be a sessional instructor, TA or tutor marker, SFU will pay for your MSP premiums. See below.

SFU Graduate Student Society’s Health and Dental Benefit plan (Secondary Insurance)
If you enroll in a graduate program at SFU in September or January, you will be automatically enrolled in the SFU Graduate Student Society’s Health and Dental Benefit plan (http://www.ihaveaplan.ca/rte/en/IHaveAPlan_SFUSimonFraserUniversitygraduatestudentsGSS_Home). The fees will be assessed on your student account.

If you begin your academic year in May, you will not be automatically covered but you will have the option to enroll yourself during the opt-in period.

The plan gives you the option to enroll your family (spouse and/or dependants) by completing an enrollment process and by paying an additional fee, over and above your individual fee as a plan member.

For further information:
- Graduate Student Society: http://sfugradsociety.ca/services/services-for-grads/benefit-plan
- Graduate GSS Benefit Plan: http://www.ihaveaplan.ca/

Medical Insurance for Teaching and Research Assistants

Medical insurance is an employee benefit for teaching assistants, tutor markers and sessional instructors through the Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU). Coverage is not automatic. Upon arrival, you will need to enroll through SFU Human Resources to receive benefits. If you have a TSSU appointment in your first term, please see www.sfu.ca/human-resources/tssu.html.

Benefits for Research Assistants depend on grant holder approval. To be eligible for benefits, your Grant Holder must provide written authorization to SFU Human Resources stating that the Grant will be responsible for 50% of the monthly premiums. Please note that NSERC [Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council] and some other grantholders are not able to pay for these benefits for Research Assistants or Postdoctoral Fellows. For more information, please see www.sfu.ca/human-resources/other/research-personnel-benefit-plan.html.

More information about medical insurance is available at www.sfu.ca/medical-insurance.

If you have questions or need assistance, please see http://students.sfu.ca/isap or contact an International Student Advisor at intl_advising@sfu.ca or 1.778.782.4232.
Part IX: Financing Your Studies

Budgeting for Graduate Studies

One of the biggest challenges for students is how to be financially prepared. To help you defray the cost of your studies while at SFU (see chart below), you have numerous sources of financial aid available to you. By informing yourself of all the possibilities, you will go a long way in being able to offset some of the costs.

Use our interactive Budget Calculator to help you understand some of the potential costs associated with studying and living in Metro Vancouver as well as create a budget for these costs: [http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/new_graduate_students/before_you_arrive/build-budget.html](http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/new_graduate_students/before_you_arrive/build-budget.html)

Working

A great way to offset the expense of university is to have a part-time job on campus. These jobs can provide you with extra income and valuable work experience. Visit the Career Services website ([www.sfu.ca/career.html](http://www.sfu.ca/career.html)) to check out the online job postings. The graduate studies blog and facebook group also regularly post information about job postings.

Government Financial Assistance

Additional financial assistance, such as a BC Student Loan, may be available through various federal and provincial funding programs for Canadian citizens and permanent residents. For more information visit StudentAidBC at [www.studentaidbc.ca](http://www.studentaidbc.ca).

International students who require financial assistance must seek assistance in their country of origin before arrival in Canada. Many countries offer scholarships and loans for students studying graduate level programs. Information on loans for US students is available at [http://students.sfu.ca/financialaid/international/grad-intl.html](http://students.sfu.ca/financialaid/international/grad-intl.html).
Checklist for Managing Your Progress

Communication issues are the most frequent source of misunderstandings between graduate students and their supervisors. Using this checklist will help reduce misunderstandings and expedite your degree completion.

Every term
- Establish your goals for the term: courses, research, writing, teaching.
- Establish a regular meeting schedule with your senior supervisor. You should report on your progress since your last meeting and discuss any areas where you need help or advice from your supervisor.
- Discuss your plans for professional development: conferences, learning new techniques. Allot enough time to request financial support for travel or acquiring equipment, if needed.
- Discuss your plan and requirements for financial support.
- If you need ethics approvals (human or animal), safety approvals or criminal records checks for working with children for your research, discuss the application process with your supervisor and allot enough time to obtain the approvals.
- Discuss your post-graduation career plans.

At least once a year
- Write down your goals and your timeline for achieving them.
- Meet and discuss your annual plans with your entire supervisory committee.
- If applicable, get an assessment in writing of your progress from the previous year.
- Discuss your requirements for financial support.
- Discuss plans for major absences, either yours or those of your committee members (this should include time for family, recreation and vacations).
- Review your long-term plan for completion of your degree. Ensure that the current year’s plan is consistent with the long-term plan.
- Consult the Library’s thesis website and download the most recent Library thesis template (or sign up for a thesis template workshop) to save yourself time when you’re ready to begin writing.
- Discuss your plan for publishing research results. Discuss co-authorship of papers.
- Consult with your supervisory committee about your career goals following graduation. They are a valuable part of your professional network and can help you establish realistic post-graduation goals.

Source: www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/current/managing_your_progress/checklist.html

Resources

Current SFU supervision guidelines for students
www.sfu.ca/grad/current/managing_your_progress/supervision.html

Supervision regulations, guidelines and sample templates provided to faculty members
www.sfu.ca/grad/faculty/supervision.html