



8888 University Drive,  
Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.6930  
FAX: 778.782.5732

<http://www.sfu.ca/senate/senate-committees/spcsab.html>

## MEMORANDUM

---

|                  |                                                                                                                |              |                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>ATTENTION</b> | Senate                                                                                                         | <b>DATE</b>  | January 10, 2022 |
| <b>FROM</b>      | Brian Krauth, Chair <i>Brian V. Krauth</i><br>Senate Policy Committee on<br>Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries | <b>PAGES</b> | 1/13             |
| <b>RE:</b>       | Annual Report 2020-2021                                                                                        |              |                  |

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

### Overview

SPCSAB is the committee charged by Senate with setting policy for the administration of student awards, scholarships, bursaries and other forms of financial aid at SFU. This is primarily for university-administered funding. Three other Senate committees, namely SUAAC (Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee), SGAAC (Senate Graduate Awards Adjudication Committee) and SCUH (Senate Committee on University Honors) adjudicate financial awards to students, where adjudication is needed. Financial Aid and Awards is a unit within Student Services, which processes and administers undergraduate scholarships and awards (entrance, athletic, in-course), government student loans (Canadian and US) and needs-based bursary and work-study programs (for both undergraduate and graduate students). The Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Office is responsible for the support and administration of major graduate entrance scholarships and awards and other internal and donor funded awards for graduate students.

SPCSAB is not responsible for administering budgets for scholarships, awards, work-study or bursary programs. We include for information, reports from both undergraduate (Appendix 1) and graduate studies (Appendix 2) indicating how funds were distributed. Policy decisions by SPCSAB in the 2020-21 period are detailed in Table 1.

### Attachments

Table 1

Appendix 1 [Undergraduate Studies – Fiscal Years 2020-2021 – SPCSAB 21-12](#)

Appendix 2 [Graduate Studies – Fiscal Years 2020/2021 – SPCSAB 21-13](#)

Table 1: Actions of SPCSAB

|                |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2020       | Increasing the value of the GF, PS and GRTA                      | SPCSAB approved the increase in value of the Graduate Fellowship, President's PhD Scholarship and Graduate International Research Travel Award from \$6500 to \$7000 effective September 1, 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| July 2020      | President and Dean's Honour Roll – Terms of Reference            | SPCSAB approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Dean's and President's Honour Roll, effective Summer 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| July 2020      | SFU Youth in Care                                                | SPCSAB approved the permanent extension of the current SFU Youth in Care Tuition Assistance Program, effective Fall 2020. Students who meet all eligibility requirements to receive funding in this program may continue to be funded up to a maximum of 10 terms or until the completion of the first undergraduate degree (excluding professional programs and non-degree or non-credit studies) whichever comes first, should they not be eligible for funding through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program for former Youth in Care. |
| September 2020 | Academy to the Community Award – Terms of Reference              | SPCSAB approved the Terms of Reference for the Academy to the Community Award effective Fall 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| October 2020   | Graduate Fellowship-temporary revision to the Terms of Reference | SPCSAB approved the waiver of the normal time in program restriction as defined in the eligibility criteria within the Terms of Reference for a Graduate Fellowship, applicable for the three consecutive terms, Spring, Summer and Fall terms of 2021, due to COVID-19.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| November 2020  | The TBA Scholarship Program – Terms of Reference for Approval    | SPCSAB approved the Terms of Reference for the TBA Scholarship with the intent of having the first cohort of students eligible to receive this opportunity upon entry to SFU in Fall 2021.<br><i>The scholarship name was announced in 2021 as The Ugglä Family Scholarship.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| November 2020  | Graduate Student Funding                                         | SPCSAB approved the cap increase to graduate student funding from \$50,000 to \$60,000 effective Fall 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| January 2021   | Ugglä Family Scholarship Program                                 | SPCSAB approved the committee structure for the adjudication of the Ugglä Family Scholarship effective Spring 2021.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| January 2021   | Thesis Completion Fellowship (TCF) – Terms of Reference          | SPCSAB approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Thesis Completion Fellowship (TCF) removing the restriction 'not receiving any work-related income', effective Spring 2021.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| February 2021  | P/CR/NC Grade System                                             | SPCSAB approved the undergraduate Elective Grade System (P/CR/NC) grades will not be used to calculate the cumulative grade point average for awards, scholarships, bursaries, work-study, and entrance scholarship renewals during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| February 2021  | P/CR/NC Grade System                                             | SPCSAB approved the undergraduate Elective Grade System (P/CR/NC) grades of Pass (P) and Credit (CR) will satisfy the minimum number of enrolled and/or completed SFU units required for scholarship, award, work-study and bursary eligibility during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| February 2021  | Honour Roll – Revised Terms of Reference                         | SPCSAB approved the revised Terms of Reference for the President's Honour Roll and Dean's Honour Roll effective Spring 2021.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| February 2021  | P or CR graded courses                                           | SPCSAB approved that a P or CR graded course will count towards the eligibility requirement that a student must have completed a minimum of 30 units at Simon Fraser University by the end of the term being evaluated, effective Spring 2021.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Disbursement Summary of Funding Administered or Supported through Financial Aid and Awards**  
**Comparative Report: Fiscal Year 2019/2020 vs. 2020/2021**

| Type of Financial Aid Support                                                        | FY 2019/2020          |                      | FY 2020/2021          |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                      | # of Awards Disbursed | Total Disbursements  | # of Awards Disbursed | Total Disbursements  |
| <b>UNIVERSITY FUNDED - FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                                  |                       |                      |                       |                      |
| Entrance Scholarships and Awards                                                     | 746                   | \$ 3,172,520         | 811                   | \$ 3,228,841         |
| Undergraduate Open Scholarship                                                       | 1,898                 | \$ 2,237,970         | 2,156                 | \$ 1,806,690         |
| In-Course Awards                                                                     | 409                   | \$ 382,950           | 594                   | \$ 375,200           |
| Bursary (Open - Undergraduate) <sup>a</sup>                                          | 1,670                 | \$ 2,401,599         | 1,198                 | \$ 1,400,892         |
| Bursary (Open - Undergraduate - International)                                       | 2,160                 | \$ 3,222,886         | 2,613                 | \$ 4,460,236         |
| Bursary (International Supplement - Undergraduate) <sup>b</sup>                      | 93                    | \$ 88,425            | 36                    | \$ 36,700            |
| Bursary (Open - Graduate - Domestic)                                                 | 294                   | \$ 672,065           | 255                   | \$ 511,922           |
| Bursary (Open - Graduate - International)                                            | 524                   | \$ 1,088,691         | 615                   | \$ 1,156,297         |
| Bursary (Designated) <sup>c</sup>                                                    | 167                   | \$ 488,652           | 65                    | \$ 126,562           |
| Athletics Awards <sup>e</sup>                                                        | 423                   | \$ 798,325           | 390                   | \$ 811,619           |
| Undergraduate Work-Study Program <sup>g</sup>                                        | 338                   | \$ 544,035           | 174                   | \$ 367,950           |
| Graduate Work-Study Program <sup>g</sup>                                             | 55                    | \$ 95,669            | 14                    | \$ 27,456            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL INTERNALLY MANAGED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS (UNIVERSITY FUNDING)</b>     | <b>8,777</b>          | <b>\$ 15,193,787</b> | <b>8,921</b>          | <b>\$ 14,310,365</b> |
| <b>PRIVATELY FUNDED - FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                                   |                       |                      |                       |                      |
| Entrance Scholarships and Awards (Annual/Endowed)                                    | 83                    | \$ 457,500           | 104                   | \$ 547,000           |
| In-Course Awards (Annual/Endowed)                                                    | 334                   | \$ 569,921           | 318                   | \$ 541,522           |
| In-Course Scholarships (Annual/Endowed)                                              | 424                   | \$ 622,089           | 439                   | \$ 643,891           |
| Bursary (Credit Based Graduate Programs)                                             | 78                    | \$ 95,764            | 83                    | \$ 98,442            |
| Bursary (Annual/Endowed - Undergraduate) <sup>d</sup>                                | 5,167                 | \$ 1,779,873         | 5,175                 | \$ 1,978,680         |
| Bursary (Annual/Endowed - Graduate)                                                  | 73                    | \$ 127,373           | 50                    | \$ 113,893           |
| Athletics Awards (Annual/Endowed) <sup>f</sup>                                       | 394                   | \$ 772,619           | 391                   | \$ 840,995           |
| <b>SUBTOTAL INTERNALLY MANAGED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                          | <b>6,553</b>          | <b>\$ 4,425,139</b>  | <b>6,560</b>          | <b>\$ 4,764,423</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INTERNALLY MANAGED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                             | <b>15,330</b>         | <b>\$ 19,618,926</b> | <b>15,481</b>         | <b>\$ 19,074,788</b> |
| <b>EXTERNALLY MANAGED OR SUPPORTED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                      |                       |                      |                       |                      |
| StudentAid BC - Federal and Provincial Loans (Full-time and Part-time) <sup>h</sup>  | 28,879                | \$ 41,930,203        | 34,255                | \$ 40,350,212        |
| StudentAid BC - Federal and Provincial Grants (Full-time and Part-time) <sup>h</sup> | incl. above           | \$ 15,024,947        | incl. above           | \$ 31,742,860        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>28,879</b>         | <b>\$ 56,955,150</b> | <b>34,255</b>         | <b>\$ 72,093,072</b> |
| Out of Province Loans and Grants                                                     | 1,725                 | \$ 5,645,564         | 1,482                 | \$ 4,593,344         |
| U.S. Loan Awards                                                                     | 224                   | \$ 1,082,080         | 233                   | \$ 1,010,090         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>1,949</b>          | <b>\$ 6,727,644</b>  | <b>1,715</b>          | <b>\$ 5,603,434</b>  |
| Non-SFU Administered External Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries <sup>i</sup>       | 352                   | \$ 602,220           | 446                   | \$ 838,995           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>352</b>            | <b>\$ 602,220</b>    | <b>446</b>            | <b>\$ 838,995</b>    |
| Athletics Awards (B.C. Athletic Assistance Program)                                  | 42                    | \$ 60,386            | 28                    | \$ 48,205            |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>42</b>             | <b>\$ 60,386</b>     | <b>28</b>             | <b>\$ 48,205</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL EXTERNALLY MANAGED OR SUPPORTED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                | <b>31,222</b>         | <b>\$ 64,345,400</b> | <b>36,444</b>         | <b>\$ 78,583,706</b> |

## Notes:

(a) Bursary - Open - includes funding for World University Services of Canada (WUSC) student and other university funded bursaries

(b) Bursary - International Student Supplement (introduced in 2015/16) - Recognizing that international tuition fees had increased significantly over a 3 year period, to help with these increased costs, undergraduate students admitted in the 2014/15 academic year or earlier were provided a special bursary, the International Student Bursary Supplement.

(c) Bursary - Designated - includes Field School, Exchange, International Co-op, Aboriginal (Ugrad/Grad), former Youth in Care, SFU Intl Emergency Assistance

(d) Now includes # of awards disbursed for SFSS BuildSFU Bursary which was created in Spring 2014

(e) The University funding for athletic awards includes athletic entrance awards, recreation awards, international student-athlete awards, and female student athlete awards.

(f) Externally fund-raised Athletic Awards were combined with the Annual/Endowed Athletic Awards category from 2015/16 onwards.

(g) Work-Study hourly wage is currently \$15.20 per hour.

(h) StudentAid BC funding for full-time and part-time BC students including any federal and provincial loan funding along with possible grant funding. Number awarded includes same student receiving more than one loan in the year.

(i) Non-SFU administered external financial aid and awards normally just requires proof of enrollment from institution. Funds are then disbursed to the student's SFU account.

**Disbursement Summary of Funding Administered or Supported through Financial Aid and Awards**  
**Comparative Report: Fiscal Year 2019/2020 vs. 2020/2021**

| Type of Financial Aid Support                                                        | FY 2019/2020          |                      | FY 2020/2021          |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                      | # of Awards Disbursed | Total Disbursements  | # of Awards Disbursed | Total Disbursements  |
| <b>INTERNALLY MANAGED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                                   |                       |                      |                       |                      |
| Entrance Scholarships and Awards (University funded)                                 | 746                   | \$ 3,172,520         | 811                   | \$ 3,228,841         |
| Entrance Scholarships and Awards (Annual/Endowed)                                    | 83                    | \$ 457,500           | 104                   | \$ 547,000           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>829</b>            | <b>\$ 3,630,020</b>  | <b>915</b>            | <b>\$ 3,775,841</b>  |
| Undergraduate Open Scholarship (University funded)                                   | 1,898                 | \$ 2,237,970         | 2,156                 | \$ 1,806,690         |
| In-Course Awards (University funded)                                                 | 409                   | \$ 382,950           | 594                   | \$ 375,200           |
| In-Course Awards (Annual/Endowed)                                                    | 334                   | \$ 569,921           | 318                   | \$ 541,522           |
| In-Course Scholarships (Annual/Endowed)                                              | 424                   | \$ 622,089           | 439                   | \$ 643,891           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>3,065</b>          | <b>\$ 3,812,930</b>  | <b>3,507</b>          | <b>\$ 3,367,303</b>  |
| Bursary (Open - Undergraduate - Domestic - University funded) <sup>a</sup>           | 1,670                 | \$ 2,401,599         | 1,198                 | \$ 1,400,892         |
| Bursary (Open - Undergraduate - International - University funded)                   | 2,160                 | \$ 3,222,886         | 2,613                 | \$ 4,460,236         |
| Bursary (International Supplement - Undergraduate - University funded) <sup>b</sup>  | 93                    | \$ 88,425            | 36                    | \$ 36,700            |
| Bursary (Open - Graduate - Domestic - University funded)                             | 294                   | \$ 672,065           | 255                   | \$ 511,922           |
| Bursary (Open - Graduate - International - University funded)                        | 524                   | \$ 1,088,691         | 615                   | \$ 1,156,297         |
| Bursary (Designated - University funded) <sup>c</sup>                                | 167                   | \$ 488,652           | 65                    | \$ 126,562           |
| Bursary (Credit Based Graduate Programs)                                             | 78                    | \$ 95,764            | 83                    | \$ 98,442            |
| Bursary (Annual/Endowed - Undergraduate) <sup>d</sup>                                | 5,167                 | \$ 1,779,873         | 5,175                 | \$ 1,978,680         |
| Bursary (Annual/Endowed - Graduate)                                                  | 73                    | \$ 127,373           | 50                    | \$ 113,893           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>10,226</b>         | <b>\$ 9,965,328</b>  | <b>10,090</b>         | <b>\$ 9,883,624</b>  |
| Athletics Awards (University funding) <sup>e</sup>                                   | 423                   | \$ 798,325           | 390                   | \$ 811,619           |
| Athletics Awards (Annual/Endowed) <sup>f</sup>                                       | 394                   | \$ 772,619           | 391                   | \$ 840,995           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>817</b>            | <b>\$ 1,570,944</b>  | <b>781</b>            | <b>\$ 1,652,614</b>  |
| Undergraduate Work-Study Program (University funded) <sup>g</sup>                    | 338                   | \$ 544,035           | 174                   | \$ 367,950           |
| Graduate Work-Study Program (University funded) <sup>g</sup>                         | 55                    | \$ 95,669            | 14                    | \$ 27,456            |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>393</b>            | <b>\$ 639,704</b>    | <b>188</b>            | <b>\$ 395,406</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL INTERNALLY MANAGED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                             | <b>15,330</b>         | <b>\$ 19,618,926</b> | <b>15,481</b>         | <b>\$ 19,074,788</b> |
| <b>EXTERNALLY MANAGED OR SUPPORTED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                      |                       |                      |                       |                      |
| StudentAid BC - Federal and Provincial Loans (Full-time and Part-time) <sup>h</sup>  | 28,879                | \$ 41,930,203        | 34,255                | \$ 40,350,212        |
| StudentAid BC - Federal and Provincial Grants (Full-time and Part-time) <sup>h</sup> | incl. above           | \$ 15,024,947        | incl. above           | \$ 31,742,860        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      |                       | <b>\$ 56,955,150</b> |                       | <b>\$ 72,093,072</b> |
| Out of Province Loans and Grants                                                     | 1,725                 | \$ 5,645,564         | 1,482                 | \$ 4,593,344         |
| U.S. Loan Awards                                                                     | 224                   | \$ 1,082,080         | 233                   | \$ 1,010,090         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>1,949</b>          | <b>\$ 6,727,644</b>  | <b>1,715</b>          | <b>\$ 5,603,434</b>  |
| Non-SFU Administered External Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries <sup>i</sup>       | 352                   | \$ 602,220           | 446                   | \$ 838,995           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>352</b>            | <b>\$ 602,220</b>    | <b>446</b>            | <b>\$ 838,995</b>    |
| Athletics Awards (B.C. Athletic Assistance Program)                                  | 42                    | \$ 60,386            | 28                    | \$ 48,205            |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                      | <b>42</b>             | <b>\$ 60,386</b>     | <b>28</b>             | <b>\$ 48,205</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL EXTERNALLY MANAGED OR SUPPORTED FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS</b>                | <b>31,222</b>         | <b>\$ 64,345,400</b> | <b>36,444</b>         | <b>\$ 78,583,706</b> |

## Notes:

- (a) Bursary - Open - includes funding for World University Services of Canada (WUSC) student and other university funded bursaries
- (b) Bursary - International Student Supplement (introduced in 2015/16) - Recognizing that international tuition fees had increased significantly over a 3 year period, to help with these increased costs, undergraduate students admitted in the 2014/15 academic year or earlier were provided a special bursary, the International Student Bursary Supplement.
- (c) Bursary - Designated - includes Field School, Exchange, International Co-op, Aboriginal (Ugrad/Grad), former Youth in Care, SFU Intl Emergency Assistance
- (d) Now includes # of awards disbursed for SFSS BuildSFU Bursary which was created in Spring 2014
- (e) The University funding for athletic awards includes athletic entrance awards, recreation awards, international student-athlete awards, and female student athlete awards.
- (f) Externally fund-raised Athletic Awards were combined with the Annual/Endowed Athletic Awards category from 2015/16 onwards.
- (g) Work-Study hourly wage is currently \$15.20 per hour.
- (h) StudentAid BC funding for full-time and part-time BC students including any federal and provincial loan funding along with possible grant funding. Number awarded includes same student receiving more than one loan in the year.
- (i) Non-SFU administered external financial aid and awards normally just requires proof of enrollment from institution. Funds are then disbursed to the student's SFU account.

### Emergency Assistance Funding

Given the unique circumstances that were created by the COVID-19 pandemic in late Spring 2020, SPCSAB authorized support for emergency assistance to be accessed using university funding that was originally assigned to the bursary program. This funding was used to support students in late Spring 2020 and through the Summer 2020 term. Students were provided funding for general emergency to cover unexpected living expenses, technology for remote learning, and travel assistance to return to Canada or to go back to their home country in the case of international students. Along with university monies, various donors reached out to support students by providing funding through a program called the SFU Student Urgent Response Fund initiated by the University Advancement office. As well, generosity of funds came through others including Simon Fraser Student Society, Dean of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows, the First Nations Student Association and the BC provincial government via the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. The following provides an update for the 20/21 year where the majority of the remaining funding was disbursed over the Summer 2020 term.

| YEAR  | Total number<br>Emergency<br>applications<br>processed | Total<br>Emergency<br>Funding<br>Awarded \$ |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 20/21 | 280                                                    | 235,740                                     |
| 19/20 | 2,911                                                  | 3,013,230                                   |

#### University Funded Emergency Assistance

| YEAR  | Undergraduate Students |           |               |          | Graduate Students |          |               |          |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
|       | Domestic               |           | International |          | Domestic          |          | International |          |
|       | Awards                 | Total \$  | Awards        | Total \$ | Awards            | Total \$ | Awards        | Total \$ |
| 20/21 | 70                     | 50,341    | 69            | 55,055   | 15                | 14,400   | 19            | 16,293   |
| 19/20 | 1352                   | 1,358,810 | 688           | 755,900  | 150               | 172,550  | 196           | 199,970  |

#### Privately Funded Emergency Assistance

| YEAR  | Undergraduate Students |          |               |          | Graduate Students |          |               |          |
|-------|------------------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
|       | Domestic               |          | International |          | Domestic          |          | International |          |
|       | Awards                 | Total \$ | Awards        | Total \$ | Awards            | Total \$ | Awards        | Total \$ |
| 20/21 | 21                     | 17,000   | 40            | 39,551   | 10                | 8,000    | 30            | 29,700   |
| 19/20 | 86                     | 85,000   | 230           | 242,400  | 2                 | 3,000    | 11            | 7,700    |

#### Government Funded Emergency Assistance

| YEAR  | Aboriginal Emergency<br>Funding (Undergraduate<br>and Graduate Student) |          | Canadian Undergraduate<br>Student Emergency |          |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|----------|
|       | Awards                                                                  | Total \$ | Awards                                      | Total \$ |
| 20/21 | 6                                                                       | 5,400    | -                                           | -        |
| 19/20 | 46                                                                      | 37,900   | 150                                         | 150,000  |

## Items of Note for 2020-21

### **Needs-Based Funding**

Enhanced financial assistance measures were implemented through the student loans and grants programs from the [Government of Canada](#) over the pandemic and have been officially extended until the end of July 2023. This includes the following:

- doubled Canada Student Grants up to \$6,000 for full-time students, and up to \$3,600 for part-time students.
- doubled Canada Student Grants for students with permanent disabilities and students with dependents.

StudentAid BC also created the BC Access Grant for [full-time](#) and [part-time](#) students.

Over \$30 million dollars in grant (non-repayable) funding was disbursed to domestic undergraduate students at SFU, who were the vast majority of recipients (graduate students qualified for some funding as well) of this money. This was double the amount of funding provided in the previous year.

Along with other government emergency response benefits, this decreased the amount of bursary funding that was disbursed to domestic students last year, as these additional external resources helped to cover their financial need, for those who qualified for it.

International students were ineligible for the majority of government subsidies, and therefore, as there was a greater demonstrated financial need, bursary support was redirected to those students who qualified for funding through the bursary program.

### **Undergraduate Open Scholarship**

The Undergraduate Open Scholarship, which is automatically provided to current students (who have completed at least 30 units at SFU and have a minimum CGPA of 3.67) was disbursed at \$70/unit in Summer 2020, \$80/unit in Fall 2020, and \$90/unit in Spring 2021 to ensure it was within budget.



Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
Simon Fraser University

1100 Maggie Benston Centre  
8888 University Drive,  
Burnaby, BC  
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3042  
FAX 778.782.3080

Email: [gradstudies@sfu.ca](mailto:gradstudies@sfu.ca)  
[www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies.html](http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies.html)

Attention: Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB)

Date: August 7, 2021

### **Financial Summary of Graduate Scholarship, Bursaries and Awards (SBA) Budget**

---

Scholarship and Awards Budget: Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies received \$10,922,580 for the FY2020/21 Graduate SBA Budget. We had a deficit of -\$95,780 from the FY2019/20 budget.

A total of \$10,056,063 was disbursed in FY2020/21, leaving a carry-forward of \$770,737 as of March 31, 2021.





GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

**Financial Summary of Graduate Scholarships/ Bursaries/ Awards (SBA) Budget  
Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

**BUDGET**

|                                                               |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Budget Allocation for FY2020/2021                             | 10,922,580.00        |
| Less: Scholarship funds carryforward deficit from FY2019/2020 | (95,780.00)          |
| <b>Total SBA Budget for FY2020/2021</b>                       | <b>10,826,800.00</b> |

**EXPENSES (by academic term)**

| Name of Award                                      | Value of Award          | Retroactive Awards <sup>(2)(3)</sup> |                       | Summer 2020              |                       | Fall 2020                |                       | Spring 2021              |                       | Total for FY2020/2021          |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                    |                         | Number of Award Payments             | Expensed in Term (\$) | Number of Award Payments | Expensed in Term (\$) | Number of Award Payments | Expensed in Term (\$) | Number of Award Payments | Expensed in Term (\$) | Total number of award payments | Total Expensed in FY20/21 (\$) |
| C.D. Nelson Scholarships <sup>(1)(5)</sup>         | up to \$18,000 annually | 0                                    | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                              | -                              |
| Graduate Dean Entrance Scholarships <sup>(1)</sup> | up to \$21,000 annually | 0                                    | -                     | 116                      | 697,668.00            | 124                      | 735,329.00            | 129                      | 778,334.00            | 369                            | 2,211,331.00                   |
| Graduate Fellowships                               | \$3,250 or \$6,500      | 79                                   | 377,000.00            | 241                      | 1,196,000.00          | 426                      | 2,415,000.00          | 316                      | 1,767,500.00          | 1,062                          | 5,755,500.00                   |
| Graduate Fellowships (Supplemental)                | \$3,250 or \$6,500      | 1                                    | 13,000.00             | 3                        | 19,500.00             | 10                       | 56,000.00             | 7                        | 42,000.00             | 21                             | 130,500.00                     |
| Supervisory Support Award                          | \$1000-\$6500           | 0                                    | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                              | -                              |
| President's PhD Scholarship                        | \$6,500                 | 1                                    | 6,500.00              | 9                        | 58,500.00             | 9                        | 63,000.00             | 9                        | 63,000.00             | 28                             | 191,000.00                     |
| Special Graduate Entrance Scholarships - General   | \$1,000-\$10,000        | 0                                    | -                     | 10                       | 56,150.00             | 91                       | 359,950.00            | 21                       | 101,750.00            | 122                            | 517,850.00                     |
| Provost Scholarships                               | \$5,000 annually        | 0                                    | -                     | 38                       | 59,170.00             | 21                       | 33,831.00             | 17                       | 27,667.00             | 76                             | 120,668.00                     |
| Travel & Minor Research Awards                     | varies                  | 82                                   | 86,024.00             | 129                      | 120,268.00            | 28                       | 30,319.00             | 156                      | 115,387.00            | 395                            | 351,998.00                     |
| Graduate International Research Travel Awards      | \$1,000-\$6,500         | 1                                    | 1,639.00              | 3                        | 10,085.00             | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 4                              | 11,724.00                      |
| Indigenous Graduate Student Travel Award           | varies                  | 1                                    | 1,000.00              | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 1                        | 700.00                | 2                              | 1,700.00                       |
| Indigenous Graduate Entrance Scholarship           | \$15,000-\$18,000       | 0                                    | -                     | 6                        | 33,667.00             | 6                        | 38,000.00             | 7                        | 45,000.00             | 19                             | 116,667.00                     |
| Dean's Graduate Fellowship <sup>(1)(4)</sup>       | varies                  | 1                                    | 1,944.00              | 8                        | 17,750.00             | 44                       | 109,400.00            | 38                       | 95,000.00             | 91                             | 224,094.00                     |
| Thesis Completion Fellowship                       | \$6,500                 | 0                                    | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 25                       | 175,000.00            | 25                             | 175,000.00                     |
| Three Minute Thesis Prize                          | \$100-\$1000            | 6                                    | 1,950.00              | 1                        | 1,000.00              | 0                        | -                     | 0                        | -                     | 7                              | 2,950.00                       |
| <b>Totals</b>                                      |                         | <b>172</b>                           | <b>489,057.00</b>     | <b>564</b>               | <b>2,269,758.00</b>   | <b>759</b>               | <b>3,840,829.00</b>   | <b>726</b>               | <b>3,211,338.00</b>   | <b>2221</b>                    | <b>9,810,982.00</b>            |

**Total Expenses in FY2020/2021** **9,810,982.00**

**BALANCE**

|                                                                                                  |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Additions to Scholarship Account (e.g., GGSF funding, VPR office for Supplemental GF, ODSI, 3MT) | 122,419.00        |
| Less contributions for Emergency Graduate Bursaries                                              | (367,500.00)      |
| <b>Net Balance at Fiscal Year End (March 31, 2021)</b>                                           | <b>770,737.00</b> |

**NOTES**

- (1) These scholarships are paid over multiple terms. The total expenses on this report reflects the number of payments made this fiscal year.
- (2) Paid within FY2020/21 but related to a previous term outside of the fiscal year
- (3) Large amounts of enrolment deferrals in Summer 2020 due to COVID-19 resulted in many award payments being applied retroactively to Spring 2020.
- (4) Used to top-up BC Graduate Scholarships
- (5) Funds for CD Nelson were redirected to support the Graduate Dean's Entrance Scholarship (GDES)



**Summary of Graduate Scholarships/Bursaries/Awards (SBA) Base Budget Allocations  
Five-Year Overview: Fiscal Years 2017/2018 through 2021/2022**

|                                                                           |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>FY2017/18</b>                                                          | <b>+155,344</b>   |
| Base Budget - approved by BoG                                             | 7,922,580         |
| <b>Total FY2017/2018 Graduate SBA Budget</b>                              | <b>7,922,580</b>  |
| <i>FY2017/2018 Graduate Students Unique headcount (based on IRP data)</i> | <i>4,444</i>      |
| <b>FY2018/19</b>                                                          | <b>+1,000,000</b> |
| Base Budget - approved by BoG                                             | 8,922,580         |
| <b>Total FY2018/2019 Graduate SBA Budget</b>                              | <b>8,922,580</b>  |
| <i>FY2018/2019 Graduate Students Unique headcount (based on IRP data)</i> | <i>4,462</i>      |
| <b>FY2019/20</b>                                                          | <b>+1,000,000</b> |
| Base Budget - approved by BoG                                             | 8,172,580         |
| Adjustments for FY2019/2020:                                              |                   |
| Add: FIC transfer                                                         | 750,000           |
| Add: BCGS Top-up Funds                                                    | 1,000,000         |
| <b>Total FY2019/2020 Graduate SBA Budget</b>                              | <b>9,922,580</b>  |
| <i>FY2019/2020 Graduate Students Unique headcount (based on IRP data)</i> | <i>4,444</i>      |
| <b>FY2020/21</b>                                                          | <b>+1,000,000</b> |
| Base Budget - approved by BoG                                             | 8,172,580         |
| Adjustments for FY2020/21:                                                |                   |
| Add: FIC transfer                                                         | 2,750,000         |
| <b>Total FY2020/2021 Graduate SBA Budget</b>                              | <b>10,922,580</b> |
| <i>FY2020/2021 Graduate Students Unique headcount (based on IRP data)</i> | <i>4,206</i>      |
| <b>FY2021/22</b>                                                          | <b>+163,452</b>   |
| Base Budget - approved by BoG                                             | 8,336,032         |
| Adjustments for FY2021/22:                                                |                   |
| Add: FIC transfer                                                         | 2,750,000         |
| <b>Total FY2020/2021 Graduate SBA Budget</b>                              | <b>11,086,032</b> |



GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

**Expense Summary of Graduate Award Funds Administered by Dean of Graduate Studies**  
**Three-Year Overview: Fiscal Years 2018/2019 through 2020/2021**

| Name and Type of Award                                                                 | FY2020/2021                               |                          |                      | FY2019/2020              |                      | FY2018/2019              |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                        | Award Duration/Value (\$)                 | Number of Award Payments | Total Expenses (\$)  | Number of Award Payments | Total Expenses (\$)  | Number of Award Payments | Total Expenses (\$)  |
| <b>INTERNALLY-FUNDED GRADUATE AWARDS</b>                                               |                                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| <b>Graduate scholarships/fellowships/awards funded by Graduate SBA budget</b>          |                                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| C.D. Nelson Scholarships                                                               | 18,000/yr (1-2yrs)                        | 0                        | 0.00                 | 28                       | 182,666.00           | 90                       | 580,000.00           |
| Graduate Dean's Entrance Scholarships (non existing prior to FY2016/2017)              | 21,000 (2-4yrs)                           | 369                      | 2,211,331.00         | 316                      | 1,974,502.00         | 223                      | 1,389,998.00         |
| Graduate Fellowships <sup>(1)</sup>                                                    | 3,250-6,500                               | 1062                     | 5,755,500.00         | 1093                     | 5,639,466.00         | 1117                     | 5,937,750.00         |
| Graduate Fellowships Supplemental                                                      | 3,250-6,500                               | 21                       | 130,500.00           | 39                       | 249,800.00           | 24                       | 149,500.00           |
| Supervisory Support Award (formerly Dean's Leadership Travel Award)                    | 1,000                                     | 0                        | 0.00                 | 4                        | 22,750.00            | 3                        | 10,750.00            |
| President's PhD Scholarships                                                           | \$6,500                                   | 28                       | 191,000.00           | 30                       | 195,000.00           | 30                       | 195,000.00           |
| Special Graduate Entrance Scholarships                                                 | varies (avg 3,000)                        | 122                      | 517,850.00           | 121                      | 561,011.00           | 114                      | 451,931.00           |
| Provost Scholarships (PIF & PPD)                                                       | 5,000/yr (1-3yrs)                         | 76                       | 120,668.00           | 145                      | 207,424.00           | 210                      | 276,317.00           |
| Travel & Minor Research Awards                                                         | varies (avg 500)                          | 395                      | 351,998.00           | 485                      | 462,955.00           | 444                      | 344,231.00           |
| Graduate International Research Travel Awards                                          | 1,000-6,500                               | 4                        | 11,724.00            | 28                       | 121,380.00           | 12                       | 51,687.00            |
| Indigenous Graduate Student Travel Award (formerly Graduate Aboriginal Travel Stipend) | varies (avg \$700)                        | 2                        | 1,700.00             | 14                       | 11,820.00            | 6                        | 4,295.00             |
| Indigenous Graduate Entrance (formerly Graduate Aboriginal Entrance Scholarship)       | \$18,000/yr (2yrs)<br>\$21,000/yr (4 yrs) | 19                       | 116,667.00           | 18                       | 112,000.00           | 18                       | 107,000.00           |
| Dean's Graduate Fellowship                                                             | varies (avg 4,000)                        | 91                       | 224,094.00           | 155                      | 442,484.00           | 8                        | 27,300.00            |
| Thesis Completion Fellowship                                                           | 6,500                                     | 25                       | 175,000.00           | 0                        | 0.00                 | 38                       | 247,000.00           |
| Three Minute Thesis Prize                                                              | \$100-\$1000                              | 7                        | 2,950.00             | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 |
| <b>Graduate scholarships/fellowships/awards funded by Graduate SBA budget</b>          |                                           | <b>2221</b>              | <b>9,810,982.00</b>  | <b>2476</b>              | <b>10,183,258.00</b> | <b>2337</b>              | <b>9,772,759.00</b>  |
| <b>Graduate scholarships/fellowships funded by Faculties/Schools</b>                   |                                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| Faculty of Applied Sciences Graduate Fellowships                                       | 3,250                                     | 10                       | 32,500.00            | 42                       | 136,500.00           | 24                       | 78,000.00            |
| Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences                                                      | varies                                    | 7                        | 6,600.00             | 18                       | 22,872.00            | -                        | -                    |
| Faculty of Business Administration Graduate Scholarships <sup>(8)</sup>                | varies                                    | 188                      | 173,200.00           | 0                        | 0.00                 | 3                        | 20,000.00            |
| Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology Graduate Fellowships                        | 3,250                                     | 7                        | 23,750.00            | 8                        | 26,000.00            | 13                       | 42,250.00            |
| Faculty of Education Graduate Scholarships                                             | 3,250-6,500                               | 3                        | 21,000.00            | 2                        | 6,500.00             | 8                        | 39,000.00            |
| Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Scholarships                                       | varies                                    | 93                       | 152,500.00           | 75                       | 156,000.00           | 74                       | 162,500.00           |
| School of Computing Science Graduate Fellowships/Scholarships                          | 3,250-6,500                               | 77                       | 188,500.00           | 56                       | 291,500.00           | 84                       | 604,500.00           |
| Global Communication Scholarship                                                       | varies                                    | 8                        | 19,585.00            | 20                       | 51,000.00            | 24                       | 48,550.00            |
| Graduate Liberal Studies Scholarship                                                   | varies                                    | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 |
| SFU Research Partnership Scholarship (CERi)                                            | 26,340                                    | 17                       | 42,000.00            | 4                        | 31,654.00            | 6                        | 50,946.00            |
| Graduate Assistance Award in History                                                   | 1,500                                     | 12                       | 18,000.00            | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 |
| Research Grant Stipend <sup>(10)</sup>                                                 | Varies                                    | 106                      | 490,919.00           | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 |
| <b>Graduate scholarships/fellowships funded by Faculties/Schools</b>                   |                                           | <b>528</b>               | <b>1,168,554.00</b>  | <b>225</b>               | <b>722,026.00</b>    | <b>236</b>               | <b>1,045,746.00</b>  |
| <b>Other internally-funded awards</b>                                                  |                                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| Private Awards (supported by endowments & annual donations)                            | varies                                    | 511                      | 2,137,508.00         | 465                      | 1,950,722.00         | 460                      | 1,793,928.00         |
| CTEF Graduate Fellowships (supported by Community Trust Endowment Fund) <sup>(7)</sup> | 6,500                                     | 20                       | 136,500.00           | 23                       | 149,500.00           | 19                       | 123,500.00           |
| Big Data Graduate Scholarship                                                          | 6,500                                     | 0                        | 0.00                 | 29                       | 188,500.00           | 26                       | 169,000.00           |
| Big Data USRA                                                                          | 2,250-4,500                               | 0                        | 0.00                 | 18                       | 65,250.00            | 22                       | 90,000.00            |
| VPR USRA Science                                                                       | 4,500                                     | 58                       | 261,000.00           | 58                       | 261,000.00           | 57                       | 252,000.00           |
| VPR USRA Social Science and Humanities                                                 | 2,250-4,500                               | 50                       | 159,750.00           | 41                       | 114,750.00           | 49                       | 157,250.00           |
| Other USRA's <sup>(4)</sup>                                                            | varies                                    | 3                        | 13,500.00            | 3                        | 13,500.00            | 6                        | 25,000.00            |
| <b>Other internally-funded awards</b>                                                  |                                           | <b>642</b>               | <b>2,708,258.00</b>  | <b>637</b>               | <b>2,743,222.00</b>  | <b>639</b>               | <b>2,610,678.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL INTERNALLY-FUNDED GRADUATE AWARDS</b>                                         |                                           | <b>3,391</b>             | <b>13,687,794.00</b> | <b>3,338</b>             | <b>13,648,506.00</b> | <b>3,212</b>             | <b>13,429,183.00</b> |



GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

**Expense Summary of Graduate Award Funds Administered by Dean of Graduate Studies**  
**Three-Year Overview: Fiscal Years 2018/2019 through 2020/2021**

| Name and Type of Award                                             | FY2020/2021               |                          |                      | FY2019/2020              |                      | FY2018/2019              |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                    | Award Duration/Value (\$) | Number of Award Payments | Total Expenses (\$)  | Number of Award Payments | Total Expenses (\$)  | Number of Award Payments | Total Expenses (\$)  |
| <b>EXTERNALLY-FUNDED GRADUATE AWARDS</b>                           |                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| <b>National scholarships funded by Federal funding agencies</b>    |                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| NSERC Graduate Scholarships                                        | 17,500-50,000 (1-4yrs)    | 232                      | 1,955,334.00         | 221                      | 1,838,944.00         | 200                      | 1,666,995.00         |
| SSHRC Graduate Scholarships                                        | 17,500-50,000 (1-4yrs)    | 394                      | 3,235,830.00         | 369                      | 3,035,829.00         | 328                      | 2,618,846.00         |
| CIHR Graduate Scholarships                                         | 17,500-50,000 (1-4yrs)    | 68                       | 595,833.00           | 59                       | 495,181.00           | 58                       | 510,832.00           |
| Canada Graduate Scholarships-M. Smith Foreign Study Supplements    | 5,300-6,000               | 2                        | 12,000.00            | 14                       | 80,611.00            | 3                        | 17,000.00            |
| NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards                        | 4,500                     | 77                       | 346,500.00           | 73                       | 328,500.00           | 74                       | 333,000.00           |
| <b>National scholarships funded by Federal funding agencies</b>    |                           | <b>773</b>               | <b>6,145,497.00</b>  | <b>736</b>               | <b>5,779,065.00</b>  | <b>663</b>               | <b>5,146,673.00</b>  |
| <b>Major scholarships funded by Provincial funding agencies</b>    |                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| Pacific Institute Climate Solutions Graduate Fellowships           | 12,000-18,000 (1-4yrs)    | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 | 2                        | 13,200.00            |
| BC Graduate Scholarship <sup>(9)</sup>                             | 15,000                    | 226                      | 1,130,000.00         | 153                      | 760,000.00           | -                        | -                    |
| <b>Major scholarships funded by Provincial funding agencies</b>    |                           | <b>226</b>               | <b>1,130,000.00</b>  | <b>153</b>               | <b>760,000.00</b>    | <b>2</b>                 | <b>13,200.00</b>     |
| <b>Other externally-funded awards and grants</b>                   |                           |                          |                      |                          |                      |                          |                      |
| External Awards <sup>(6)</sup>                                     | varies                    | 40                       | 112,769.00           | 60                       | 249,799.00           | 53                       | 237,518.00           |
| Northern Scientific Training Program Grants                        | varies                    | 3                        | 7,440.00             | 9                        | 30,103.00            | 2                        | 2,838.94             |
| Centre for Digital Media Scholarships (MDM program) <sup>(5)</sup> | varies                    | 83                       | 202,500.00           | 65                       | 315,500.00           | 58                       | 289,000.00           |
| CIHR Health Research Awards <sup>(3)</sup>                         | varies                    | 0                        | 0.00                 | 0                        | 0.00                 | 3                        | 4,500.00             |
| NSERC and SSHRC GGSF Expenses <sup>(2)</sup>                       | varies                    | varies                   | 17,500.00            | varies                   | 0.00                 | varies                   | 73,273.36            |
| <b>Other externally-funded awards</b>                              |                           | <b>126</b>               | <b>340,209.00</b>    | <b>134</b>               | <b>595,402.00</b>    | <b>116</b>               | <b>607,130.30</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL EXTERNALLY-FUNDED GRADUATE AWARDS</b>                     |                           | <b>1,125</b>             | <b>7,615,706.00</b>  | <b>1,023</b>             | <b>7,134,467.00</b>  | <b>781</b>               | <b>5,767,003.30</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL GRADUATE AWARD FUNDS EXPENSED BY FISCAL YEAR</b>          |                           | <b>4,516</b>             | <b>21,303,500.00</b> | <b>4,361</b>             | <b>20,782,973.00</b> | <b>3,993</b>             | <b>19,196,186.30</b> |



GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

**Expense Summary of Graduate Award Funds Administered by Dean of Graduate Studies**  
**Three-Year Overview: Fiscal Years 2018/2019 through 2020/2021**

**NOTES**

- (1) The total number of Graduate Fellowships reflects the number of award payments made to graduate students within the fiscal year. Funds have been exhausted as of FY2018/19
- (2) The NSERC & SSHRC GGSF expenses consist of reimbursement for grant-matching GF supplements.
- (3) The CIHR Health Research Awards includes the CIHR Health Professional Student Awards, the CIHR Health Research Community Awards
- (4) Other USRA's consist of: BPK Fac Undergrad Res Award; BPK Len Brownlie USRA; Charles Allard USRA; Dr. Ivor Fleming USRA; Faculty of Science USRA; Grant Sheffer USRA in Physics
- (5) MDM scholarships consist of MDM Venture Internship Awards and Centre for Digital Media Scholarships
- (6) Includes SPOR GF's; Queen Elizabeth Scholarships (AUCC)
- (7) Includes Omics Data Science Initiative GF's (ODSI)
- (8) Includes Science & Technology Scholarship
- (9) One-time funding from BC government to provide funding to graduate students; recipients of the BCGS also received a \$5,000 top-up from the Dean's Graduate Fellowship
- (10) Research Grant Stipends were implemented as a response to COVID-19 restrictions preventing graduate students from entering Canada. This mechanism allowed Research Assistants to get paid while studying from outside of Canada.