



FHSD CoGS Funding Allocation – 2023/24

Background: As occurred last academic year, the College of Graduate Studies (CoGS) will allocate funding for graduate students through the UBC Okanagan Graduate Research Scholarship (OGRS).

OGRS funding is for full-time, thesis-based, PhD and Masters students. As stipulated by Senate, PhD students must be funded to a minimum level (\$22k/year), and Senate will likely introduce minimum funding for Masters students in the coming years. In anticipation of this, FHSD recommends PIs to adopt a \$17.5k minimum for Masters students as of this year. These minimums can be made up from a range of sources (e.g., any combination of external or internal scholarships/awards, research assistantship, teaching assistantship, or other academically-related work).

This coming year (2023/24) the Faculty of Health and Social Development (FHSD) has been awarded ~\$520,000 for OGRS, and it is up to FHSD how we allocate these funds. Similar to last year, we have decided to allocate the funds directly through the Principal Investigators (PIs) within FHSD; allocations are split between active PI's, and are not based on the number of students each PI supervises. Each PI will be able to decide how they allocate their portion of the OGRS between the Masters and PhD students working in their lab. This approach empowers the PI to address potential funding inequities in their lab, and it provides unrestricted funds that can be potentially used to address lab-specific EDI priorities, it alleviates the need to review and score individual student performance (often using problematic merit-based scoring metrics), and it enables PIs to plan ahead, and strategically spend or accrue funds to support their program.



FHSD Process for Allocation of OGRS:

Stage 1 (before May annually): Confirm PI numbers and eligibility/supervisory status across FHSD research faculty

Stage 2 (before June annually): Researchers informed of their OGRS allocation for the upcoming academic year

Stage 3 (before August annually): Researchers inform FHSD administration how they wish to allocate their OGRS allocation between their eligible graduate research students

Stage 4 (before September annually): FHSD inform CoGS regarding allocation and funds are disbursed to students in three installments: September, January and April

CoGS OGRS funding stipulations:

FHSD Students are eligible for OGRS funding if they are 1) in good standing, 2) are within 2 (MSc)/4 (PhD) years of the start of their degree, and 3) are registered full-time in a thesis-based degree program, as of the Fall term that year.

FHSD stipulations for PI eligibility:

To be eligible to receive OGRS support from CoGS a PI must have at least one graduate student registered on a thesis-based degree in September of that year. That student needs to fulfill the CoGS funding stipulations outlined above. PIs entering reduced workload, or end of appointment agreements, are required to discuss their research group's unique needs with the Dean as part of their individual agreement. This discussion, will need to occur prior to May, should cover continuity of supervision (as per CoGS policy 9.2), and will inform decisions regarding their individual OGRS allocation.



Accrual of OGRS funds:

We recognise that it may benefit some PIs to accrue funds in order to effectively develop their labs. As such, as long as a PI has at least one research graduate student enrolled they can accrue all (or a portion of their OGRS funds) for up to two years. Beyond two years, it will not be possible to accrue more funds, and any funds not used will be disbursed between other PIs.

IGS Students:

Those graduate students registered in IGS themes will receive OGRS funding through IGS (this does not include individualized IGS students). In order to be fair to both students and PIs in FHSD, the value of the OGRS funding each IGS themed student receives will be subtracted from the FHSD allocation to that PI. These funds will then be disbursed across all PIs within FHSD.