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## UBC Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Student Stipend Guidelines

### 1) The following is a strong guideline for BMB faculty including associate members:

2016-2017 Minimum Student Stipend for graduate students

Domestic (Tuition = \$4,707 per year; UBC fees = \$900)

MSc - \$22,000 per year (minimum stipend)  
Total = \$22,000 - \$4,707 - \$900 = \$16,393 minimum living allowance

PhD - \$22,000 per year (minimum stipend) + \$4,707 per year (Tuition\*)  
Total = \$22,000 - \$900 = \$21,100 minimum living allowance

International Student (Tuition = \$8,270 per year; UBC fees = \$900)

MSc - \$22,000 per year (minimum stipend) + \$3,200 (UBC International Tuition Award)  
Total = \$25,200 - \$8,270 - \$900 = \$16,028 minimum living allowance

PhD - \$22,000 per year (minimum stipend) + \$5,070 per year (Tuition\*)  
+ \$3,200 (UBC International Tuition Award)  
Total = \$30,270 - \$8,270 - \$900 = \$21,100 minimum living allowance

\* Tuition for the first four years of their PhD will be covered by a BMB Graduate Tuition award, provided that:

- i) Departmental funds are available. (*In the rare event that there is a shortfall of Departmental funds, a fraction of the BMB Graduate Tuition award will be awarded.*)
- ii) the PhD student is not on an external, competitive, major Tri-Agency award (e.g. NSERC, CIHR)
- iii) as part of the BMB graduate program, the PhD student fulfill the mandatory 1 term TA (teaching assistant) requirement for their degree.

Students who have the following Tri-Agency awards automatically become UBC Four Year Fellowship (4YF) designates: Vanier Scholarships<sup>#</sup>, Doctoral Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGSD), CIHR Doctoral Research Awards, NSERC Doctoral Postgraduate Scholarships (PGSD), and SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships. 4YF designates may be eligible for 4YF tuition coverage<sup>#</sup> and will receive 4YF stipend and tuition support once their external scholarship funding ends, until four years after the 4YF start date **or** until the end of their 5th year in Doctoral program, whichever comes first.

<sup>#</sup>Tuition for students who have an external, competitive major award will not be eligible for the BMB Graduate Tuition award, as their tuition is covered by the 4YF. The only exception, Vanier Scholarship awardees will be 4YF designates but will not have tuition covered by the 4YF or be eligible for the BMB Tuition award.

### 2) Top-ups

A student who receives \$18,000 or more per year, as a **major, competitive, external** award, will be provided with an additional \$2,000 per year minimum *top-up* in recognition of receiving an external award, provided that Departmental and lab funds are available. In such cases, the student will be paid the amount of his/her award plus the difference between his/her award and the total stipend listed above, plus a \$2,000 top-up.

Payment of top-ups will occur for the duration of the award. Thereafter, payments will revert to the graduate student funding package amount. Awards eligible for *top-up*, must be major, competitive, external and not restricted to a limited group of students, such as those within a department or institute. They may, however, be restricted by research topic area. For example, eligible awards include but are not limited to CIHR, NSERC, Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association and other national and international funding agencies. Additional awards that meet these criteria may also be eligible for *top up*.

*Top-ups* for students who receive an award of greater value than \$30,000 per year (e.g., Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships) will be at the discretion of the supervisor. Historically, these students do not receive a *top-up*.

### **3. Funding Terms**

In general, provided that he/she remain “in good standing”, a doctoral stream student will be funded for his/her thesis-based program, as follows:

- MSc students are guaranteed funding for their first 2 years.
- PhD students are guaranteed for a minimum of 5 years, which includes 1.5 years as an MSc student (i.e., transfer from MSc to PhD students). There is currently no ceiling for how long students will receive stipendiary support. This is left to the discretion of the department.