

# Graduate Funding in Health Sciences

Research Graduate Programs in  
Faculty of Health Sciences

Taskforce on  
Graduate Funding  
April 2023



# Enrollment Profile in Health Sciences

## Fall 2022 Enrollment Data

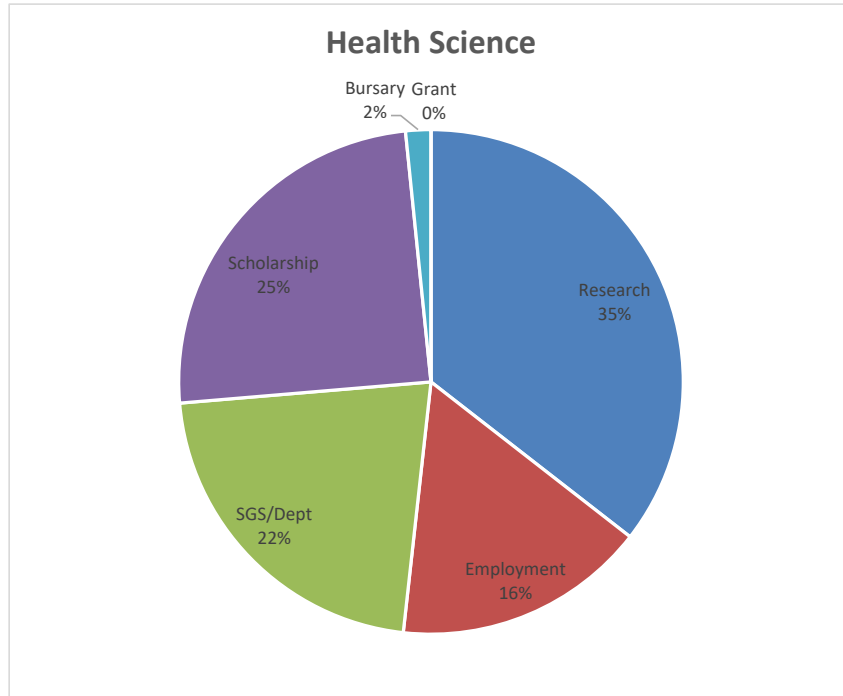
- About 1/3 of all McMaster Graduate Students
- 8-12% International
- 25% Part-time

### Of Full-Time Students

- 27% PhD
- 40% Research Masters
  1. Thesis required, or
  2. Thesis-based stream or course-based stream
  3. Research-oriented, course-based, with a project.
- 33% Professional Masters

# Sources of Graduate Funding in FHS

% of Total Compensation



# Role of Research Funding

- 35% of financial support is research grants and contracts (AY21-22)
  - Typically, the supervisor's contribution from operating (research project) grants
  - Peer-reviewed Tricouncil grants are the most common source
    - Mostly CIHR
  - Industry funding is uncommon
- Challenges
  - Continuity of project-based operating funds
  - Sensitive to federal research funding environment
  - Size and availability of grants varies by discipline and subject-matter

Research Funding \$ (AY21-22)	25th	Median	75th
In-Time PhD	2000	9450	17325

# Teaching Assistant and Campus Employment

- 16% of Graduate Support Comes from Employment, including TA.
  - < 50% of PhD Students TA\*
  - 17% MSc Year 1 TA\*
  - 22% MSc Year 2+ TA\*
- Limited undergraduate programs with TA hiring
- TA often hired after admission, so TA has limited value for recruitment

\* estimated as the number of students with campus employment greater than \$6,000

# PhD Funding in FHS

AY21-22, Total compensation net of tuition

	STATUS	HEADCOUNT	P25	MEDIAN	P75
<b>BUSINESS</b>	IN-TIME PHD	64	\$23,784	\$27,271	\$33,531
<b>ENGINEERING</b>	IN-TIME PHD	458	\$19,374	\$21,955	\$27,646
<b>HEALTH SCIENCES</b>	IN-TIME PHD	282	\$17,918	\$22,295	\$30,093
	FIFTH-YEAR	48	\$3,671	\$20,624	\$33,601
	OVER-TIME	20	-\$3,154	-\$1,051	\$22,556
<b>HUMANITIES</b>	IN-TIME PHD	114	\$17,874	\$22,403	\$30,053
<b>SCIENCE</b>	IN-TIME PHD	275	\$19,649	\$22,594	\$27,754
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>	IN-TIME PHD	160	\$17,570	\$23,796	\$30,943

- PhD Minimum stipend for F23 is \$16,000 over tuition, pending revised campus-wide policy
- Funding packages are not standardized across programs.

# Research-Based MSc Funding in FHS

AY21-22, Total compensation net of tuition

	STATUS	HEADCOUNT	P25	MEDIAN	P75
<b>ENGINEERING</b>	YEAR 1	153	\$5,231	\$14,665	\$18,396
<b>HEALTH SCIENCES</b>	YEAR 1	319	-\$3,807	-\$2,507	\$14,109
	YEAR 2+	234	-\$3,679	\$5,432	\$16,594
<b>HUMANITIES</b>	YEAR 1	93	\$8,650	\$10,924	\$17,940
<b>SCIENCE</b>	YEAR 1	153	\$16,803	\$20,185	\$23,243
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>	YEAR 1	137	-\$2,307	\$5,953	\$11,174

# Research-Based MSc Funding in FHS

## 3 Thesis-Only MSc Programs with Transfer to PhD

	Median Net Compensation	Median Total Research	Median Total Employment	% Employment > \$6k	Headcount
<b>Year 1 MSc</b>	\$17,774	\$17,750	\$764	33%	72
<b>Year 2+ MSc</b>	\$16,009	\$11,594	\$1,855	36%	98



# Conclusions

- Funding is consistent with disciplinary expectations in the sciences of “in-time” study.
- Amounts of support for in-time students are similar to other Faculties but the mix of sources is distinctive.
  - More research grants and external scholarships
  - Less TA employment.
- “Research” masters is not exclusively thesis-based programming, with associated variability in the funding support





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