

## **Task Force on Graduate Funding | Aggregate Data on Graduate Funding**

The Task Force on Graduate Funding has collected data on the resources graduate students receive. This information will be part of the information the Task Force considers in its work to develop recommendations to support graduate students across McMaster's six Faculties.

The data shared below will help inform broader discussions with the McMaster campus community.

The information was collected by Institutional Research and Analysis (IRA). The data reflect payments made to full-time graduate students through McMaster's payroll from September 2021 to August 2022.

The data are complex and detailed. They have been aggregated to provide a view on the funding provided to students in PhD and research-based thesis programs and include a breakdown of the sources of funding to graduate students in each Faculty.

As the data are examined, it is important to note that students may also receive additional fellowships, scholarships, and bursaries that are not administered by McMaster, and therefore are not reflected in these figures.

## TASKFORCE ON GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING

### Funding to Graduate Students, Academic Year 2021-22

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These financial data are based on records extracted by Institutional Research and Analysis on 13 February 2023, summarizing all payments to full-time students in PhD and research-based thesis programs through McMaster payroll from September 2021 to August 2022 (AY21/22). Students may receive additional fellowships, scholarships, and bursaries that are not administered by McMaster, and are not reflected in these figures. Part-time and students in professional programs are not considered in this analysis.

#### AVAILABLE DATA

##### Compensation and Fees

*Total Compensation* (net compensation may be negative)

1. Total compensation, \$.
2. Total compensation, net of tuition, \$
3. Total compensation, net of tuition and supplementary fees, \$

*Payments categorized by source*

4. **Financial Awards**, primarily transfers from the SGS Scholarship Fund but also other sources administered through departments.
5. **Research Scholarship**, from research grants and contracts, primarily as supervisors' contributions.
6. **Scholarships**, including competitive scholarships from internal McMaster and external government sources.
7. **Employment** at McMaster, primarily Teaching Assistantships or RA's in lieu of TA and other payments or awards associated with TA work, but also any other employment at McMaster.
8. **Bursaries**, solely based on financial need.
9. **Academic grants**, based on both financial need and academic merit.

*Tuitions and Fees*

10. Total Tuition for AY21-22
11. Supplementary fees

##### Academic Data

All academic data is assessed at the first payment, which is assumed to be Fall Term 2021.

12. **Faculty of Registration.** Interdisciplinary programs, that are sponsored by more than one Faculty, have an administrative home where students are registered.
13. **Graduate Program.** Some programs also have a departmental home, but not all do, and program name is more generally interpretable.
14. **Program Type,** PhD, Research Master's
15. **Immigration Status,** domestic and landed vs. studying on a visa.
16. **Term Count** at F21.
17. **Status,** categorized by Term Count at F21:
  - PhD in-time, terms 1-10
  - PhD fifth-year, terms 11-13
  - PhD over-time, terms 14 or more
  - Masters Year 1, term 1
  - Masters Year 2+, terms 2 or more.

#### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Term count increases through the year, and so approximation is required for classifying Status when payments are aggregated over the year. Here, Status is based on the term count for a student's first payment in AY21/22, which is assumed to happen in the Fall 2021 term. Status classifications are constructed to prioritize the clearest interpretation of funding for "in-time" students, and facilitate apples-to-apples comparisons among Faculties. In terms of institutional and provincial policy, as well as most scholarship eligibility, full-time students are considered "in-time" for 12 terms of PhD and 6 terms of master's training. These definitions are distinct from disciplinary norms. For example, in the humanities and social sciences, it may be more common that an MSc is designed to be completed in one year and it may be "expected" that a PhD "normally" takes five additional years. In the sciences and engineering, a thesis-based master's is typically designed for two years of study, although a student may be promoted to PhD by a formal transfer process during the first year of MSc study without completing a master's. But a student who arrives with a completed master's will be expected to complete a PhD in four years. Although programs may tailor their funding practices to disciplinary norms to some degree, the constraints and resource limitations to support study after four years of PhD study are fairly common across the institution.
  - PhD students are classified as "in-time", if the F21 term count was 1 to 10, meaning that such a student has completed no more than 12 terms by the end of AY21/22, and the student is therefore clearly in-time for the entire year.
  - PhD students are classified as "fifth year", if the F21 term count is 11 to 13. Consequently, such students may be in-time for part of the year but their funding guarantee, including TA eligibility, will have changed during the year.

The inclusion of this category reflects that “year five” or “slightly over-time” is importantly distinct in some parts of the institution.

- Students are classified as “over-time” if F21 was their 14th term or greater, so that these students completed at least 16 terms by the end of AY21/22. Funding commitments at admission will have expired for all of these students.
- Master’s students are classified as “Year 1”, if they were in their first term in F21, meaning that they spent all of AY20/21 in their first year of study. This facilitates apples-to-apples comparisons across one- and two-year master’s programs. As a result, the “Year 2+” category is a mix of in-time and over-time master’s students.
- Summaries focus on Total Compensation Net of Tuition because this corresponds to the implementation of the existing policy on PhD minimum support (i.e., \$13,500 over tuition). Students pay additional supplementary fees, typically totalling just over \$1000 in FY21/22, although there is some variability. Summaries of funding sources by category are based on non-net Total Compensation.
- Income from OSAP student loans is excluded from Total Compensation. OSAP data is available but it is not considered “compensation”.
- The available financial data reflects the minimum support paid to students, and where it is biased, it underestimates support. In other words, we know that students were paid at least this much. Some students receive financial support that is not administered by McMaster, for example, through programs operated by foreign governments, or by community and non-governmental programs that are not administered as McMaster trusts or endowments. A student may be ineligible for funding for all or part of the year because of leave of absence, admission part-way through the year, or transfer to part-time studies. Thus, individual records can be difficult to interpret, particularly when they occur at the extremes of the distribution or are otherwise anomalous. For the purpose of the Taskforce, it is not required (or possible) that every record is understood but only that the distribution of funding experiences is broadly representative. We focus on reporting the percentiles of the distribution, including the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> (median), and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, as non-parametric summaries that are resistant to the influence of extreme cases and the typical skewness in financial data.
- Data is suppressed for summaries of fewer than 5 cases, in order to protect potential identifiability in the data and support compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*.

**Total Compensation Net of Tuition, Academic Year 21-22.  
PhD and Research Master's Students, by Faculty, Program Type, and Term-Count Status.**

FACULTY	DEPARTMENT	SCHOL_TYPE	DOMVISA	STATUS	Funding net of Tuition Fee			
					HEADCOUNT	P25	MEDIAN	P75
BUSINESS	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	IN-TIME	64	\$23,784	\$27,271	\$33,531
BUSINESS	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	FIFTH-YEAR	15	\$17,012	\$23,720	\$30,489
BUSINESS	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	OVER-TIME	20	\$10,444	\$14,817	\$18,422
BUSINESS	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 1	4			
BUSINESS	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 2+	4			
ENGINEERING	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	IN-TIME	458	\$19,374	\$21,955	\$27,646
ENGINEERING	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	FIFTH-YEAR	73	\$10,898	\$20,201	\$27,665
ENGINEERING	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	OVER-TIME	34	-\$1,832	\$3,436	\$13,389
ENGINEERING	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 1	153	\$5,231	\$14,665	\$18,396
ENGINEERING	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 2+	154	\$1,377	\$14,173	\$21,450
HEALTH SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	IN-TIME	282	\$17,918	\$22,295	\$30,093
HEALTH SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	FIFTH-YEAR	48	\$3,671	\$20,624	\$33,601
HEALTH SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	OVER-TIME	20	-\$3,154	-\$1,051	\$22,556
HEALTH SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 1	319	-\$3,807	-\$2,507	\$14,109
HEALTH SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 2+	234	-\$3,679	\$5,432	\$16,594
HUMANITIES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	IN-TIME	114	\$17,874	\$22,403	\$30,053
HUMANITIES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	FIFTH-YEAR	28	\$2,013	\$10,901	\$22,115
HUMANITIES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	OVER-TIME	26	-\$1,509	\$3,670	\$8,850
HUMANITIES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 1	93	\$8,650	\$10,924	\$17,940
HUMANITIES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 2+	30	\$4,101	\$11,227	\$19,484
SCIENCE	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	IN-TIME	275	\$19,649	\$22,594	\$27,754
SCIENCE	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	FIFTH-YEAR	56	\$11,459	\$21,406	\$26,333
SCIENCE	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	OVER-TIME	35	-\$1,051	\$8,846	\$16,055
SCIENCE	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 1	153	\$16,803	\$20,185	\$23,243
SCIENCE	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 2+	132	\$11,712	\$17,306	\$20,417
SOCIAL SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	IN-TIME	160	\$17,570	\$23,796	\$30,943
SOCIAL SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	FIFTH-YEAR	24	\$887	\$9,482	\$17,196
SOCIAL SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	DRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	OVER-TIME	32	-\$1,306	\$155	\$5,640
SOCIAL SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 1	137	-\$2,307	\$5,953	\$11,174
SOCIAL SCIENCES	TOTAL DEPARTMENT	MRES	TOTAL Domestic/Visa	YEAR 2+	36	-\$4,080	-\$1,032	\$3,621

- DRES PHD
- MRES Research Master's
- P25 25% of students have compensation of this amount or less
- Median 50% of students have compensation of this amount or less
- P75 75% of students have compensation of this amount or less

Term counts are assessed on the first payment, assumed to be in Fall 2021.

- In-Time PhD F21 term 1-10
- Fifth-Year PhD F21 term 11-13
- Over-Time PhD F21 term 14 or more
- Year 1 Master's F21 term 1
- Year 2+ Master's F21 term 2+

- Under the privacy policy, data for categories of 5 or less are suppressed.

In-Time PHD students with total compensation net of tuition between \$13.5k and \$15.5k, by faculty. AY21-22

FACULTY	Count of In-Time PhD 13.5 to 15.5 Net	Total Count of In-Time PhD	% Near Minimum Compensation
Business	0	64	0.0%
Engineering	7	458	1.5%
Health Sciences	14	282	5.0%
Humanities	3	114	2.6%
Science	2	275	0.7%
Social Science	14	160	8.8%
<b>TOTAL MCMASTER</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1353</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

## Percentage of Total Compensation by Source and Faculty, In-Time PhD and 1st Year Research Master's, AY21-22

Souces Include:

- McMaster **Employment**, primarily Teaching Assistantships
- Competitive Internal and External **Scholarships**
- **School of Graduate Studies Scholarship Fund** and other Departmental Sources
- **Research grants** and contacts, primarily supervisor's contribution
- **Bursaries**, based on need.
- **Academic grants**, based on need and academic merit

