

Graduate Awards Office: What We Offer

What do we offer?

- **Financial Aid** - We provide students with financial assistance under the SGS programs listed below.
- **Financial Advising** - We offer individualized advice to students on financial matters, addressing their questions in consideration of their own unique situations.
- **Graduate Awards Administration** – We develop awards records, handle awards adjudication, and support graduate administrators and graduate students with awards processes and the provision of funding commitments.

Financial Aid

We provide students with financial assistance under the following SGS programs.

Emergency Grant Program

Short-term financial relief for graduate students experiencing unforeseen financial emergencies or unexpected costs associated with COVID-19 that impact their academic progress.

SGS Emergency Loan

Short-term and interest-free loans for students who are expecting the release of university funds in the near future (e.g. OSAP, TA, RA, award funds), to alleviate immediate cash flow problems.

Master's Completion Bursary

Assistance for master's students who must register beyond the program length due to unanticipated factors beyond their control.

SGS Accessibility Grant

Assists with costs related to accommodations approved through Accessibility Services.

SGS Parental Grant program

Offsets funding losses experienced by doctoral students within the funded cohort as a result of taking an approved parental leave of absence.

SGS Research Travel Grant

Covers travel-related costs for doctoral students in the Humanities and Social Sciences who pursue research-related travel.

SGS Indigenous Graduate Travel Award

Funding for Indigenous graduate students to participate in educational and experiential learning in Canada or abroad in activities specifically focused on Indigenous student or educational issues.

SGS Conference Grant

Aid for students to present their research at an academic conference during the early stages of their graduate program.

SGS Summer Gym Bursary

Reimburses students for up to 100% of their summer athletic program fees.

Financial Advising

We offer individualized advice to students on financial matters, addressing their questions in consideration of their own unique situations.

Our financial advising team:

- Helps students navigate the various funding opportunities at the university
- Provides funds to assist with COVID quarantine costs
- Helps students access other financial supports such as OSAP, UTAPS, COVID-19 grants, work-study opportunities, and student lines of credit
- Assists with budgeting and debt load management
- Approves special financial arrangements to manage arrears

Graduate Awards Administration

Develop awards records

We provide consultation services to graduate faculty advancement offices as they develop new award records for approval. Our advice ensures that proposed award records are aligned with university policy and best practices to prepare them for governance.

Awards Adjudication

We represent the SGS Dean's Office as the sole endorsement and signatory for University of Toronto graduate awards and scholarships nominations. We manage the membership and meetings of the SGS Awards Committee, which is responsible for adjudicating applications for awards. This includes assembling subcommittees to adjudicate awards from both the major granting councils and the University. It also involves assessing nominations to ensure that the most meritorious candidates are put forward, preparing committee dossiers, and resolving issues.

Pre-Award Advising

We encourage graduate students to maximize their research income by offering annual awards workshops and providing one-on-one guidance on the online application process. We also provide tools to help students navigate the plethora of awards that are available to them.

Awards Policy and Procedures Support

We run annual workshops, develop resource material, and advise graduate administrators so that they are supported in their awards administration work. This assists them with advising students on the application process, with running their own local adjudications, and with funding their graduate students in compliance with university policies and collective agreements.

Graduate Student Funding

We support Faculties and graduate units in their provision of funding commitments by advising on policies and best practices. We assist students with resolving their questions and concerns around their funding packages.

Post-Award Administration

We communicate official granting agency results to award recipients, graduate units, and Faculty Deans, advising students on payment activation and award terms and conditions. We also process award payments.

External Agency Liaison

We are the central point of contact with external granting agencies and work with them to resolve student issues throughout the tenure of the award (e.g. interruption of payment due to leaves, cancellations, issues with transfer of funds).

External Reporting

We reconcile award accounts, prepare regular and ad hoc reports to SGS, Federal and Provincial granting agencies and U of T Financial and Business Offices. This ensures accurate transfer of funds from the granting agencies to SGS.

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