



Graduate Funding Fact Sheet – 2017-18

Graduate Funding in the Faculty of Arts & Science

The Faculty of Arts & Science (FAS) ensures that all students in the funded cohort receive the FAS base funding amount. The mechanism for ensuring that students receive the FAS base amount is the University of Toronto Fellowship (UTF) Model.

The UTF Model bridges the gap between TA and RA income and awards held by students and the base funding amount, and allocates UTF funding to graduate units (i.e. departments), so that they can ensure that all funded cohort students receive the base amount.

In order to arrive at this sum, the UTF Model assumes that a given number of TA hours will be counted toward base funding. The number of TA hours used is the maximum number permitted under the TA Collective Agreement with CUPE 3902, Unit 1, which is currently 180 hours, down from 190 hours in 2016-17 and 200 hours in 2015-16. If a graduate unit does not provide the assumed number of TA hours for a student, it must make up the shortfall out of graduate unit resources.

The model works well for most graduate units, but sometimes creates challenges for graduate units that lack sufficient TA work for all students. A shortage of TA work could result from small or non-existent undergraduate programs, or the impact of the subsequent appointments provisions in the Collective Agreement, which cause TA hours to accrue to students in the latter stages of their programs.

Letter on Graduate Funding, May 2016

In 2016, domestic base funding in the Faculty of Arts & Science was \$15,000 (\$15,500 Sciences) plus tuition and fees, for a total of \$23,449 (\$23,949 Sciences). At that time, 200 hours of TA work was counted toward base funding.

In his May 2016 letter to Graduate Students, which is posted on the Faculty of Arts & Science website, then Vice-Dean Barker wrote that students in the funded cohort:

...will receive a base funding package of at least \$2,000 more by 2018-19 than they receive today... Students will not be required to work for any of this additional support... The Fellowship Initiative will increase base funding packages for eligible students in the funded cohort with no additional TA or RA work required.

Accordingly, the base funding amount was increased by \$1,500, in 2016-17 and \$250 in 2017-18. An additional increase of \$250 is scheduled for 2018-19. Consistent with Vice-Dean Barker’s commitment, no additional work is required to receive these increases.

While base funding has increased and the TA component of base funding has been reduced, the actual number of TA hours counted toward base funding for a given student may vary from year to year depending on qualifications, circumstances and decisions at the graduate unit level.

Base Funding 2017-18

For the 2017-18 academic year, the domestic base funding package in FAS is \$16,750 (\$17,250 Sciences) plus tuition and fees, for a total of \$25,231 (\$25,731 Sciences). For a typical graduate student in a unit with a \$1,500 RA level and 180 TA hours at the “no off-set” TA rate of \$44.62, the funding package would look like this:

Sample Funding	RA	+	TA	+	UTF Tuition/Stipend	=	Base
2017-18 Calculation	\$1,500	+	\$8,032	+	\$15,699	=	\$25,231

If a domestic student receives a major award, the award amount may displace other components of the funding package.