

Psychology Graduate Student Funding

As a graduate student within the Department of Psychology, you are guaranteed a set amount of funding, which can be found in your offer of admission. If you are awarded an external scholarship (e.g. OGS, Tri-Agency CGS-M etc.), the internal funding that you were offered is replaced by the external scholarship. This document is intended to help you understand how funding is applied and the different sources of funding you may receive during your time as a graduate student at the University of Waterloo.

Sources of funding (described in more detail below):

- [Teaching Assistantship \(TA\)](#)
- [University of Waterloo Graduate Scholarship, Psychology Graduate Scholarship, or Arts Graduate Award](#)
- [External funding](#)
 - [SSHRC Doctoral](#)
 - [NSERC Doctoral](#)
 - [OGS/QEII](#)
 - [Tri-Agency CGS-M](#)
 - [Vanier](#)
- [Presidents Graduate Scholarship \(PGS\) Match](#)
- [Graduate Research Studentship \(GRS\) or Graduate Research Assistantship \(GRA\)](#)
- [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\) and Government Aid](#)

***It is important to note that funding sources may be disbursed at varying times throughout the term, and your tuition fees will be deducted from these funds. You can log in to Quest at any time to review your funding.**

Additional information regarding funding and awards can be found on our [Department of Psychology](#) webpage, or by asking the [Psychology Graduate Coordinator](#).

If you are in need of immediate financial assistance, you can either speak with your supervisor(s), the [Psychology Graduate Coordinator](#), or visit the [Graduate Studies Financial Need Funding](#) webpage for further options.



Internal Funding

Psychology graduate students who do not receive funding from external sources are financially supported through the University of Waterloo. **This funding is typically composed of two TA's (dispersed in two terms over the academic year) and a University of Waterloo scholarship or award (dispersed in the remaining term).** Additionally, you *may* receive a top-up from your supervisor(s) (a dollar amount that exceeds the normal funding package), which is distributed via a Graduate Research Studentship (GRS). If you perform tasks beyond your normal set of duties as a graduate student, your supervisor(s) *may* also give you a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA).

Example 1 – Standard funding package:

A master's student is offered a standard UW funding package for two years. Effective with the Fall 2023 cohort, the minimum amount is \$18,000 per year for two years.

Year 1

- Fall – The student will receive **\$6,683** in total
 - ¹\$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) = \$6,683
- Winter – The student will receive **\$6,683** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) = \$6,683
- Spring – The student will receive **\$4,634** in total
 - \$4,634 (UW Graduate Scholarship)

Year 2

- Fall – The student will receive **\$6,683** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) = \$6,683
- Winter – The student will receive **\$6,683** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) = \$6,683
- Spring – The student will receive **\$4,634** in total
 - \$4,634 (UW Graduate Scholarship)

Example 2 – funding package:

A master's student is offered a standard UW funding package, plus a \$2,000 top-up from their supervisor, known as a Graduate Research Studentship (GRS), totaling **\$20,000** per year for two years.

¹ Full-time TA and vacation pay amounts are based on 2023-2024 compensation rates, and may differ from year to year.



Year 1

- Fall – The student will receive **\$7,349** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) + \$666 (GRS) = \$7,349
- Winter – The student will receive **\$7,349** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) + \$666 (GRS) = \$7,349
- Spring – The student will receive **\$5,302** in total
 - \$4,634 (UW Graduate Scholarship) + \$668 (GRS) = \$5,302

Year 2

- Fall – The student will receive **\$7,349** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) + \$666 (GRS) = \$7,349
- Winter – The student will receive **\$7,349** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) + \$666 (GRS) = \$7,349
- Spring – The student will receive **\$5,302** in total
 - \$4,634 (UW Graduate Scholarship) + \$668 (GRS) = \$5,302
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Note: Funding in your Quest account is applied to your tuition first. The remainder is disbursed to you on the first Friday of the term. The TA will typically be paid monthly throughout the term on the last Friday of each month. Each TA payment will include 4% vacation pay. As you do not get a lump sum payment during your TA terms, you will complete a promissory note in Quest to become “fees arranged” at the beginning of each term. Your graduate scholarship/award will also normally be deposited into your account on the first month of the term; however, it may not be on the same Friday as your GRS (as it is paid differently).

Teaching Assistantship (TA)

A Teaching Assistantship (TA) is a position held by a qualified student to assist a faculty member with instructional responsibilities. TA positions are organized by the Psychology Graduate Coordinator and paid through Human Resources. When hired as a TA, you will receive a contract that must be signed and returned to the Graduate Coordinator.

All graduate students receiving internal funding or a PGS match must complete TA position(s) throughout the year to fulfill their funding package requirements. Students will normally be paid monthly throughout the term on the last Friday of each month. Each payment will include 4% vacation pay.

If a student wishes to decline a TA position, they may do so, but could potentially forfeit their funding package for that term.

University of Waterloo Graduate Scholarship, Psychology Graduate Scholarship, or Arts Graduate Award



These scholarships/awards will be the source of your UW funding in addition to your TA's. The names are a little misleading as they are not a scholarship/award that you have won, but components of your internal funding package. The name of the scholarship/award you receive each term depends on the Faculty of Arts funding source. It is important to note that you will typically receive this funding during the first month of each term.

External Funding

Students are encouraged to apply to external scholarships such as the Tri-Agency Doctoral and Master's awards and the OGS/QEII-GSST. If a student receives an external award, it will replace their internal funding package for the duration of the external award. If a student receives an external award, they may also receive a Presidents Graduate Scholarship (PGS).

Scholarship applications are evaluated by a departmental committee comprised of faculty members. Applications are evaluated independently using the criteria outlined by the specific granting agency (e.g. academic excellence, research potential, communication/leadership). Each application is provided with a departmental rank based on the ratings combined across the reviewers.

Example – OGS scholarship + UW funding package:

A master's student is offered a standard UW funding package, which totals **\$18,000**/year for two years beginning with the Fall 2022 cohort. Since receiving their UW funding package, they were also offered an OGS for their first year of full-time study, totaling **\$15,000**. The student accepted the award, which means their first year of internal UW funding will be replaced by the external scholarship. Additionally, because the student will hold a major federally funded competition-based scholarship, they will also receive a PGS match worth **\$11,684** (\$5,000 UW PGS + \$6,683 TA Departmental PGS match). In the second year, the student will go back to receiving the internal UW funding.

Year 1

- Fall – The student will receive **\$13,350** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA/Departmental PGS match) + \$257 (vacation pay) + \$5,000 (OGS) + \$1,667 (UW PGS Match) = \$13,350
- Winter – The student will receive **\$6,667** in total
 - \$5,000 (OGS) + \$1,667 (UW PGS Match) = \$6,667
- Spring – The student will receive **\$6,667** in total
 - \$5,000 (OGS) + \$1,667 (UW PGS Match) = \$6,667

Year 2

- Fall – The student will receive **\$6,683** in total
 - \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) = \$6,683
- Winter – The student will receive **\$6,683** in total



- \$6,426 (full-time TA) + \$257 (vacation pay) = \$6,683
- Spring – The student will receive **\$4,634** in total
 - \$4,634 (UW Graduate Scholarship)

Note: GSPA/Student Finance will pay the OGS scholarship on the first week of each term. The graduate scholarship/award will normally be deposited into your account on the first month of the term. In addition, your TA funding will typically be paid on a monthly basis throughout the term on the last Friday of the month. Each TA payment will include 4% vacation pay. As you do not get a lump sum payment during your TA terms, you will complete a promissory note in Quest to become “fees arranged” at the beginning of each term.

More information regarding external scholarships can be found on the [Graduate Studies External Awards](#) webpage.

Presidents Graduate Scholarship (PGS) Match

The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Arts and the Department of Psychology will provide a PGS match to outstanding graduate students who hold major federally and provincially funded competition-based scholarships. The PGS match is provided each year that you hold an eligible graduate scholarship at the University of Waterloo and is worth a total of \$11,617/year split over 3 terms. UW will provide \$5,000 in scholarship money and the Faculty/Department will provide an additional \$6,617 as a TA in the same academic year. PGS-eligible scholarships include the Tri-Agency Doctoral and Masters awards and the OGS/QEII-GSST.

In Quest, you will notice that your PGS match funding may come from the following three sources:

- President's Graduate Scholarship
- President's Graduate Scholarship - Matching ARTS
- Graduate Teaching Assistant/Vacation Pay

Graduate Research Studentship (GRS) or Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA)

Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA)

A GRA is a position held by a qualified student who performs a designated list of research duties under the supervision of one or more faculty members. The student is expected to complete tasks on a fixed schedule and reports progress to their supervisor(s) on an agreed schedule. Duties and assigned tasks may be routine or advanced, but normally fall outside the scope of the student's research. The relationship between supervisor(s) and student is like that of employer and employee. GRA positions are arranged by your supervisor and paid



through Human Resources via a [Casual Pay Form](#), which you will complete and give to the Psychology Graduate Coordinator for processing.

Graduate Research Studentship (GRS)

A GRS financially supports students in research based graduate programs through faculty research grants.

Below are a few frequently asked questions regarding GRA's and GRS's. Additional information about these funding types can be found on the [Human Resource Payroll](#) webpage.

FAQ	GRS	GRA
What is the main purpose of this funding?	To increase student funding using faculty grants.	To hire an individual to assist in completing the tasks necessary for the professor's research. This is considered a "job," and a student cannot work more than 10 hours/week.
How will students receive payments?	Lump sum payment for the term beginning on the first Friday of the term.	Monthly payments throughout the term on the last Friday of each month. Payment will include 4% vacation pay.
What deductions will be taken from the payments?	Outstanding tuition or residence fees will be deducted. No statutory deductions (income tax, CPP, EI) will be made.	Outstanding tuition fees authorized by a student on a payment plan will be deducted. Statutory deductions (income tax, CPP and EI) will also be made.

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and Government Aid

Students who are Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons may be eligible to apply for financial aid through their provincial government. In Ontario, this is the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), administered by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The types of funding available include loans, grants, and bursaries. The amount of each type of funding is determined by the province and is based on many factors including, but not limited to:

- your educational costs
- your income and assets
- your family income (e.g. parents or spouse)
- family size



All government aid programs, including OSAP, are intended to supplement a student's financial resources and expected contribution.

Application forms are available on the [OSAP](#) website in early May. Additional information and important dates can be found on the [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#) webpage.

Note: You may apply for OSAP if you already have external/internal funding, but your funding will affect how much OSAP you will receive. Additionally, you must have been living in the province for 1 year prior to the start of your graduate degree to be eligible for government aid. If you have not lived in Ontario for 1 year prior to your degree, there may be supplementary loan programs made available to you by your home province or territory.

