

Doctoral Programs Financial Q&A Workshop- Monday, December 11th, 2023

Pre-submitted Questions

Question 1: Are there Teaching Assistantships (TA) positions available for international students?

TAships are part of the funding package for PhD students, meaning that each TA student will be guaranteed 140 hours per academic year they are in the funded cohort. For more information, please visit: <https://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/current-students/teaching-assistantships/>.

Question 2: Are there financial support options available for the DN program?

Financial support for the DN program is not as robust as other programs, as it is a professional program. Although DN students are eligible for OSAP, most DN students self-fund their education through employment income or employee sponsorships.

Question 3: Are international students eligible for any support?

International PhD students receive the same funding package as our domestic students: \$18,250 + tuition and fees. Despite this, international students are not eligible for other forms of aid such as OSAP, provincial and tri-council awards, and awards that have residency requirements. Additionally, international students often encounter some difficulties finding work as they are in Canada on a study permit. As such, we recommend that international students commence the program with enough money to support themselves for the entirety of their time in Canada.

Q: Are PhD students given scholarships?

PhD students are given a funding package upon acceptance and the funding is guaranteed from years 1-4 if they maintain satisfactory academic progress. Some awards (provincial, tri-council, external scholarships) may require a separate application and the Faculty will send an announcement to PhD students when they become available.

Q: Do you anticipate tuition increases for either program?

For the DN program, tuition rate has been steady for the past few years. The PhD tuition rate has been increasing at a steady rate of 2-3% per year. Note: the tuition increase does not affect PhD students because the funding package covers tuition.

Q: Are there scholarships over and above the base funding package?

There are a few scholarships that would go above your base funding including Faculty admission awards, tri-council awards (SSHRC/CIHR), OGS, and other external scholarships. At the Faculty of Nursing, we allow students to keep the full amount of their scholarships and we do not reduce your base funding package amount if you win these types of scholarships.

Additional Questions asked during the Workshop

Q: What if I choose not to do a TAship as a PhD student?

You will receive a reduced financial package if you choose not to complete a TAship. Some PhD students may choose not to complete a TAship for various reasons (e.g. they don't have enough funds, etc.). However, we still encourage students to consider completing a TAship for the experience, especially if you plan to pursue a career in academia.

Q: Can I apply for TAships as a DN student?

Yes, DN students can apply for TAships once the positions are posted and if they meet the posting specifications. Please note that they are not guaranteed/part of any funding packages like with PhD program.

Q: For the mentioned Admission Awards (Kathleen Arpin Doctoral Fellowship, Kathleen King Doctoral Fellowship, and the Nursing Faculty/Staff Fellowship), are they awarded to 3 PhD students and 3 DN incoming students?

No, the award is for the top 3 incoming PhD students only. There is the Staples Family Graduate Student Award in Nursing for the DN program. Specifically, it is to be awarded to a Nurse Practitioner nursing student enrolled in the DN program on the basis of financial need and academic merit, who is committed to advancing nursing practice, education or research.

Q: Do the CIHR and SSHRC award applications have the same deadline?

Specific deadlines for September 2024 have not been announced yet. That being said, it would be prudent to plan for a mid-September deadline for either stream.

Q: Do students pay tuition once every year or pay tuition 2-3 times separately each semester?

Fees are charged annually and can be paid in 2 installments (fall and winter), so to avoid service charges. If you are a PhD student within in the guaranteed funding period, your fees will be paid by your funding package.

Q: How early should I contact the research nursing team about award applications for SSHRC and CIHR?

A good time to reach out after receiving the acceptance letter is June/July of your first year. Generally, students apply in their first academic year for the second academic year.

Q: What if I go over 140 TAship hours?

You will have to apply for any additional TA appointments above your guaranteed 140 hours. You are compensated on an hourly basis as per the CUPE collective agreement.

Q: Vanier, OGS – is there a limit to how many scholarships you can apply to and how many you can accept/keep?

You cannot hold Vanier and CGS-D at the same time. Additionally, the Awards Committee will not allow students who hold a tri-council (Vanier, CGS-D) or other major external scholarship to simultaneously hold an OGS award.

Q: Is the award application due at the same time as the general PhD application?

No, but we do recommend that you apply in early February if possible since PhD admissions are on a rolling basis. The earlier you submit, the earlier our team can reach out to you to get started on applying for awards. Don't worry about it during the admissions side of the process – focus on your CV, your personal statement, etc. and our team will work with accepted applicants on how to apply for awards.