

Doctoral Programs Financial Q&A Workshop Transcript

Doctor of Nursing (DN) Inquiries

Q: 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.

Q: What are some available scholarships and financing options for the DN program?

The primary scholarships available for the DN program are [SGS University Wide Awards](#), the [Tri-Council Awards](#) and other external funding through external scholarships or employer funding.

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

Yes, DN students can apply for TAs 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: Do students pay tuition once every year or pay tuition 2-3 times separately each semester? **DN students only*

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.

There is a Fall fee and a Winter fee. Even though you take Summer courses, there aren't specific fees. To register, you need to make the minimum payment fee. For DN students: Plan to pay half by end of August and other half by end of November.

For all students: If you're getting OSAP or a large award, there are ways to defer your payments (i.e. pay later) and Aidan can assist students if they have any questions.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Inquiries

Q: If a student is working full-time, does this impact their stipend/funding?



Work outside the Faculty will not impact your funding package; however, the PhD program is a full-time program, so working full-time alongside this is going to make it more difficult to fulfill both your academic, work, and personal commitments. We do not recommend full-time employment for our PhD students. Many of our students work 1-2 shifts per week.

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

TAs 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/>. Note: we generally don't assign TA positions for international students in their first semester.

Q: Are international students eligible for any support?

International PhD students receive the same funding package as our domestic students: \$40,000, inclusive of 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: 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: Can you refuse the funding to allow yourself to not have the TA commitment (PhD)?

Students can decline some or all Teaching Assistantship (TA) hours. Please note that each funding package is made-up in part of TA funding. By declining a TAship, you forfeit the associated funding.

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. The funding package is made up of awards, TA funding and tuition allowance. 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: 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.

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 2025 have not been announced yet. That being said, it would be prudent to plan for a mid-September deadline for either stream.

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.

Q: How early should I contact the research nursing team about award applications for SSRHC 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: 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.

Other Questions

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.