

FOR STUDENTS

Base Funding Policy for PhD Students 2025-2026

The annual base funding package for eligible domestic and international full-time PhD students in the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing is \$40,000, inclusive of tuition and fees. Base funding is composed of a combination of

- i) Tuition fee
- ii) Internal awards and fellowships
- iii) Teaching Assistantships and
- iv) Supervisor Contributions (see Appendix A for details).

Based on the total amount of External Awards received by the student, a portion of External Awards may be recovered by Bloomberg Nursing (see Appendix B for details).

Eligibility

1. PhD students are eligible to receive the base funding package during their first four years in the PhD program, provided they pursue their studies full-time, maintain good academic standing, and make satisfactory progress toward degree completion. For most students, this means they are eligible for the funding package during years 1-4; however, transfer students are eligible for the base funding package from year 2-5 as their first year of registration would be as an MN student. A student who is eligible for and receiving the base funding package is considered part of the “funded cohort”.
2. PhD students who withdraw, have their registration cancelled, or take a leave (e.g. parental leave) from the program, will receive a prorated base funding amount based on the number of months of eligibility. The prorated base funding amount will take into account the tuition fee payment schedule. Students returning from a leave will receive an updated funding letter outlining the details of their funding for the academic year in which they return from their leave. For students taking a parental leave, the SGS Parental Grant program is available to offset funds lost from the funding package due to leave.

3. Students receiving the funding package must not be enrolled in any other degree or certificate granting program for which they pay tuition. Students in the funded cohort who are enrolled in such programs will be required to forfeit the base funding package.
4. To ensure equitable access to funded PhD programs, financial need is not a condition of receipt of the PhD funding package (i.e., no student can directly or indirectly self-fund their funding package).

Internal & External Awards

5. As the base funding package is partially comprised of internal awards and fellowships, students in the funded cohort are required to submit an award application to the Student Services office each summer to determine eligibility for awards.
6. PhD students are encouraged to seek external funding to enhance their CV and increase their income. Funding sources include external competitive studentship awards such as CIHR, SSHRC, CNA, RNAO, OGS, and awards from independent foundations as well as Hospital/Research Institute Awards. The Student Services and Research Offices will work in tandem to notify PhD students and supervisors of competitions and will support application processes.
7. Students who are successful in receiving large external awards (i.e. over \$10,000 cumulatively for the year) will have their base funding package reduced commensurate with a portion of the external award amount, to a maximum of \$15,000 (see Appendix B for details).
8. Students are responsible for reporting all external funding (i.e. external awards, fellowships) to the Student Services Office upon notice of the award. Failure to report, or report in a timely manner, may impact subsequent years' funding packages.

Teaching Assistantships

PhD students are hired as TAs for undergraduate and graduate courses. Teaching assistant (TA) positions are considered both a source of funding and a form of professional training. Students holding TA positions can have a range of responsibilities, depending on their TA assignment. Responsibilities may include grading, supporting simulation lab activities, and leading in- person tutorials. TAs may also have the opportunity to serve as course instructors, guest lecturers, and

clinical instructors (in a hospital or community setting).

9. Base funding packages include 140 hours of TA work per academic year over the fall, winter and/or spring sessions.
10. PhD students are guaranteed six subsequent appointments, one each academic year for the same number of hours as their first or second appointment (whichever is greater). The department assigns students to their subsequent appointments in May/June for the following academic year.
11. PhD students who decline positions they are offered are considered to have forfeited the Teaching Assistant portion of the funding package for the academic year and will have their total funding package reduced accordingly. Students may apply for TA positions in addition to the hours assigned for their base package, however additional appointments are not guaranteed and any additional income received is in addition to the base funding amount. Positions may be posted throughout the year and are circulated to students as they become available.

Supervisor Contributions

12. Each faculty member will make a contribution of \$10,000 per year towards the supervisors' component of students' base funding packages. If the supervisor has more than one student, the supervisor contribution will be distributed amongst the students.
13. Depending on the source of the supervisor's contribution, these funds may require students to engage in their supervisor's program of research, or a component of a research project (e.g. for which the supervisor was funded by a granting agency).
14. Each August, prior to the commencement of the academic year, students will meet with their supervisor to discuss the student's participation in the supervisor's program of research and/or research project and for which external awards the student is planning on applying. This meeting must include a record of the final agreed upon plan and occur before PhD Funding Letters are distributed in September.

Resources

Bloomberg Nursing

- [Bloomberg Nursing: PhD Funding & Fees](#)

School of Graduate Studies

- [How Funding Works: Research-Stream Programs](#)
- [What is Base Funding and FundingFAQ's](#)
- [SGS Financial Assistance](#)
- [Graduate Funding at the University of Toronto Funding Complaint Process](#)

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Appendix A: Base Funding Detail

The base funding package normally consists of 4 elements:

1. Tuition fee (approximate value: \$9,000)
2. Awards (approximate value: \$13,700 – \$21,200)
3. Teaching Assistantship (approximate value \$7,300 based on 140 hours of TA work)
4. Supervisor Contribution (Value: \$2,500 – \$10,000)

Satisfactory progress

Students are considered to be in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress toward the degree when they meet the timelines and milestones denoted in the PhD Student Milestones Progress Sheet. Students are expected to defend their thesis proposal by the end of year 2 and the final thesis by the end of year 4.

Please note the following:

1. Tuition fee payment is made by Bloomberg Nursing in the form of an award. In other words, Bloomberg Nursing will make award payments to the student account in the amount equivalent to the tuition fees assessed over 3 terms (fall, winter and summer). This amount may be listed as an award on a CV.
2. The award portion of the base funding package may be given in the form of one or more awards.
3. A letter detailing the amount and the source of the base funds will be provided to each PhD student in September of each year.
4. Although student awards are typically exempt from income tax, TA income is not. Students should consult the Canada Revenue Agency or a tax professional for information.

Appendix B: External Award Policy: PhD Student Scenarios

Award Amount (Cumulative received in the academic year)	Reduction to Base Funding Amount
\$0 - \$9,999	No reduction
\$10,000 - \$45,000	1/3 of award amount
\$45,000 and above	\$15,000

Example A:

Student A has received one external scholarship from RNAO in the amount of \$5,000, and one from the Kidney Foundation for \$4,000. The student will not be subject to any reduction in their base funding package. The student's total funding package will be composed as follows:

Base funding	\$40,000
External awards	\$9,000
Base funding reduction	\$0
New base funding	\$40,000
External awards	+ \$9,000
Total funding package:	\$49,000

Example B:

Student B has been awarded the Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the amount of \$15,000 and an external scholarship from RNAO for \$6,000. The student's base funding package will be reduced by 1/3 of this external award amount. The student's funding package will be composed as follows:

Base funding	\$40,000
External awards	\$21,000
Base funding reduction	\$7,000
New base funding	\$33,000
External awards	+ \$21,000
Total funding package:	\$54,000

Example C:

Student C has received a large fellowship from SickKids hospital in the amount of \$60,000. The student will have their base funding reduced by 1/3 of this external award amount, up to the maximum of \$15,000. The student's funding package will be composed as follows:

Base funding	\$40,000
External awards	\$60,000
Base funding reduction	\$15,000
New base funding	\$25,000
External awards	+\$60,000
Total fundingpackage:	\$85,000