



SFU  
 Graduate Program in Geography  
 PhD and thesis-based Master's Minimum Funding Policy

This program-level funding policy has been developed to accompany [GGRI.17](#).

Effective Date: September 1, 2024  
 Approved by Geography Graduate Program Committee on January 18, 2024  
 Approved by Graduate Studies on January 19, 2024

The primary goal in the development of a minimum funding guarantee is equity, which Geography views as the condition that would be achieved if one's identity and circumstances no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. To address inequities, funding within the graduate program in Geography will be allocated with the goal of enabling equitable outcomes.

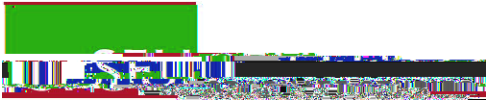
Minimum funding in the PhD program and the thesis-based Master's program has been established to support students who are not engaged in professional work. Students who are working professionals might not receive a minimum funding guarantee. For the purposes of this policy, a student who has completed a graduate-level, specialized education or training in a particular area and/or has recognized competence in that area, and employed in a job where their specialized knowledge is required. This includes, but is not limited to, professions such as teacher, counselor, consultant, accountant, management consultant, electrician, analyst, plumber, engineer or physician.

1. Students enrolled in the PhD program in Geography are expected to complete the program in 12 terms (4 years). Students in the program will be funded at the guaranteed minimum for 12 terms. Expected completion times for PhD students in some areas of the program, e.g. those engaged in community-based and fieldwork-intensive research may exceed 12 terms. While minimum funding does not guarantee completion, this policy and other



prevail.

3. Students in the PhD program will receive guaranteed minimum funding in the amount of \$28,000 per year for the term of the funding guarantee provided in 1. Students in the thesis-based Master's program will receive guaranteed minimum funding in the amount of \$23,000 per year for the term of the funding guarantee provided in 1.
4. Continued funding is contingent on maintaining a CGPA of 3.0 or higher, satisfactory progress in the program as attested in the annual progress review (completed via the Graduate Progress Report), applying for major internal and external awards for which they are eligible (e.g., Tri-Agency awards), and satisfactory performance in teaching assistantships and research assistantships
5. In the case that a student chooses to change supervisor, the minimum funding cannot be guaranteed since scholarship and RA funding, which is an important component of a student's funding package, is often tied to a supervisor's research grant. Efforts will be made to replace the original supervisor's funding with other funding sources, contingent on availability
6. All of the following count toward meeting the student's minimum guaranteed funding amount:
  - Scholarship payment from supervisor's research grant
  - Employment RA funding
  - TA funding
  - Sessional teaching
  - Scholarships and awards disbursed by Graduate Studies (e.g., PhD Research Scholarship, base allocation student support (BASE), awards such as Graduate Fellowships (GF) and Travel and Research Awards, and donor awards)
  - External scholarships or awards (e.g., Agency awards, Mitacs).
  - Program awards, including donor awards
7. Every effort will be made to provide student funding in approximately equal increments over the course of the academic year.
8. The funding year begins in the fall term, and ends in the summer term for all students enrolled in the program. Students who begin the program in a semester other than the semester in which the funding year begins will have their funding accordingly prorated for the remaining portion of the academic year.
9. The time spent in non-required Cooperative Education or Internship programs will not count against the total terms of guaranteed funding.
10. In order to reward scholarship success and ensure more equitable distribution of funds within the PhD and Master's programs, students will receive the following funding adjustment in addition to their guaranteed minimums: (e)-1 (e)9 (d)g



- receive at least \$7000 in addition to their guaranteed minimum funding
- PhD Postgraduate Scholarship (PGSD): Students receive at least \$2,000 from funding sources listed under 6 in addition to the PGSD scholarship
  - PhD Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGSD): Students receive the PhD Research Scholarship in addition to the CGSD scholarship.
  - Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship: Students receive the PhD Research Scholarship in addition to the Vanier scholarship
  - Master's Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGSM): Students receive at least \$12,000 from funding sources listed under 6 in addition to the CGSM scholarship