

**SFU**  
**Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology PhD and Psychology PhD Graduate Program**  
**PhD Minimum Funding Policy**

This program-level funding policy has been developed to accompany [GGR 1.17](#).

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2024

**Approved by:** Psychology Graduate Program Committee on December 7, 2023.

**Approved by Graduate Studies on:** December 20, 2023

The primary goal in the development of a minimum funding guarantee is equity, which the graduate program in Psychology defines as fairness and justice in the allotment of funding resources within a program with the goal of enabling impartial outcomes.

1. Students enrolled in the PhD program in Clinical Psychology (streams: Clinical Child, Clinical Forensic, Clinical General, and Clinical Neuropsychology) or Psychology (streams: Cognitive & Neural Science, Developmental Psychology, History, Quantitative & Theoretical, Law and Forensic Psychology, and Social Psychology) will be funded for a minimum of 12 terms (i.e., 4 years). Students can expect to complete the program in 12-18 terms (i.e., 4-6 years).
2. In the case that there is a conflict between this policy and the GGR 1.17, GGR 1.17 will prevail.
3. Starting in September 2024, new students in the PhD program will receive a guaranteed minimum funding of at least \$28,000.00 for 12 academic terms. Students admitted to the program prior to September 2024 will receive at least \$28,000.00 for 12 academic terms minus the number of terms that they have completed.
4. Continued funding is contingent on maintaining a CGPA of 3.5 or higher, satisfactory progress in the program and meeting the supervisor's reasonable expectations as detailed in the annual progress review (completed via the Graduate Program Report).
5. Minimum guaranteed funding will be provided from one or more of the following sources:
  - Internal scholarships adjudicated by Graduate Studies
  - TA appointments
  - Program-specific awards (e.g., Graduate Fellowship), including donor-funded awards
  - PhD Research Scholarship<sup>1</sup>
  - Tri-Agency awards
  - External scholarships including, for example, those adjudicated by Graduate Studies

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<sup>1</sup> Students who receive a tuition waiver will not be eligible for the PhD Research Scholarship and may have their total minimum funding amount reduced accordingly.

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  - Scholarship payment from supervisor's research grant
  - RA funding from supervisor's or other research grant
6. Students who decline a work assignment (e.g., a TA assignment) that is made available as part of the funding guarantee will receive reduced funding by the amount to have been paid by that assignment.
  7. The funding guarantee is an annual total, and may vary across semesters within an academic year, depending on the funding source. Students are advised to budget accordingly.
  8. The funding year begins in the Fall semester and ends in the Summer semester 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 pro-rated for the remaining portion of the academic year.
  9. Students enrolled in full time paid Co-operative Education or clinical internships will not receive program-level funding during these terms. Students enrolled in clinical practica under university course numbers will continue to receive full program-level funding. Outside employment will not affect program-level funding.
  10. To reward scholarship success and also ensure equitable distribution of funds within the graduate program, students who are successful in securing external doctoral scholarships and/or awards (e.g., from CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC, and Vanier) will receive the PhD Research Scholarship (\$5,400/y for 4 years) but may have a lower priority for TA'ships and/or Graduate Fellowships, depending on the amount by which they exceed the \$28,000/year minimum and the available budget. Annual scholarship funding for individual students is capped at \$60,000 by University Policy.