

## University Financial Support for Graduate Students

(For MSc, MA and MCD programs – excludes the MSc in GEOM, and MSc in ENVS programs)

Applicants to an M.Ed. program must refer to the FAQ document on the SOE website for funding

info: <https://med.acadiau.ca/faq.html>

A graduate student may be provided with financial support from a combination of several different sources, and these may entail different expectations. While Acadia strives to financially support as many students as possible, funds are limited. There is no guarantee of graduate student funding.

**Acadia Graduate Scholarship (AGS)** – An AGS is a scholarship and does not require students to do extra work that is unrelated to the thesis project, but awardees must maintain a satisfactory academic record, which is a grade of at least B in all courses taken at the University as part of the master’s program. Departments and schools must demonstrate that all eligible applicants were considered for available AGS funding and provide the basis for any awards. Students will receive a T4A slip for their earnings. An Acadia Graduate Scholarship (AGS) can only be held in combination with an Acadia Graduate Teaching Assistantship (AGTA; min 30% of total).

**Acadia Graduate Teaching Assistantship (AGTA)** – An AGTA is payment in return for assistance in the delivery of undergraduate programs. Students receiving an AGTA will be expected to work up to 12 hours a week or a maximum of 144 hours per semester, for which they will be paid a minimum of \$15.60/hr (includes 4% vacation pay). Mandatory employer related costs (MERC) will be covered and includes 8.5% for required Workers Compensation, Employment Insurance, and CPP. The salary component is subject to tax and students will receive a T4 slip for their employment earnings and annual tax return. The AGTA must comprise at least 30% of the total funding package (AGS + AGTA). In some cases, it may comprise 100%.

The specific duties for AGTAs will vary among departments/schools. Students are not permitted to teach regularly scheduled university courses (this does not include labs). The occasional lecture may be given; however, this will be under the supervision of the faculty member responsible for the course.

**Recipients of an AGS and/or AGTA must have full-time student status.**

**Graduate students are not eligible to receive AGS/AGTA funding if they hold external funding (i.e., scholarships and awards) in excess of \$15,000 in a given university calendar year.**

### **Student Pay Period:**

Your AGS and/or AGTA is paid bi-weekly over an entire semester (17 weeks). Acadia does not do a stop pay during the holidays/study breaks. As such, your payment for any TA hours worked will be distributed over 17 weeks per term regardless of the number of actual weeks during which TA work is assigned. Students will pay tax only on the AGTA portion (i.e., not on the AGS [scholarship] portion).

**Discipline-specific university awards (DSUA)** – Small DSUAs may be available for various disciplines and units across the university, sometimes as a graduate student scholarship. Consult with your supervisor or graduate coordinator on the availability of such funding.

**Research Assistantship (RA)** – This is payment from research funds received by a faculty member in support of your thesis project or other work of interest to your supervisor’s research program. Expectations will vary. Tasks may include (but are not limited to) written reviews or reports, carrying out experiments or interviews, developing software, etc. These funds are subject to tax and mandatory employment deductions. Students will receive a T4 slip for their earnings.

Applicants to the above noted programs who apply and submit a complete admission application package by February 1st with a GPA of at least 3.0 in each of the last 2 years of undergraduate study, will be automatically considered for an Acadia Graduate Scholarship (AGS).

Applicants to the above noted programs who apply and submit a complete admission application package by February 1st will be automatically considered for an Acadia Graduate Teaching Assistantship (AGTA). There is no GPA requirement required for an AGTA.

The only program with a different admission deadline for consideration of AGS/AGTA funding is the MSc in Psychology program which has a deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup>.