

FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICY
COMPUTING SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
Revision December 2015, 2nd Revision January 2020

For students that have an offer of Financial Support:

1. Financial Support may come from a variety of sources, including:

- Scholarships & Awards
- Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA)
- Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA and GRAF)

Teaching assistantships are offered by the Department in the Fall and Winter terms (called teaching terms). Some supervisors may provide a Graduate Research Assistantship to replace a Teaching Assistantship. Support during spring/summer (called the summer term) is provided by the supervisor only unless the student has a major scholarship.

2. M.Sc. (thesis-based) students are eligible for departmental support during the first two years (first four teaching terms plus first summer term, i.e. the first 20 months) of the program; while Ph.D. students are eligible for departmental support during the first four years (first eight teaching terms plus first three summer terms, i.e. the first 44 months) of the program.

3. The Financial Support requires that students maintain satisfactory academic performance and satisfactory performance of research and teaching assistantship duties. All of these conditions must be met to maintain full financial support. For example, if a student cannot perform TA duties adequately, the student will lose this part of the funding and will not receive an GRA/GRAF to replace the GTA. Assistantships are administered according to Faculty of Science and FGSR regulations.

4. For Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Research Assistantships, a student must be registered full time in the program. The teaching and research assistantships are employment contracts. Unless a special exception is arranged with the Teaching or Research Assistantship supervisor, the student must be present by the first day of the term (September, January and May/July) to take up these assistantships. A new student that will be late in arriving (that is, beyond the first week of the term), should request a deferral to the next Winter or Fall term.

5. Financial support by the Department is intended for students that receive no support from other sources. Major scholarships or external funding, once awarded, will replace an equivalent (or smaller) amount of the department's support. Note, external funding includes external scholarships and internships. Major scholarships are ones that offer \geq \$15k per year (including any top ups and related scholarship awards). If the funding is under the guaranteed amount for the year, half GTAs (in fall/winter terms) will be offered to ensure the funding meets the guaranteed amount. If funding is available in the department, a top up may be offered in lieu of the half GTA.

It is the student's responsibility to notify the Department of any awards, scholarships or additional funding that the student receives. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in a change to the department's financial support of the student.

6. The funding offer is for a set period of time and will not be extended based on breaks in the program except in exceptional cases such as medical and/or compassionate leaves. The student should communicate such needs to the Associate Chair (Graduate) as early as possible.

7. Students completing an M.Sc. and continuing to a Ph.D. must submit their M.Sc. thesis to FGSR before Ph.D. support can begin.

8. Students on scholarships, sponsored PhD students, and students beyond their funding guarantee may be considered for a teaching assistantship when additional GTA positions are available.