



**Guaranteed Minimum Funding (GMF)
Handbook
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
(FGSR)**

Updated Dec 2025

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Guaranteed Minimum Funding Policy

Graduate students are critical to the quality and expansion of the research enterprise at the University of Regina. The Guaranteed Minimum Funding (GMF) policy addresses structural barriers and meets **our commitment to graduate student well-being. By providing minimum guaranteed funding, FGSR hopes to improve attrition rates and completion times, both of which have been linked to lack of stable funding.** In addition, FGSR recognizes that GMF and competitive funding will help faculty members and researchers across all programs recruit high quality graduate students. Succinctly put, the GMF aligns with the U of R strategic priorities (outlined in the Strategic Plan) as it will:

- permit graduate students to devote more time to their program of study (***Student success***)
- demonstrate supervisors' commitment to financially support their students who contribute to advancing their research program and research activity (***Belonging***)
- provide predictable financial support (***Student success***)
- support graduate student well-being (***Student success & Belonging***)
- support fairness, equity and justice in funding supports (***EDI & Belonging***)
- support the U of R's strategic commitment to a culture of discovery (***Discovery and excellence***)

Line Faculty and Academic Departments will be encouraged to develop their own Graduate Student Funding Policies that meet or exceed the minimum funding requirements set by FGSR. The FGSR GMF policy will prevail in cases of a conflict with Line Faculty/program/department funding policy.

At the [Oct 2024](#), meeting of the Senate the following motion was approved:

MOTION: Admission to PhD Programs at the University of Regina will be contingent upon satisfying the FGSR Guaranteed Minimum Funding requirements, effective 202530

As of Fall 2025 the GMF will be set by FGSR at **\$15,500**.

Guaranteed Minimum Funding (GMF) Award Terms of Reference

Program overview

The guaranteed minimum funding award provides accepted PhD students with a minimum of \$15,500 per year in funding. This funding is divided between two sources 1) FGSR - \$8000 and 2) Supervisor/Unit/Faculty- \$7500. The portion from FGSR will be provided in three payments based on the semesters and not be attached to any required work. The portion provided by the Supervisor/Unit/Faculty may come in many forms including but not limited to Teaching Assistantships, Stipends, Research Assistantships, etc.

ELIGIBILITY:

Qualifications: Holders of these awards are required to be a **fully-qualified** graduate students in a PhD program at the University of Regina. Students who are **entering** must have a minimum of a first class average (equivalent to a minimum of 80%) when they enter their program.

In Good Standing: Students must hold and maintain a minimum 80% average. An incomplete and/or failing grade from a previous semester's work will render the student ineligible for support. Failure to continue to be fully eligible in each semester while holding this scholarship, will require the scholarship to be discontinued.

Required: Grad Thrive Plus 800AA must be completed by the end of the first semester in which a student begins their program in order for that student to be eligible. Failure to complete this by the end of their first semester will require the scholarship to be discontinued.

Registered Full-Time: Students are required to be registered full-time in the semesters in which the funding is to be received and accordingly, are required to register and remain in no fewer than 6 credit hours each semester while holding the award. All awardees are required to be registered full-time by the **5th** day of the first month (January, May, or September) of the semesters in which the award is to be paid, in order to meet payroll deadlines.

Term of the Award: This award will be available to students for the first 4 years (12 semesters) of a PhD program. Students who fail to remain in good standing will have their funding suspended until they can regain standing, but they can not extend the term of the award. *Clinical Psychology PhDs are only eligible per the requirements of their program for 3 years (9 semesters of funding).*

Employment: Students who are employed full-time in a non-research position (i.e. are not working for their supervisor) who cannot meet the conditions of any Supervisor/Unit/Faculty funding will be able to waive the GMF program.

Major Awards: Students who have been awarded scholarships of \$40,000 or more (e.g. tri-council funding) will be ineligible for this GMF program for the duration of their award.

RATES OF SUPPORT:

FGSR will provide payments in the following pattern Semester 1= \$2700, Semester 2 = \$2650, Semester 3 = \$2650. Supervisors/Units/Faculty are asked to provide payments in as close to equal portions as possible.

APPLICATION & PROCEDURES:

No application is required. Each PhD student accepted to a PhD program will be required to have minimum funding going forward from Fall 2025. They will be provided this through the GMF program, funding from the Supervisor, funding from an external source (government), or in rare circumstances students will be able to be self-funded (are employed full-time). Student's who are self-funded will be asked to sign a waiver of GMF and cannot be added to the GMF program in future without the permission of the Line Faculties ADR and FGSRs Dean.

All FGSR funding is subject to annual budgetary approval and up to the discretion of the Dean of FGSR.

Guaranteed Minimum Funding Program- Procedures

The Guaranteed Minimum Funding Program covers all students entering a PhD at the U of R regardless of whether they receive a GMF award or if they are funded in other ways. These procedures, while mainly focused on GMF award holders, also sets out policies around how all PhDs from Fall 2025 forward should be funded.

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The purpose of this program is to provide appropriate funding for PhD students and support Faculty research.</p>
<p>2. Scope</p>	<p>This program applies to all graduate programs offering PhDs. Professional Doctoral programs are exempted from this requirement.</p>
<p>3. Definitions</p>	<p>In this policy outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Guaranteed Minimum Funding (GMF)</i>- means the minimum annual guaranteed funding for full time doctoral Graduate Students established by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). b. <i>Student(s)</i>- means students enrolled in PhD programs at the U of R. c. <i>GMF allocations</i>- those GMF awards provided with the costs shared between FGSR and the faculty/supervisor.
<p>4. University-Set Minimum Doctoral Funding</p>	<p>4.1 Every graduate program offering a PhD will have GMF for students in year 1-4 of their program. For students admitted starting Fall 2025(i.e. their admissions letter first semester is Fall 2025) the annual funding may not be less than \$15,500.</p> <p>4.2 FGSR will identify a set number of GMF allocations per Faculty each year based on historical admissions averages. These allocations will be eligible to engage in fund matching with \$8000 from FGSR and \$7500 from supervisor/unit/line Faculty. Funding allocations are not transferable between fiscal years, all allocations will be reevaluated on a yearly basis.</p> <p>4.3 Faculties may admit more students than the allocation provided, as long as they meet the minimum funding expectation of \$15,500 per year for year 1-4 (guaranteed by an admissions funding letter).</p>

- 4.4 Graduate programs are encouraged to establish Program-set GMF levels higher than the University set minimum.
- 4.5 Doctoral Students who are fully funded by an external agency (such as a granting agency or a foreign government) to an amount equal to or greater than the GMF may be admitted without additional funding, with the approval of FGSR.
- 4.5.1 Doctoral Students completing their program entirely online will not be eligible for GMF. They will be required to complete a waiver as cost of living is a consideration for providing GMF.
- 4.6 Students with full-time employment outside of the university research enterprise may waive GMF and be admitted without additional funding, with the approval of FGSR.
- 4.7 Students that receive scholarship funding in an amount of \$40,000 or more during years 1-4 will not be eligible to receive GMF payments during the years they hold the award (example, tri-council funding). *For the duration of the pilot (2025-2029) FGSR will only consider scholarships it administers as a reason to remove students from GMF. During this pilot period we will work with faculties and research services to establish a list of other awards that may be considered to remove students from GMF requirements.*
- 4.8 Letters of Admission must specify a student's GMF amount for each year in which funding is offered. A student's guaranteed annual funding can equal or exceed the GMF level.
- 4.9 Clinical Psychology students are required to complete the components of their program in three years so GMF funding will only be provided for 3 years (9 semesters).

**5. Guaranteed
Funding-Student
Expectations**

5.1 A student's GMF award is contingent on the following:

- completing GRST 800AA in the first semester, and
- being registered full time (6 credit hours), and
- maintaining an 80% average, and
- remaining as a Fully Qualified student.

5.2 When a GMF allocation includes payment for employment (e.g. RA, TA positions), the student must be available to fulfil the obligations of the position(s).

5.3 Students laddering down from a PhD to a Master's degree will no longer be eligible to receive GMF. No repayment will be required by the student for funds received during the PhD program.

5.4 There will be no reduction in funding for students that receive awards outside those specified in this policy. Students will retain this funding over and above the GMF. *Throughout the period of the pilot (2025-2029), FGSR will work with faculties to determine awards that might lead to a student having reduced funding in the future.*

5.5 Students will be encouraged and supported by FGSR and the Line Faculties to apply for major funding (i.e., tri-council, donor awards, external awards) outside of the GMF program so that students can be competitive in their research endeavors and achieve higher levels of funding.

6. Contingency for GMF Payments

When there is a situation that jeopardizes a student’s funding, FGSR must ensure that the terms of a student’s admissions funding letter are met. The security of the student’s funding as outlined in the funding letter must be the University’s primary consideration.

- 6.1 If a supervisor finds themselves unable to cover the costs of their portion of the GMF Program for a student, it is the responsibility of the line Faculty or Department to support the student.
- 6.2 During the GMF Program pilot (2025-2029), FGSR will commit to support Faculties in the creation of GMF Program contingency funds by matching funds Faculties provide, up to a maximum of \$20,000 per Faculty. These funds will be used to support PhDs for supervisors without sufficient research funds or to support students whose supervisors are not able to continue providing funding.
- 6.3 The FGSR portion of the GMF award is intended to support the student’s progress towards the requirements of their degree. Those payments are exempt from any work requirement.
- 6.4 Should a student’s status change from fully qualified to qualifying or probationary they will not receive their FGSR GMF award portion during semesters they are not fully qualified. However, the student will not lose their GMF allocation while they are qualifying or probationary, but those semesters spent returning to fully qualified status will count towards their total 12 semesters of allowable funding. FGSR will inform faculties and supervisors of the student’s change in status and supervisors and faculties will have discretion to determine if their portion of the GMF award will continue if a student becomes qualifying or probationary.
- 6.5 If a student receives an approved leave of absence the “clock” on their GMF term will stop and they will resume the 4-year (12 semester) term when they return to their studies.
- 6.6 As a result of limited GMF allocations, students who do not

begin their studies within their admissions window cannot have their admissions offer automatically extended without their line Faculty allocating them a GMF spot in the following year.

6.7 If a supervisor deems the student's research progress to be deficient, the supervisor must work with their Associate Dean Research (ADR) and FGSR to review the student's performance. The supervisor cannot reduce or stop funding to a student without the prior approval of the ADR and FGSR.

6.8 Should a GMF program student switch supervisors – but remain in a PhD program – their funding will be unaffected. Their new supervisor, and/or line Faculty would ensure that the guaranteed minimum funding amount is provided to the student. Faculties are encouraged to develop procedures for supervisor switches to ensure that GMF is maintained seamlessly.

6.9 Should Faculties be unable to support a student who has lost funding from their supervisor, the Faculty can request the use of a future GMF allocation to support the student. This would result in the Faculty having reduced their ability to accept students the following year.

6.10 Should the funding remedies prescribed above be unavailable or insufficient, FGSR will use other resources (for example GTAs) to ensure that a student's funding remains stable.

7. Funding Letters	<p>Students are entitled to understand the amount and source(s) of their funding in each academic year. An admission funding letter from FGSR is the only letter that appears on a student’s official file and is the only one that can be accessed by all University areas including UR International.</p> <p>7.1 As part of the admissions process Faculties will complete the admission funding form for every PhD which will include an option to offer a GMF allocation or fully funding the student. Should a GMF allocation be provided, Supervisors call also offer additional funding over the \$7500 required. This funding form will be translated into an admissions funding letter that will divide the GMF allocation into \$8000 from FGSR offered in set increments and the funds provided by the supervisor/unit from a range of sources.</p> <p>7.2 While FGSR’s funding will remain consistent for the student, programs’ will have freedom in how they meet their minimum \$7500 requirement. It is therefore the programs, responsibility to ensure that students understand which funding contributes to their GMF from faculties. FGSR will support Faculties in developing their procedures to maintain transparency for students.</p>
8. Payments	<p>8.1 FGSR will make payments in the following increments \$2700 (Fall), \$2650(Winter), \$2650(Spring). They will appear to students as a GMF Award.</p>

	<p>8.2 Faculties are encouraged to provide their GMF funding in regular increments (approx. \$2500) per semester to ensure a consistent funding for students.</p> <p>8.3 All payments will be entered into a shared spreadsheet through teams to allow both FGSR and units/Faculties full transparency for GMF payments. This will also ensure that student inquiries about funding status can be answered by both FGSR and the line faculties.</p>
9. Roles & Responsibilities	<p>9.1 Throughout the duration of the pilot period (2025-2029), FGSR will consult yearly, at minimum, with line Faculties, staff, and students on this policy document to ensure the success and continuation of the GMF program.</p> <p>9.2 Faculties will continue to be responsible for the selection of students to be admitted to their programs with the understanding that minimum funding in a form outlined in this policy will be required for students to be approved by FGSR.</p> <p>9.3 FGSR will determine whether externally or self-funded students will be admitted without further support through the GMF.</p> <p>9.4 The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will mediate any disputes arising under this policy outline.</p>