History Department Graduate Funding Policy Statement
Approved November 2025

Funding Model

In accordance with the University of Calgary Graduate Student Funding Operating Standard (GSFOS) the Department of History offers minimum guaranteed funding to every full-time PhD and MA (thesis-based) student it admits. The GSFOS minimum guaranteed funding is described in the table below. The Department will not admit self-funded PhD or MA (thesis-based) students except under exceptional circumstances, which must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. MA (thesis-based) students beyond the second year and PhD students beyond the fourth year may be considered for funding but are not eligible for guaranteed funding. Part-time MA and MA (course-based) students are not eligible for minimum funding. All students are responsible for paying their own tuition and fees.

Funding Sources

Funding may be comprised of Faculty of Graduate Studies scholarships, Faculty of Arts scholarships, Department and Faculty awards, Graduate Assistantships (teaching, non-teaching, or research), sessional instructor opportunities (up to two as described in the TUCFA Collective Agreement), stipends from faculty research grants, and scholarships and fellowships awarded by external agencies (such as SSHRC).

In cases where external (e.g. Tri-Council) or internal (e.g. Graduate Awards Competition) funding awarded for academic merit through an adjudicated competition has been acquired, the Department will top-up the funding as set out in the letter of admission. For cumulative awards of $3000 or less per year, the total amount of guaranteed funding will be the funding amount as set out in the letter of admission plus the amount of the awards. For cumulative awards over $3000, the total amount of funding will be adjusted to the greater of (i) the funding amount as set out in the letter of admission plus $3000 or (ii) the amount of the competitive award. This top-up policy does not apply to the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES), which can be used to meet minimum funding. In cases where the award specifies the top-up value, the terms of reference for the award takes precedence over this policy.

Funding derived from non-academic awards and prizes; bursaries; travel awards; research fellowships; the International Graduate Tuition Award (IGTA); sessional instructor positions beyond the two described above; and funding from a First Nations, Metis, or Inuit organization is not considered part of guaranteed funding.

Each academic year before the Fall term begins, the Department will establish in writing with each student and the student's supervisor the sources of funding for the upcoming year.

GSFOS Minimum Guaranteed Funding (per year)

Program	Years of Funding	Students admitted before December 31, 2025	Students admitted on or after January 1, 2026
PhD International	4	$24,000	$27,750 base + tuition - IGTA
PhD Domestic	4	$22,000	$27,750 base + tuition
MA(t-b) International	2	$10,000	$20,000 base + tuition - IGTA
MA(t-b) Domestic	2	$10,000	$20,000 base + tuition

Beginning September 1, 2027, the base funding will increase by 2% per year plus the actual cost of graduate tuition for domestic students, and the actual cost of graduate tuition less the IGTA for international students.

Funding Conditions

There are several conditions that determine the payment of guaranteed minimum funding:

- Full-time students in both the PhD and MA(t-b) programs must apply for major external funding (e.g. Tri-Council) and internal funding (e.g. Graduate Awards Competition) for which they are eligible as a condition of their funding.
- Funded students are expected to continue full-time registration and maintain satisfactory academic progress, as defined in the Academic Calendar (G.H.3). This includes timely completion of required course work, progress toward candidacy (PhD students only), and steady and meaningful work on the thesis. Unsatisfactory progress may lead to reduced funding.
- Students offered Graduate Assistant positions or sessional lecture appointments (up to two as outlined in the TUCFA Collective Agreement) are expected to be available to fulfil their obligations (normally, being resident in Calgary and available for the entire term of employment) and demonstrate satisfactory performance in these duties. Students who choose not to take Graduate Assistant positions may have their funding reduced accordingly.
- Students offered Graduate Assistant positions funded by their supervisor's or another faculty member's research grant are expected to contribute to the collective research effort. If the student's contribution is deemed to be deficient, the supervisor will work with the GPD to initiate a review of the student's performance, which may lead to a reduction of funding.

Any reduction or discontinuation of guaranteed funding due to unsatisfactory performance requires the approval of the Graduate Program Director and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.