

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Vancouver Senate Student Awards Committee
c/o
Enrolment Services | Senate & Curriculum Services
Brock Hall 2016 – 1874 East Mall
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1

February 10, 2009

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Vancouver Senate Student Awards Committee

RE: Four Year Fellowships (FYF) for PhD Students (approval)

Motion:

That Senate accept and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the establishment of Four Year Fellowships (FYF) for PhD Students as described in the attached background paper; and

That Senate approve the associated Calendar entries.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Stelck
Chair, Student Awards Committee

Proposed Calendar Entries Four Year Fellowships (FYF) for PhD students

These Fellowships provide tuition fees plus \$16,000 (indexed for inflation) per year to full-time PhD students annually for the first 4 years of their PhD program. Approximately 180 new Fellowships are awarded each year on the basis of merit to students regardless of citizenship and visa status. Continued Fellowship support is subject to satisfactory academic progress.

Students who receive Tri-council or other prestigious awards must accept such awards. Tri-council award recipients (except Vanier and CGSD award holders) will receive an annual FYF-funded tuition award in addition to their external award funding. All prestigious award winners will receive FYF funding when their external award ends for the remainder of the first 4 years of their program.

Four Year Fellowships are allocated to graduate programs using quality input and outcome measures related to the performance of their PhD students. Allocations will be reviewed annually and adjusted according to performance. Graduate programs then offer FYFs to the best and brightest full-time PhD students, normally to commencing PhD students. Students applying for enrolment in the PhD will automatically be considered by their graduate program for the award of an FYF. Graduate programs will establish and publish criteria by which they award their FYFs.



Students should contact their graduate program for further information.

The funds for these Fellowships are made available from the University budget, Provincial Government of BC and various graduate student award budgets.

Fellowships are first available in 2009-2010.

Short Version for Awards Listing

Fellowships of tuition fees plus \$16,000 (adjusted for inflation) per year are available to full-time PhD students during the first 4 years of their PhD program. Continued Fellowship support is subject to satisfactory academic progress. Students who receive Tri-council or other prestigious external awards must accept those awards. Tri-council recipients (except Vanier and CGSD award holders) will receive an annual FYF-funded tuition award in addition to their external award funding. All prestigious award winners will receive FYF when their external award ends for the remainder of the first 4 years of their program. Students should contact their graduate program for further information.



Four-Year Fellowships for Top UBC PhD students *Background paper*

A viable multiyear funding 'package' for PhD students, which will enable us to be nationally and internationally competitive, has been developed. The purpose is to attract & retain the best graduate students across Canada & internationally. The message is simple – we want top students and we'll support them to complete their PhD – with both tuition fees & a living stipend for up to four years.

Funds for these fellowships will comprise Year 3 and 4 Provincial Grad Growth funds, after deduction of the central overheads and committed monies (estimated to be at least \$9.5M) plus University Graduate Fellowship (UGF) and Graduate Entrance Scholarship (GES) funds from 10/11 onwards (\$5.2M). This amounts to \$14.7M ongoing – not quite \$20M but a reasonable start. It will provide sustainably about 180 Four Year Fellowships each year. Finance has approved the financial modeling for this program.

NOTE: An appropriately distinctive name will be decided shortly, until which time they will be simply referred to as Four Year Fellowships (FYF).

Four-Year Fellowships

- FYFs will
 - provide four years (maximum) of funding for top ranked PhD students (internal, external & international)
 - comprise tuition fees plus an annual 'live-able' base stipend (\$16K adjusted for inflation)
 - be centrally funded from the FYF fund
- *In addition*, opportunities for top-up funding as appropriate would be possible through the resources of Faculties & programs.
- Students who receive, and entering students who bring, Tri-council or other prestigious external funding must take up that award. Tri-council award recipients (except Vanier and CGSD award holders) will receive an annual FYF-funded tuition award in addition to their external award. All prestigious award winners will receive FYF funding when their external award ends for the remainder of the first four years of their program.
- FYFs will not involve using any **TA or RA** funds – but FYF recipients may elect to do up to 12 hrs (Tri-council regulation) in addition and be paid for this separately. (In 2007 TAs/RAs to graduate students amounted to ~\$25M at PhD level & ~\$16M at masters.)
- *Multiplying effect over time.....*
 - with the FYF, we expect to get more of the better students earlier
 - this should result in an increased Tri-council success rate
 - thus more students would move off the FYF
 - releasing FYFs for other students
 - modeling would then allow more early FYF offers to top students...



- This proposal is also very much about simplifying our current complex system so that it becomes streamlined, effective and transparent for all concerned (currently there are several different types of funding available annually with different rules & eligibilities).
- GSI funding to Faculties will continue as planned, amounting to \$6.76 in 2012 (which is significantly more than the current UGF and GES combined). The success of the FYF proposal depends on these resources being available to Faculties to provide student support as relevant in their discipline – including for support of masters students, for top-ups and for PhD students who enter off cycle (until they are eligible to ‘compete’ for an FYF).
- Our Provincial Grad Growth target of over 1200 across all graduate programs is a commitment that we must strive to meet. This proposal, combined with increasing GSI funding to Faculties for graduate support, should ensure that we can both attract top students and achieve the growth required.

Impact of the program

At UBC, the recent year 3 PhD cohort is ~600 students (cohort head count).

Of these

- ~**65** are funded on *UBC- resourced* stipend scholarships (UGF – one year only)
- ~**200** are funded for varying periods by *other* competitive programs (such as Tricouncil, PCGS, Killam, etc. – of varying durations)
- *A total of **265** on scholarship.

With the introduction of FYF

- ~**180** will be funded on four-year *UBC-resourced* stipend scholarships (FYF) – an increase of **115**
- plus we would expect that our success in ‘other’ competitions would improve as we attract better students earlier – **200+**.
- *A total of **380+** on scholarship and with better packages.

Thus with the introduction of the FYF program, we will have

- an **additional ~115** top PhD students on multi-year funding packages,
- a further **~65** PhD students on multiyear instead of yearly packages, and
- **more attractive packages** to attract the best students, even those with external competitive funding.

Two stage implementation

- Given the tight timeline for current recruitment and to smooth transition as the GSI ramps up, the GES and UGF distribution will continue as usual for this year (09/10).
- During this transition year (09/10), we will provide about 500 **additional** merit-based multi-year support packages (for students in years 1 to 4 of their programs) to ensure a smooth and equitable transfer to the new program.
- This will comprise
 - *additional* places to commencing students = **GES***



– *additional* places to UGF upgrading students & students entering years 2, 3 or 4
= **UGF***.

- These GES* & UGF* places will morph into 'FYF PhD places' once the FYF awards have been formally approved by Senate.
- This transitional plan requires a planned deficit over the first two years, but within the ongoing overall FYF annual budget of approx \$14.7M. This will enable us to provide sufficient GES* and UGF* places this year (09/10) to smooth transition to a stable state in an equitable manner. Finance has approved a planned deficit over a maximum of two years for this purpose.